

**VINCENZO LA GALIA — TRIBUTE**

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**HON COLIN HOLT (South West)** [8.59 pm]: I know we are not doing official condolence motions, but I would like to rise on behalf of the National Party and myself just to acknowledge the passing of a true friend of this Parliament and true friend of members and staff in this place, Vince La Galia, and to pass on our sympathies and thoughts to his wife, Antonietta, and his family.

He was a true gentleman. We are lucky enough to work in a building such as this, but the real fabric of a place and a workplace is the people who work within it. Vince was a gold thread in the fabric of the community of Parliament House. He was a great person to meet when you came to work here; he was always smiling, always affable, always helpful and really a fantastic human being who is going to be missed by this Parliament, absolutely missed by his family, and the Italian community, especially in Western Australia.

I would just like to pass on a little story that I remember Vince by. Hon Jacqui Boydell and I were having lunch in the dining room with a guest one day, probably about five years ago. We had had a glass of red wine over lunch and we were just about to wind up when Vince wandered over with another bottle of red wine. I said, "Oh, I think we've had enough, mate", and he said, "No, no, no, you must try this!" He poured us a glass and we all tried it and we all thought, "Boy oh boy, what a fantastic drop!" It is available in the bar, it is called The Yard, and it is a shiraz; please try it, it is sensational! I said to Vince, "Where did you get that from?" He said, "It's okay, I got it off the Labor Party table", with a wink in his eye, as he always had!

We will miss him. What a great gentleman, what a great man. Our sympathies go to his family.