

HOUSE OF COMMONS



Tributes to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip,
Duke of Edinburgh

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His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

*Tributes not delivered in the Chamber on
Monday 12 April 2021*

Nickie Aiken (Cities of London and Westminster) (Con): On behalf of the people of the Cities of London and Westminster, I wish to send my sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the royal family for the loss of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, a much loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

The whole nation shares the grief at the loss of a man known for his public service and dedication to this country, the Commonwealth and the armed forces, and whose patronage greatly benefited the hundreds of charities and organisations he supported throughout his life. What the Duke achieved throughout his life was truly outstanding. His support for technology and science as well as his contributions to conservation and encouragement for children and young people to achieve their true potential all leave lasting legacies for generations to come. He will be sorely missed by us all.

Tahir Ali (Birmingham, Hall Green) (Lab): It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Duke of Edinburgh gave decades of service to the United Kingdom and to Her Majesty the Queen. My thoughts and prayers are with the Queen and the members of the royal family at this sad time.

Born outside the United Kingdom, nearly 100 years ago, at the beginning of the democratic age, the Duke was the longest-serving royal consort in our history and has been described by Her Majesty as her “strength and stay”. His was not a traditional or defined role, but one that he moulded to address the needs of the times, ably representing the Queen across the UK, the Commonwealth, and the wider world.

In addition to the great support he has given to the Queen and their family, the Duke of Edinburgh was a great patron and champion of worthwhile causes, not least through his work with the World Wide Fund for Nature. He leaves a tremendous legacy through his Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which has benefited the lives of so many young people.

His loss is deeply felt by many different people and he will be remembered with respect and affection. I send my sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and her family.

Fleur Anderson (Putney) (Lab): On behalf of Putney residents, I offer my condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and to the members of the royal family. We are grateful and thankful to the Duke of Edinburgh for his many years of loyal service to our country and support to Her Majesty.

Last weekend, churches in Putney, Roehampton and Southfields all tolled their bells in respect, echoing the sadness we feel across the constituency.

Like so many other people across the country, I benefited from the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and received my gold award in a very memorable ceremony

and early trip to London. It gave me the inspiration to take on new challenges both for myself and in teams, and gave me skills and confidence for life. The award was both visionary and very practical and able to become part of our educational life across the country. It underlined the importance of informal youth work alongside education for young people and will be a lasting and fitting legacy.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s patronage of charities, sports and the arts has been a very valuable contribution to our communities. This message from the London Rowing Club’s President, Mike Baldwin, shows the importance of this support for causes big and small across the country and the high esteem in which the Duke was held and will be remembered:

“The whole Club is deeply saddened to hear of the passing of HRH The Prince Philip, the Club’s patron for the last 69 years.

Prince Philip visited the Club for its two big anniversaries, in 1981 for the 125th, and in 2006 for our 150th. He seemed to greatly enjoy both occasions, over-staying his allotted time.

When he presented the prizes at Henley in 1998, he did us the honour of wearing the Club tie, very appropriate in a year when LRC were among the prizewinners, winning the Thames Cup.

I am sure all will wish to send our deepest condolences to The Queen and The Royal Family on their sad loss.”

Siobhan Baillie (Stroud) (Con): On behalf of people across Stroud, the Valleys and Vale, I wish to express sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen on the loss of her husband and deepest sympathies to the whole of the royal family. Tributes have been paid by our local councils, councillors and mayors and privately in living rooms throughout our towns and villages.

This is a loss that is felt by so many. Even doing my big shop in Dursley at the weekend, I was stopped to talk about the Duke of Edinburgh’s life, his military career, the DofE Awards, the causes he championed and, of course, thoughts for the Queen.

As the Duke was a lifelong conservationist, we are fortunate that he had a long history of support for the Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust. His first visit to the headquarters in Slimbridge was in 1961 when he also became a founding member of the World Wildlife Fund.

The Duke of Edinburgh and WWT’s founder Sir Peter Scott were good friends. He stayed in Sir Peter’s home in Slimbridge, and when Sir Peter used to scribble lovely bird and animal sketches on his agendas at the WWT and WWF meetings, the Duke would take them home. The Slimbridge team and I like to think there is a pile of those agendas somewhere at the Palace.

A distinguished gentleman ahead of his time in so many ways but most certainly in his early adoption for environmental causes.

It is striking to see so many photographs of the Duke with Her Majesty rolling out across the media. They are so often laughing together. Smiling. So engaged in each other’s company. A team of over 70 years in the making. A team built on love, duty and service to each other as well as to our wonderful country.

Stroud sends its love and thanks—and I hope that Her Majesty can find some comfort in the outpouring of respect and prayers.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, will be missed.

Harriett Baldwin (West Worcestershire) (Con): My constituents in West Worcestershire share my deep sense of loss upon the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. We send our most profound condolences to Her Majesty. His legacy will live on in the many local people who took their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Mr John Baron (Basildon and Billericay) (Con): In the first instance, my thoughts at this sad time are with the Queen and the royal family, who have lost a much-loved husband and family member. Prince Philip gave a lifetime of public service, despite a difficult early life, serving our country with distinction in wartime and steadfastly supporting the Queen throughout her long reign, for which we are all appreciative and grateful.

As well as being a powerful and far-sighted moderniser of the royal family, Prince Philip will be remembered for his enthusiasm for science and technology, and for being an early environmentalist. He was also a robust champion of young people, including through the foundation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme which has benefited over 6 million young people, my wife and two daughters included.

The warmth, affection and esteem in which Prince Philip was held by people across the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the wider world is evident from the large number of statements of condolence and sadness from figures, public and private, across the country and world wide. There can be few men who have given longer, more faithful or more dutiful service to our country, and he will be sorely missed.

Mr Peter Bone (Wellingborough) (Con): His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, epitomised duty and service. His century of life was defined by service to the Queen, country and Commonwealth. Throughout his life, His Royal Highness was a stalwart and considerate man who helped shape our nation as it is today. From his service in the Royal Navy during the second world war to the support he has offered thousands of young people across the country with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, his determination to serve and support the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth will not be forgotten.

For over 70 years of marriage, the strength and support he gave to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in fulfilling her duties as sovereign and protector will not be forgotten. Past, present and future generations owe a debt of gratitude to Prince Philip for remaining constant and unwavering in his commitment to his duty. His legacy will live on.

With deepest sympathies.

Karen Bradley (Staffordshire Moorlands) (Con): On behalf of my constituents in Staffordshire Moorlands, I wish to associate myself with the words of the Prime Minister and other colleagues in the House of Commons in paying tribute to HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. For more than 70 years, Prince Philip was at the centre of our national life. I know from the many tributes made by my constituents, how important he was in people's everyday lives. From the life-changing opportunities given to young people who took part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, to the many organisations

that the Prince supported, to his steadfast support for our armed forces, so many of us benefited from his work.

I met him on a number of occasions and was always struck by his charm, wicked sense of humour and interest in others. But the most striking thing was his support for HM The Queen. He was by her side for over 70 years and leaves the biggest void imaginable. My thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty and the whole royal family at this most difficult time.

Dr Lisa Cameron (East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow) (SNP): Before I pay tribute to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, I first want to pass on my heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the royal family on behalf of myself and the constituents of East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow.

Prince Philip gave selflessly, dedicating his life to Her Majesty the Queen, his family, Scotland, the UK and the Commonwealth. The depth of his service will long be remembered, including across the new town of East Kilbride, which Her Majesty and Prince Philip visited on two special occasions.

As a spokesperson for mental health myself, I know the Duke of Edinburgh was a true pioneer in developing and encouraging young people, promoting their self-esteem, wellbeing and resilience through activity, achievement and camaraderie via the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, long before mental health was ever openly spoken of. The legacy of Prince Philip's work is therefore unparalleled.

I will be keeping the royal family in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Rehman Chishti (Gillingham and Rainham) (Con): I would like to share my personal deepest condolences, and those of the residents of Gillingham and Rainham, with Her Majesty the Queen and the entire royal family following the sad passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Throughout his life, Prince Philip was a passionate campaigner for many important causes. The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme inspired students across the country, and from speaking to students here in Gillingham and Rainham, I know they hugely valued the lessons and life skills they gained from the scheme.

As patron of The Pakistan Society for over 60 years, Prince Philip worked to build good relations between the citizens of the UK and Pakistan, and amongst the nations and peoples of the Commonwealth as a whole. As the former chair of the all-party parliamentary group on Pakistan, I saw how his work was hugely appreciated by all.

And of course, we all owe a debt of gratitude to him for his long-held commitment to and vision on conservation and protecting the environment.

Medway was honoured to have Prince Philip visit several times over the past decades. Some of my constituents fondly remember his visit to Rochester with Her Majesty the Queen in 1961, when they visited Rochester Cathedral and the Corn Exchange. Recently in 2007, Prince Philip visited Chatham Dockyard to unveil a new memorial to sailors who lost their lives on Royal Navy destroyers during world war two, an issue close to his heart having served with distinction in the Royal Navy in that

conflict. It was a real privilege and an honour to meet Prince Philip in 2013 at Buckingham Palace as a young parliamentarian, where I experienced at first hand his brilliant qualities of humour, wit and relating to people, to name just a few.

On behalf of the residents of Gillingham and Rainham, I would like to thank the Duke of Edinburgh for his lifetime of service to our country and for being a pillar of support for Her Majesty the Queen. The United Kingdom has lost a truly dedicated, committed, and passionate public servant. May he rest in peace.

Brendan Clarke-Smith (Bassetlaw) (Con): The people of Bassetlaw mourn with Her Majesty the Queen and offer our condolences to her and the rest of the family at this sad time. We give thanks for the extraordinary life and work of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and the countless young lives he has inspired, along with his devotion to a life of service and defence of our great nation and the Commonwealth. Rest in peace.

Claire Coutinho (East Surrey) (Con): I would like to express my condolences and those of my constituents to Her Majesty and the royal family at the loss of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Many of my constituents have written to me to share their profound sadness. It is yet another sign of His Royal Highness's tireless devotion to public service to realise how many lives locally he had personally touched. This past week, we have reflected on the dedication and breadth of his energetic service to this country. On behalf of the residents of East Surrey, I extend our deepest gratitude for all that he has done for us.

His Royal Highness visited Surrey on many occasions over the course of seven decades, including accompanying Her Majesty on 12 official visits and fulfilling 18 solo engagements since 2000. I was not the Member of Parliament for East Surrey at the time, but my constituents still hold dear the memories of those visits, in particular His Royal Highness's ability to put them at ease with humour and charm.

Whilst the whole nation has lost an extraordinary public servant, our thoughts and prayers are foremost with Her Majesty and the royal family at the loss of a beloved family member. May His Royal Highness rest in peace, and may his memory be an example for us all.

Alex Davies-Jones (Pontypridd) (Lab): On behalf of my constituents across Pontypridd, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the royal family. In recent days, I have spoken to a number of local residents who have wished to share their sorrow at the news of the Duke of Edinburgh's passing. They have expressed their admiration for His Royal Highness's lifetime of dedicated public service and his commitment and devotion to Her Majesty. I will be keeping Her Majesty the Queen and the royal family in my thoughts.

Caroline Dinenage (Gosport) (The Minister for Digital and Culture): On behalf of the people of Gosport, I want to convey our deep sadness at the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. His lifetime of service to our country and distinguished career in the Royal Navy were so admired in the Gosport constituency,

with our strong and historic links to the armed forces. We want to express our thanks for the Duke's immeasurable commitment to public life, and recognise the very real difference he made to the lives and opportunities of young people across our area, the country and the Commonwealth.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Royal Family and Her Majesty The Queen.

Michael Ellis (Northampton North) (The Attorney General): The Duke of Edinburgh's selfless devotion to service, indefatigable drive to public duty, extraordinary work ethic and unending love for his people shone forth in everything he did. His impact on the lives of so many in this country and across the Commonwealth was immense, and his support for the Queen was the personification of duty and service that will serve as an example to all for future generations.

Sir David Evennett (Bexleyheath and Crayford) (Con): I pay tribute to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who was an exceptional man and spent a lifetime serving our country and working tirelessly for so many good causes.

I have been privileged to meet Prince Philip on a number of occasions, including when he visited Crayford. I was always impressed by his enthusiasm and knowledge and his interest in people, the environment and the events he attended. RIP Prince Philip.

Michael Fabricant (Lichfield) (Con): In his long life, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, touched the lives of many, including those who live in the Lichfield parliamentary constituency.

He has visited on a number of occasions, and his warmth and lack of stuffiness were a delight to all and, in their own way, helped to sustain the popularity of the monarchy in our part of Staffordshire.

Moreover, I have personally met so many young people who have been fortified by participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. It has given them confidence where, in some case, it was lacking and has—by direct consequence—improved their life chances.

Prince Philip, like Her Majesty the Queen, fulfilled a life of duty for our nation and he will not be forgotten. He will be remembered with warm affection. May he rest in peace.

Nick Fletcher (Don Valley) (Con): Like many of us this past weekend, I learned much about the life of His Royal Highness. However, in times like this we can often forget that revered public figures have families like us. And the pain their family and close friends are going through is just the same as ours when we lose someone. Therefore, my condolences go to Her Majesty the Queen and the whole royal family, who will undoubtedly be left with a huge hole in their lives.

Many Members have spoken of His Royal Highness's support for Her Majesty the Queen and his family, his lifelong service to the country, his time in the Royal Navy, and the establishment of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Yet I want to speak of what appears to have been his attitude towards life. By all accounts, His Royal Highness seems to have grasped every moment of

[Nick Fletcher]

his. No matter what was thrown at him, he appeared to have just dealt with the issue at hand and moved on. I am confident that this was because he came from that great wartime generation when individuals were expected to get on so they could focus on the important things in life. I am a believer in that attitude—an attitude whereby one overcomes problems, takes advantage of every moment, and creates opportunities.

From reading about his life, it is clear that His Royal Highness understood that conquering the challenges before you, no matter how hard, is always worth the effort. This is an attitude that His Royal Highness appeared to have all his life. By all accounts, he understood that when life puts you on your back and even kicks you when you are down, moaning will get you nowhere. Getting back up, however, will get you everywhere.

I understand that His Royal Highness was not a sentimental man who dwelt on what his legacy would be. Yet if I may say so, I believe that, above everything else, he will be remembered for inspiring young people, so they too could grasp life at every moment. While living with this attitude has been difficult of late, as we come out of lockdown, let us, as a nation, celebrate the life of His Royal Highness by grasping life's opportunities more than ever before. After all, His Royal Highness spoke on numerous occasions about the need for individuals to be free and masters of their own destiny. So, in memory of The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, let us live our lives just as he did—as independent individuals who put God, Queen, and country first.

Mr Mark Francois (Rayleigh and Wickford) (Con): On behalf of my constituents in Rayleigh and Wickford, I would like to extend deepest condolences to HM the Queen and the other members of the royal family, on the very sad loss of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Before marrying the then Princess Elizabeth, Philip served as a naval officer, including fighting to preserve our freedom in world war two. He is the longest-serving royal consort in British history and has always been popular with the British public, not least for his forthright style and also for his constant support to the Queen, throughout her record-breaking reign. As the Archbishop of Canterbury said of him:

“His was a life well lived.”

One of the things he will undoubtedly be remembered for will be the highly successful Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, which he founded and which has helped to develop the confidence, experience and talents of young people across more than 140 countries, over many decades.

Our nation has lost a highly dedicated and popular public servant, and HM the Queen has lost her constant companion, whom she once famously described as her “strength and stay”. Our thoughts are ultimately with her, at this extremely difficult time.

RIP Prince Philip, a great servant of our nation.

Nia Griffith (Llanelli) (Lab): We all owe an enormous gratitude to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, for his lifetime of devoted service to our Queen, and to the people of our country and beyond.

He was ahead of his time and visionary in setting up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, enabling young people to develop a sense of service to society and a wide range of personal skills. I am personally very grateful for the opportunity that I had to participate in the scheme, which, amongst other things, gave me a lifelong love of the mountains. I went on to gain my Mountain Leadership Certificate and to organise and train many young people on the scheme, and it was inspirational to see how much they gained from the scheme, including skills such as teamwork, resilience and self-discipline. This, I know is only one aspect of His Royal Highness' many inspirational achievements, but it alone has already benefited millions of young people, and is a legacy that will live on and continue to motivate and improve outcomes for many generations to come.

James Grundy (Leigh) (Con): I would like to take this opportunity to express our condolences to Her Majesty and to the royal family on behalf of both myself and my constituents in Leigh on the passing of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. We join the rest of the nation in mourning his loss.

While I never had the privilege of meeting Prince Philip personally, His Royal Highness first visited the Leigh constituency in 1977, when he visited Leighs Turnpike Gallery, and then again in 2009 when Prince Philip and Her Majesty officially opened Leigh Sports Village, the home of local rugby team Leigh Centurions. I know the people of Leigh felt immensely proud that the facilities were opened with a royal seal of approval.

I have been moved by the tributes to and stories of meeting Prince Philip from my constituents, and it is a testament to the hard work of His Royal Highness that he was able to influence so many across the country and the world in the course of his service and duty to the nation.

His legacy will continue in the youth of our constituencies around the country, through the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which currently benefits 11,000 young people across Greater Manchester, 37% of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The scheme adds 380,000 hours of social value to our communities across Greater Manchester, of which a contribution of over 2,000 hours of volunteering and over 4,000 hours of skills and physical activities takes place in Leigh and the wider Wigan borough, a lasting legacy that will continue to be of benefit to thousands of young people for years to come, serving as a fitting tribute to his memory.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and to the royal family; they are in the thoughts and prayers of my constituents at this difficult time.

Sally-Ann Hart (Hastings and Rye) (Con): I represent the people of Hastings and Rye who hold Her Majesty the Queen, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and the royal family in great affection and respect.

On behalf of Hastings and Rye residents, I would like to express my deepest condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and her family on their loss, and our hearts are with them in this time of sorrow. The monarchy and our royal family are priceless to our country.

As well as the Duke of Edinburgh's impressive military service and selfless long-serving public service to the Crown and to this country, one of Prince Philip's most important legacies is the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, which has inspired and transformed the lives of so many young people from all walks of life. The Duke knew about the pressures faced by young people and was an advocate for them, believing in each individual's potential. He wanted to encourage young people to take on new experiences and so develop themselves into "more rounded people". It is a rigorous, challenging award that requires hard work and a strong commitment from participants to complete all levels of bronze, silver and gold. I suppose one could say that it is "character building".

Launched in 1956 and aimed at both able-bodied and disabled youngsters between the age of 14 and 25, the DofE has become one of the best-known self-development and adventure schemes in the world, transforming young lives, building resilience, confidence and self-esteem, and giving opportunities and adventure. Any young person can do their DofE—regardless of ability, gender, background or where they live. Achieving an award is not a competition or about winning or being first. It is about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. I am delighted that many, many schools, such as The Hastings Academy in my constituency, promote and encourage students to take part, even providing financial support for those who are not able to afford the expedition fee so that cost is not a barrier for a student to be able to take part.

More than 6 million have joined the scheme in the UK, with over 3 million achieving awards, and millions of others have taken part across the globe, with more than 140 countries and territories running DofE programmes. The Duke was a lifelong advocate for young people.

The scheme is a programme of activities for young people between 14 and 25. It is designed to encourage personal discovery, self-reliance, commitment, responsibility and service to the community. There are three separate attainment levels: bronze, silver and gold, each with an increasing degree of commitment. Currently there are more than 140 countries running the scheme, with more than 8 million participants since it started. In the UK alone, more than 3 million awards have been achieved since 1956, and nearly half a million young people take part at any one time.

It has gone from strength to strength, with 195 awards currently being achieved every day, and employers in every field of industry recognising the value of the experiences gained and the skills and characteristics developed by the young people that take part. DofE makes you engage with people and situations in ways that you would not otherwise achieve—the feeling of achievement is a great thing to have given our society.

For the skills section, you can do virtually anything, from learning how to bake to completing a sign language course. It is completely up to you. Learning a new skill is both challenging and rewarding. It can also open new doors such as possible career opportunities.

Another aspect is giving something back to the community or the environment and making a difference. That is what volunteering is all about. There is no better feeling than helping others. Volunteering gives you the chance to gain experience in a working environment,

test out a possible career, develop new skills, or build on existing ones. Communication, confidence, or building self-esteem are just some of the skills learned from volunteering.

As for self-discipline, the DofE scheme requires dedication and commitment. People depend on you in all areas, from turning up on your volunteering shift, to the importance of team work on your expedition. If you take the DofE scheme, you are gaining valuable life skills. Independence is also learned. On an expedition, you have to carry your rucksack, navigate to a certain point, and take responsibility for your cooking, water and, most importantly, yourself. Independence is a great life skill to achieve.

Working as a team is an important part of DofE. Navigating, pitching a tent and looking after each other all involve working together as a team. On my bronze expedition, teamwork was vital when a member of the group was poorly. Working together ensured everyone was safe and a satisfactory outcome for all involved.

Completing the DofE Award is a great attainment, with a self-satisfying "I did it!" Although the award requires a lot of effort, time and dedication, it is well worth it.

The September 2020 Health and Wellbeing Report "A Brighter Future" commissioned by the DofE found:

"The DofE has a positive impact on young people's general wellbeing—respondents noted that they had fun, made new friends, faced new challenges and believed that the DofE improved their education and employment prospects.

The DofE has a positive impact on young people's confidence and resilience—the survey revealed that many respondents are more confident in difficult situations, had the opportunity to face new challenges and feel more independent and responsible.

The DofE has a positive impact on young people's communication, teamwork and leadership skills—respondents said they learnt how to work with others to solve problems, felt more confident about speaking to people they do not know well and now understood how to take responsibility for others."

And that is where I think the answer lies: the benefits to a young person from completing the DofE Award, at whichever level, are enormous and will help steer them through their adult life. Facing up to personal challenges, acquiring skills to cope with tough situations, time management, leadership, teamwork and communication—these are all necessary qualities for ultimately achieving success.

One of my favourite sections of the award is the volunteering section. Too many people, never mind young people, are detached from the world outside their immediate bubble these days. Time, work and school commitments and so on all impinge on our ability to dedicate a portion of our day to helping others for no tangible reward. Consequently, this section of the DofE Award aims to change that mindset. Young people can choose an area of society that interests them, whether that be the local environment, vulnerable people in need of care, or raising funds for a much-valued local resource.

James Heappey (Wells) (The Minister for the Armed Forces): Our nation has lost one of its greatest servants: a man who served our country courageously during the second world war and who then dedicated his life to supporting our monarch, their family, and many thousands of community organisations, charities and important causes.

[James Heapey]

I had the great fortune to serve for 10 years in regiments with close relationships with Prince Philip. The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire & Wiltshire Regiment was the successor to the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, and as such we were very much his. We were fiercely proud of it.

His Royal Highness visited the battalion during my time as a young officer and also invited us to Windsor Castle to mark the amalgamation of the RGBW into the Rifles. On both occasions, I was struck by how well he knew the men and women who served in the battalion, how much interest he took in what we had been doing, and how—from the youngest private soldier to the most senior general—he could always break the ice and get people laughing.

He went on to be the Colonel of the Regiment for the Rifles where, again, he showed huge interest in what the regiment was doing and gave great support as the battalions of the Rifles rotated through the most demanding years of the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns. He knew from personal experience what it was like to face real danger in the service of our nation, and I am certain that this drove him to take such a close interest in the lives of the Riflemen that served in his regiment.

His support for our armed forces was not limited to the regiments, ships and squadrons with whom he was directly connected. The Duke of Edinburgh was a talented naval officer and he knew the minds of soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen. He understood the dangers we faced and the risks we took, and he supported us tirelessly.

Antony Higginbotham (Burnley) (Con): I am very grateful to be able to place on record my thanks to and admiration for His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

As we all look back on his long and illustrious life, it is impossible not to be in awe of the public service he gave to our nation, beginning with his time in the Royal Navy where he demonstrated the values and courage that our armed forces have become notable for across the world. Throughout his life he retained his passion for all that the armed forces do, acting as their champion and advocate and never missing an opportunity to visit them wherever in the world they were deployed.

As a member of the royal family, the Duke of Edinburgh showed a deep understanding of the constant evolution that would be needed to keep the institution relevant in a changing world, adapting to new technology and innovation to connect to even more people. And as consort to Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke demonstrated unwavering loyalty and selflessness, doing all that he could to support.

On behalf of everyone across Burnley and Padiham, our deep and sincere condolences go to Her Majesty the Queen and the whole royal family, and our thanks to the Duke of Edinburgh for all that he gave and achieved in his lifetime.

Damian Hinds (East Hampshire) (Con): On behalf of the constituents of East Hampshire, I join Members from across the House of Commons in sending heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty the Queen on the death of

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. His passing has been a moment of great reflection for us all.

An association with East Hampshire came from Prince Philip's role as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, whose School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers operated at Bordon until its recent relocation. He took a close interest in the Corps, in its members, and in the engineering aspects of its work.

REME renamed the former Havannah barracks at the base in his honour in 1984. The wider redevelopment of Whitehill & Bordon now bears his name, as Prince Philip Park. That is apt, given the ambition of the project, and its emphasis on sustainability and innovation.

Prince Philip was an environmentalist before it was mainstream, and supported conservation projects across the world, notably through his presidency of the World Wildlife Fund. As he said: "It's up to all of us to protect the natural world—and there's no time to lose".

That same theme of the agency of people to make a difference can be seen in perhaps his greatest legacy. Young people in East Hampshire are among the very many that take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, exploring new interests and physical pursuits, developing teamwork and resilience—DofE experiences can form some of life's most memorable moments.

The touching personal reflections of members of the royal family remind us, too, of Prince Philip's own guiding family role as father, grandfather, great-grandfather.

Our heartfelt thanks are for his life of dedicated service—from his distinguished career in the Royal Navy, to his pioneering and support of causes, to his work for young people, and most of all, for his decades of support to our monarch.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty the Queen and the entire royal family.

Mrs Sharon Hodgson (Washington and Sunderland West) (Lab): I express my deepest condolences to Her Majesty the Queen, the royal family and the British people as we come together to mourn the loss of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

His devotion to the Queen for more than seven decades, and dedication to the country, from serving in the Royal Navy to decades of service as Duke of Edinburgh, have been remarkable.

Many of my constituents in Washington and Sunderland West will have had their lives influenced by Prince Philip. Whether it was by taking part in the renowned Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, being inspired by his environmentalism or following his example of commitment to public service, Prince Philip leaves a lasting legacy on the country that will not be forgotten.

Once again I express my deepest condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the royal family at this very sad time.

Mr Philip Hollobone (Kettering) (Con): On behalf of the residents of the Kettering parliamentary constituency, I would like to pay tribute to HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on the occasion of his sad passing.

Local residents across the constituency will wish to record their thanks to His Highness for his years of unparalleled, selfless and dedicated public and private

service to Her Majesty, to the country and to the Commonwealth. His Highness's life was one well lived and his public service an example to us all.

Local residents will also wish to extend their sincerest condolences to Her Majesty at this sad time, and will hope that the very many happy memories she will have of their long and joyful life together over so many years will help sustain her in the difficult times ahead.

Nigel Huddleston (Mid Worcestershire) (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport): My deepest condolences go out to Her Majesty the Queen and the entire royal family.

Along with so many of my constituents, and people right across the country, I was deeply saddened to hear of the death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He led an extraordinary and full life, and our nation owes the Duke an enormous debt for his decades of dedicated service.

His demonstration of loyalty and commitment to Queen and country have been greatly valued by generations of Britons. The Duke's extensive work with charities and good causes will leave a lasting legacy—in particular his leadership on conservation and environmental issues.

And of course, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has challenged and inspired generations of young people in the UK and across the Commonwealth.

Many people in Worcestershire have met the Duke over the years, and it has been heart-warming to hear so many personal stories from those whose lives he touched. I hope the tributes we have all heard over the last week provides some comfort to Her Majesty the Queen and the royal family in this difficult time.

Jeremy Hunt (South West Surrey) (Con): I first met the Duke of Edinburgh when I was 13 years old. He was visiting Britannia Royal Naval College, where my father was Captain, for the passing out parade of Prince Andrew. The Queen was taking the salute, but as a former serving naval officer Prince Philip was particularly proud. As ever with the royals, a treasured family moment became something special for all of us. As a teenager I remember bubbling over with excitement and pride.

Since then I was lucky enough to meet him on numerous occasions. I saw him most around the 2012 London Olympics, which I was responsible for and which also coincided with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. On one occasion I was in the Palace with Lucia and he asked who I was. As a junior Cabinet Minister, I did not for a moment expect him to know me—but this was famously reported as a "gaffe". In fact, what struck me most was how willing he was to chat away with anyone whether they were deemed "important" or not. Never someone to stand on ceremony, he was far more interested in what you had to say than who you were.

He also had a wicked sense of humour. I remember standing in the Queen's Picture Gallery asking him how they kept the many masterpieces there secure. He replied with a twinkle that it was not the pictures that were the issue; it was Buckingham Palace ashtrays that kept on being pocketed surreptitiously by visitors.

The BBC has apparently been inundated with complaints after dropping its schedule to cover the news of his death. But is it not the job of our state broadcaster to respond to important national moments like this? Prince

Philip had no constitutional position, but the extraordinary success of the Queen's reign, our longest-serving monarch, would surely not have been possible without his unstinting support over seven decades. It is right and proper for our broadcasters to mark that contribution. For me, the coverage has struck exactly the right tone, especially Andrew Marr's superb obituary.

But when I reflect on Philip's life, I find myself noticing most of all the things that appear unusual or different by today's standards. He gave up a glittering naval career for a life of service. He was a natural alpha male but never complained about being a consort. He spent his life in the media spotlight but never complained about unkind rumours or sought to correct falsehoods. In a celebrity age, he never sought popularity.

In short he personified duty—duty to his marriage, to his family, to the institution of the monarchy and to his adopted country. The pandemic has shown that many of us are all capable of doing our duty—just look at the extraordinary sacrifices by frontline health and care workers in the last year—but in normal times we have also become the "me" generation where everyone is encouraged to pursue their own dreams.

In many ways that is a refreshing change from a more hidebound world in which people were prevented from fulfilment because of numerous glass ceilings based on class, gender, colour, disability or sexuality. But there is also merit—and sometimes happiness—in sacrificing one's dreams to those of others. We remember the fallen on Remembrance Sunday every year with that in mind.

It is because people see that sense of duty in Prince Philip's life—and indeed that of the Queen—that we are proud of our royal family with all its illogicality. Indeed, it has become part of the definition of Britishness, as much because of the way it projects such values as from any splendid pageantry.

How many countries would have made an exception to coronavirus funeral rules for the husband of the Head of State? Here there was no question of that because the royal family represents all of us—and stands with all of us in sad times as well as happy. But even the smallest congregation will not stop Saturday's service touching the hearts of millions around the world as we celebrate the duty and service of a remarkable man.

Mr David Jones (Clwyd West) (Con): The vast majority of the people of our country cannot remember a time when Prince Philip was not there. He was truly a father figure, not only to his own beloved family, but to all the people of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth.

His interests and endeavours were many, and he excelled in all of them. His war record was exemplary, and he retained a devotion to the military to the end of his long life. He was an outstanding sportsman, a champion of engineering and a far-seeing and dedicated environmentalist. He was the patron of very many charities whose work is so important to our nation. He had, in particular, a determination to improve the life chances of young people, reflected in the enormously successful award scheme that bears his name.

Above all, he was an unshakeable support to Her Majesty the Queen, continuously and unwaveringly at her side during her long reign. He was an exceptional human being, and will be greatly missed by us all.

John Lamont (Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk) (Con): His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, epitomised service to the country. His service during WWII, along with hundreds of thousands of other British men and women, helped secure a brighter future for the United Kingdom, Europe, and the world.

However, his service did not end there. His support to Her Majesty the Queen and the charities of which he was patron, and his role as an ambassador for the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, was exemplary.

He was known to visit the Scottish Borders regularly, including when supporting Her Majesty to attend the reopening of the Borders Railway. He also attended my local church in Coldstream which members of the congregation remember fondly.

His Royal Highness has been a part of British life for decades. That makes the news of his passing all the more difficult, no more so than for Her Majesty The Queen.

May he rest in peace.

Ian Levy (Blyth Valley) (Con): His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh was a truly remarkable individual who provided incredible support to the Queen during his long life. The Duke had many connections to this area and I would like to pay tribute to Prince Philip.

He visited Blyth during his naval duties, and he returned to visit Concordia Leisure Centre in Cramlington and Cramlington High School in 1977 as part of the Royal Jubilee celebrations.

But it was his love of the sea and of those who shared his passion which gave his longest lasting link to our area. He became a patron of the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club, based in Blyth South Harbour in 1955. Members of the club acted as crew on his yacht the Bloodhound, during his round-Britain tour in 1963. He visited the club in 1990, and the flag of his yacht is still displayed in the club to this day. As Mike Bradburn, Vice Commodore of the club said,

“we’ve had patronage for our local yacht club of the Duke for all of those years. We are the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club. It means a great deal to us.”

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh served our nation in so many ways over such a great length of time that the debt that we owe to him for his support, his stewardship and his service is immeasurable, and he will be greatly missed by the people of Blyth Valley.

Andrew Lewer (Northampton South) (Con): I join the whole of the United Kingdom and indeed the Commonwealth to mourn the passing of an extraordinary man, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Prince Philip’s life was one marked by seven decades of total devotion to this country and to his much-loved family. Serving in the second world war, supporting HM the Queen as her ever-loyal consort, and inspiring thousands of young people around the world to take part in the life-changing experiences of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Prince Philip’s is a legacy etched into the fabric of our society. He was a man of great determination and resolve to whom this nation, and the many great causes and charities he has championed over the years, from conservation to technological innovation, owe a great debt.

I will always remember with great pleasure meeting the Duke at a Royal Maundy service some years ago and seeing what a strong team he made with HM the Queen. Therefore, at this difficult time, my thoughts and prayers are with HM the Queen, and the rest of the royal family as they grieve a much-loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Clive Lewis (Norwich South) (Lab): Prince Philip’s passing seems especially poignant now in the wake of a pandemic, in which tens of thousands of families have also lost loved ones. Whether we live in the public eye or not, the loss of a parent or grandparent is hard to bear. I am thinking of the Prince’s and many other families, and I hope that the love and support of others helps the sadness pass.

Andy McDonald (Middlesbrough) (Lab): The Duke of Edinburgh dedicated his life to the Queen and to public service. I send my deepest condolences to the royal family because it must not be forgotten that Prince Philip was a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and he will be hugely missed.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme he created has changed the lives of so many young people across the country, and that legacy should not be underestimated. The scheme, set up in 1956, has allowed young people from all backgrounds to challenge themselves and grow. What a remarkable initiative.

Stephen McPartland (Stevenage) (Con): It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He was a very engaging gentleman and the definition of a lifetime of service and duty. My thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the royal family. Our country and Commonwealth have lost a great servant, but the royal family have lost a much loved, husband, father and grandfather. The Duke of Edinburgh Awards are a lasting legacy that helped millions of young people develop confidence and resilience. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Scott Mann (North Cornwall) (Con): On behalf of myself and the people of North Cornwall, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathies to Her Majesty and the royal family following the sad news of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip’s passing.

I do hope it can be of some comfort to Her Majesty to know that the Duke has left a wonderful legacy far beyond that of most people. I regret that I never had the opportunity to meet His Royal Highness, but like millions of others across the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, I looked up to him as the embodiment of duty, humour, grit, and the British spirit.

The nation joins in mourning the passing of a truly great Briton.

Mark Menzies (Fylde) (Con): There have been countless tributes paid over recent days, befitting the Duke’s lifetime of service to this country, beginning with his distinguished active service in the Royal Navy, to his near 70 years as loyal consort through the reign of Her Majesty the Queen.

Chief among his legacies, the Duke of Edinburgh Award was an incredibly pioneering scheme, offering a vast array of opportunities for young people from

all walks of life. Indeed, throughout my time as a Member of Parliament, I have met countless young people from Fylde who have been inspired into public service following the opportunities afforded through the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

On a more personal note, it was a privilege to have met His Royal Highness on two occasions, seeing at first hand his passion and in-depth sporting knowledge as we discussed the unique wind and rain conditions at the Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club.

We have lost a great man, with an unwavering commitment to this country and who has been by Her Majesty's side throughout her most successful of reigns.

Stephen Morgan (Portsmouth South) (Lab): The people of Portsmouth will forever remember His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, for his dedication and devotion to our country, which are rightly admired at home and abroad.

In the heart and home of the Royal Navy, we are grateful for his distinguished contribution to the Senior Service, and we recognise his everlasting support to our Armed Forces, as well as his enduring commitment to Her Majesty the Queen and their royal duties: a true paragon of British public service.

My thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty, the royal family and communities across our country as we pay our respects to the contribution Prince Philip made to Britain.

Dr Kieran Mullan (Crewe and Nantwich) (Con): In even my short time as an MP, I have seen how the Duke of Edinburgh's Award impacts on so many young people's lives. A truly inspiring legacy to leave. My thoughts are with Her Majesty and her family at this difficult time.

David Mundell (Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale) (Con): Since the sad passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, many of my constituents have expressed their admiration at how much he achieved during his almost 100 years.

He was an individual to whom the powerful phrase "a life well lived" can rightly be applied. And in recent days, through personal recollections in the media, many have learned about further aspects of Prince Philip's life of which they were previously unaware.

To call it an eventful life seems an understatement. From childhood roots, born into an exiled mainland European royal family, to his education in Scotland and his distinguished service as a Royal Navy officer in world war two, there was much to say about in his early life. But it was during his 73 years of marriage to Her Majesty the Queen that his experience, personality and skills made him the perfect partner, friend and confidant to our monarch and made their life journey together truly remarkable.

Noted for walking his signature two paces behind the Queen, Prince Philip perfectly complemented Her Majesty and never overshadowed her during their packed programme of engagements across the UK, the Commonwealth and the rest of the world. It was striking that former US President Barack Obama should note in his tribute at the weekend:

"Prince Philip showed the world what it meant to be a supportive husband to a powerful woman."

As I have heard from so many of my constituents in recent days, it was Prince Philip's no-nonsense approach to life, depth of knowledge of so many issues facing the world today, and genuine and practical support for a broad range of organisations, charities and causes that were particularly widely appreciated. Examples included being 64 years as Captain General of the Royal Marines, a founder and president of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and patron of 30 organisations in the city of Edinburgh alone.

Generations of young people have been inspired to learn new interests and skills, and have gained self-confidence and a sense of purpose through taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme which he founded in the 1950s and is now run in countries around the world.

I know from his visits to my Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency just how passionate Prince Philip was about rural life and issues, and his enthusiasm for sports such as horsecarriage driving were evident when he competed in events at Drumlanrig Castle. In my own home district—Annandale—I am aware of how much visits by Prince Philip and other members of the royal family were appreciated by local people in the tragic aftermath of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

On a lighter note, Prince Philip's sometimes mischievous personality and dry sense of humour were, although occasionally controversial, a great ice-breaker and endeared him to many around the globe.

Prince Philip's was indeed a life well lived and he will be much missed. My sincere condolences go to Her Majesty the Queen and all the royal family at this time.

Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane) (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs): I wanted to offer my deepest condolences to the whole royal family on the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. To lose the man who has been Her Majesty's guiding support for so long is poignant indeed, as I know only too well, having lost my own husband; but his is a life that has delivered so much on every level: for family and also nationally and internationally.

I would like to pay tribute to and give thanks especially for HRH's vital work and contribution as an early environmentalist and conservationist, seen through his work as President of WWF and much else. HRH was astutely aware of human kind's impact on habitats and species and of the preciousness of our planet and the all-encompassing need to protect it; and we all benefit from the things he kindled. A recognition of the value of the great outdoors was also very acutely recognised in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme, a legacy which has and continues to have global reach. Grateful thanks are offered for all.

Victoria Prentis (Banbury) (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs): On behalf of the residents of North Oxfordshire, I offer our sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness visited North Oxfordshire on a number of occasions, but a visit to Banbury in 2008 alongside Her Majesty to mark the 400th anniversary

[Victoria Prentis]

of the town's charter is a particularly fond local memory. Great crowds filled the town centre, with 3,000 excited school children lining the High Street alone. I know many fondly remember speaking to His Royal Highness, recalling his characteristic wit and charm. His Royal Highness further enjoyed touring the Prodrive headquarters while Her Majesty opened the Agnes Court care home.

From an outstanding naval officer to an exceptional consort, His Royal Highness devoted his life to the service of our Queen, country and Commonwealth. I know that the whole of North Oxfordshire mourns his loss. Our prayers are with Her Majesty and the entire royal family.

Tom Pursglove (Corby) (Con): HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was a remarkable man who dedicated his life to the service of our nation and the wider Commonwealth family. He was a naval hero, an inspiration to the young and an exceptional consort—and the legacy of his life will live on in our collective memory, not least because he touched so many lives in so many ways.

As a constituency MP, never do I feel that more acutely than when I speak to the many terrific young people who have benefited from the opportunities that the Duke of Edinburgh Award brings. Resilience, expanding horizons, teamwork, respect and civility—all traits vital in nurturing outstanding citizens best able to take on the many and varied challenges of life. And that contribution alone—one amongst so many—leaves our society in a better place than he found it.

I know I speak for everyone in Corby and East Northamptonshire in sending my deepest condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the wider royal family.

John Redwood (Wokingham) (Con): Many people's lives were touched by the Duke and the work of the organisations he created and supported. Some enjoyed and benefited from the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, many met him when he came as a visitor, as he travelled to show interest and curiosity at home and abroad. His energy was spent in many areas, from helping young people aspire to better lives, through science and technology to sports and the environment. As a boy I first became conscious of him when he spoke out for better treatment of wildlife. I wanted sufficient wild areas for animals to be able lead their own natural lives free from human interference, and was delighted to learn of a powerful force to help bring that about. Later in life I met him in my roles as a constituency MP and as a Minister, and saw how he supported the Queen and served the nation through charities.

Many have shown their respect for him. We join the Queen in mourning his loss, as she tells us just how important he has been to her own exemplary conduct as monarch.

Ms Marie Rimmer (St Helens South and Whiston) (Lab): Prince Philip was a devout servant to our nation. He served with distinction during our nation's darkest hour and was a dutiful consort to the Queen for decades since then. His commitment to duty and to our nation is an example to follow.

I fondly remember the Silver Jubilee Celebrations in 1997 when Prince Philip visited St Helens, one of his many visits to the town. Since then he has returned to

visit the World of Glass museum, one of the proudest testaments to our history. Knowsley Safari Park is also a place that Prince Philip knows well. He was honoured to welcome new animals to the park.

Prince Philip oversaw great changes in our country. He was very much a moderniser in the royal family, and truly believed in young people. So many of my constituents have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

I hope we can all honour his legacy by continuing to put our faith in the young of our country. It is through them that Prince Philip's spirit will continue.

Mr Laurence Robertson (Tewkesbury) (Con): I had the pleasure of meeting HRH The Prince Philip on a number of occasions, most notably during HM the Queen's historic visit to Ireland in 2011. He always showed a great interest in meeting people, and his famous sense of humour was on show on each occasion.

On behalf of my constituents in Tewkesbury, I should like to express our profound sadness and to extend our deepest sympathies to HM the Queen and the royal family on his passing. We should also like to express much gratitude for the brave service which The Prince Philip gave during the second world war, for the decades of public service which he gave, and for the tremendous support which he provided to HM the Queen during all those years. The country has lost a great character and an outstanding public servant. May The Prince Philip rest in peace.

Bob Seely (Isle of Wight) (Con): I have heard some very good, very moving speeches. In that spirit, I would like to mention the Duke's link with the Island and Islanders, and about his values as a man and what he may teach us.

First, on behalf of Islanders, I pay tribute to his remarkable life, and send my condolences to Her Majesty and her family. The Duke visited the Island on many occasions, but over and above royal visits with Her Majesty, including visits in 1965 and 2012, he visited for two passions: his love of technology and his love of sailing.

For his techie visits, in the 1950s and 1960s he visited East Cowes, he piloted a hovercraft on the River Medina, and visited Saunders and Roe, now Venture Quays. For his sailing visits, from the '50s through to the '90s, his love of the sports brought him to the Solent, and specifically to Cowes. Indeed, the Dragon class boat Bluebottle in which he sailed in the 1950s was a wedding gift paid for by members of the Island Sailing Club, in Cowes. HRH was admiral of the Royal Yacht Squadron, which was to yacht clubs as Queen Victoria was to royal bloodlines, but he was not just a figurehead for the Squadron or the clubs. He had a very practical role in the re-design of Cowes Week.

He was commodore of the RYS, a hands-on, managing role, from 1962 to 1968, to work, with others, to redesign the week so that, instead of the many clubs on the Island organising their own events in a series of separate regattas, those individual events were merged into a single calendar of events, under the Cowes Combined Clubs. And that is what we have now. Arguably we need to tweak that formula again, but for 50 years we built the world's greatest sailing event on the work conducted by the prince in the mid-1960s.

HRH had many friends on the Island—indeed, he was godfather to my father’s second cousin, Peter Seely. Peter’s father, David, was a near contemporary of the Prince in the Royal Navy, serving with him on HMS Chequers, and was stationed in Malta at the same time, in 1949. David attended the Duke’s 80th birthday celebrations but died before the 90th, and now the Duke has gone too. He has joined almost all of that generation of those who saved us not only from Nazism, but also from totalitarian socialism in the years after. As Aussie PM Scott Morrison says, they were a remarkable generation.

In much of what he did, there was a desire to make better—the broad similarities with Prince Albert is spot on. It is ironic that the potentially most antiquated of institutions—the monarchy—is actually in many ways the most modern, when this place, which should be the most modern, is in some ways the most antiquated. I do at times wish that Prince Philip’s reformist zeal—and clearly we are talking about intelligent reform, not virtue-signalling and destructive deconstructionism—could have been used in this place. Prince Philip would have had us always looking over the horizon, ready to embrace the future, not permanently reacting to events when they were on us.

Finally, the Prince represented an important role model in the debate about masculinity and culture. Only when reading the obits did it dawn on me that here was someone who was incredibly modern yet very traditionally male: as an officer he led men in battle, could fly an aircraft, command a fighting vessel, could sail a sailing ship, ride a horse, play polo, shoot and so on, but he could also philosophise, and discuss religion or poetry. And yet despite his status as a man’s man, it never conflicted in any meaningful way with his role as a husband. He gave his wife, the Queen, space, always complementing her role, never competing. Yes, it may have been one of the demands of the job, but my God he played it well, and for seven decades—an extraordinary achievement. Obama got it pitch perfect, saying:

“Prince Philip showed the world what it meant to be a supportive husband to a powerful woman.”

Well done that man.

He showed you can be masculine, and epitomised respect to woman, letting his wife shine and ensuring that he supported her in all she did. In fact, the two went together. And he was doing it from the late 1940s. Yes, he was old school, and so what if he did not emote in public.

And as for a memorial—of course. And it should be another Britannia, whatever we call it. And I do think the Duke would support it. It is practical, and helps to sell Britain, to push our influence and to allow royals to work, but also to maintain that distance that royalty needs, and to showcase industry and ideas. We have a cutting-edge ship electronic engine maker on the Island, as well as a carbon composite cluster of excellence—and the Island stands ready to help. A new Britannia will be a superb memorial to a renaissance Prince of our times, and one who did true and steadfast service to this country.

God Save the Queen. God Bless Prince Philip.

Alok Sharma (Reading West) (COP26 President): Prince Philip dedicated a lifetime to selfless public service providing wonderful support to Her Majesty the Queen. My wife and I had the honour to meet him at a Buckingham Palace reception in 2013. He immediately

put us at ease with a witty remark, and we cherish the photograph taken of the occasion, showing us laughing together with him.

Millions of young people, including our daughters, have benefited from taking part in the inspirational Duke of Edinburgh’s Award which was launched 65 years ago and helps to instil the vital ingredient of self-confidence in participants.

And in the year that the UK will host the UN Climate Conference, COP26, it is important to highlight the fact that Prince Philip was an early champion of environmental, conservation and climate causes long before it was mainstream, helping to found the WWF charity.

The Duke of Edinburgh was one of a kind, and his was a life truly well-lived in service of others. He will be greatly missed.

Julian Smith (Skipton and Ripon) (Con): I am extremely sad that Prince Philip has died. I was privileged to meet him on a number of occasions as an MP and as Vice-Chamberlain. He was always engaged and passionate and had a fantastic sense of humour. We owe him so much for his commitment to the UK and decades of support to our Queen.

Alex Sobel (Leeds North West) (Lab/Co-op): I wish to pass on my sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen, the royal family and all that knew Prince Philip at what must be a distressing time particularly for Her Majesty, as the Duke of Edinburgh steadfastly stood at her side for a remarkable seven decades.

Julian Sturdy (York Outer) (Con): At this moment of sorrow for the entire nation, I want to offer my deepest condolences to the royal family, and especially to Her Majesty the Queen, on losing a much-loved husband of over 70 years. His passing is an important reminder that Her Majesty’s phenomenal service has rested to a considerable extent on the tireless support she received from the man she called

“my strength and stay all these years,”

which indicates the scale of the debt this country, the Commonwealth and wider world owe to him.

The Duke was always warmly welcomed in York on his many visits over the years, and his practical, friendly approach and plain speaking struck a natural chord with the people of Yorkshire.

Forced to flee his country of birth aged just one, and overcoming chaotic family circumstances, he served his adopted country courageously during the second world war. As well as a brave and resourceful sailor, Prince Philip was also a genuine renaissance man, with a keen interest in sport, education, science, technology, engineering, design, and painting. Combining old-fashioned virtues with an open, forward-looking mind, he epitomised the strengths of our constitutional monarchy. He constantly sought to use his influence to improve lives and spread opportunity, and as President of the World Wildlife Fund he was decades ahead of his time in speaking out on the environment and conservation.

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme is a shining and entirely characteristic legacy, which has touched the lives of millions of young people across the world, and been of perhaps greatest benefit to those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The emphasis on personal

[Julian Sturdy]

development, learning skills and service to the community the scheme teaches reflects the values the Duke lived by, which will go on empowering future generations.

Prince Philip's passing leaves an unfillable gap in our national life, and I know I speak for all my constituents when I say simply: thank you, and rest in peace.

Gareth Thomas (Harrow West) (Lab/Co-op): At this sad time, as our nation unites to mourn and reflect fondly on the extraordinary life of Prince Philip, my thoughts are with the Queen and the royal family. I would also like to register my gratitude for the Duke of Edinburgh's many decades of support to the Queen and for the patronage he provided to more than 900 charities over his lifetime of service to our country.

Owen Thompson (Midlothian) (SNP): On behalf of the people of Midlothian, I would like to send my sincere condolences and best wishes to the royal family and, in particular, Her Majesty the Queen at what can only be a deeply trying time.

On both of his official visits to Midlothian, in June 1961 and in September 2015, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, demonstrated a characteristic eagerness to engage with local people and stood in firm support of the Queen. I am sure that many in Midlothian will today be cherishing their memories of Prince Philip during these visits.

Maggie Throup (Erewash) (The Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury): Follow the passing of Her Majesty's beloved husband His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, I and the residents of the constituency of Erewash offer our deepest condolences to her and her family.

History will no doubt record the Duke of Edinburgh's lifetime of unstinting public service to both the Crown and the people of the United Kingdom, in addition to those of other Realms, Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth. Like many of his generation, including my own father, the Duke of Edinburgh answered the call and defended Britain with honour during our nation's darkest hour.

He has also touched the lives of countless young people through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and will be fondly remembered by generations to come for his immense contribution to the armed forces, as well as to science, engineering, exploration, conservation and the environment.

It is true to say that with the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh, we have lost one of our country's greatest champions, and I hope Her Majesty will take comfort in the knowledge that he was loved and respected by so many people.

We join Her Majesty and her family in mourning his passing, and give thanks to God for the rich legacy he undoubtedly leaves behind.

Matt Vickers (Stockton South) (Con): With the passing of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh we have lost a British titan.

Like so many, my parents, I and the younger generations in my family have only ever known Her Majesty the Queen on the throne with the Duke of Edinburgh by

her side, offering continuity, stability and unbending duty to our country. He was a man of integrity, and a fearless warrior.

Prince Philip came from a generation of heroes. He was one of the many, including Her Majesty, to serve this country during world war two. While nations in Europe fell into the control of evil, men like Prince Philip stood to defend our great nation and the freedoms we hold dear. Undaunted and without complaint, he served his nation during dark days and served his nation during good.

I have been amazed to hear the stories of Prince Philip. He was a reformer, an innovator and a champion of industry. He truly looked to the future and only ever sought the best for Britain. I cannot think of any better words than those of Her Majesty: we

"owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know".

Without his presence, his wit and his forthright manner our nation will never be the same. However, his legacy will endure and be a guide for us and future generations for centuries to come.

My thoughts are with Her Majesty the Queen during these sad days and the rest of the royal family.

Bill Wiggin (North Herefordshire) (Con): I was fortunate enough to meet the Duke of Edinburgh at King George V playing fields in Hereford as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012. He was incredibly charming and well briefed, and made us all feel at ease in his presence. I could hear those in attendance talking with such excitement and happiness about the fact they had had the opportunity to meet him. I am sure my colleagues will cover the fantastic work he did with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, or all of the charities he supported. However, irrespective of all those wonderful contributions, the fact that he brought that much joy to my constituents on that day is worth celebrating in itself.

He was a true gentleman, and I know he will be sorely missed by all those that had the pleasure of meeting him, myself included.

On behalf of all my constituents, our thoughts and prayers go out to our Queen and the royal family at this very sad time.

Mohammad Yasin (Bedford) (Lab): I thank HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh for his decades of dedicated public service and offer my deep condolences to HRH the Queen, all the royal family and the British people as we come together to mourn and to remember his life at this sad time.

He will be remembered for the full and interesting life he led and for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, which inspired generations of young people to focus on achievements and skills through charitable-based experiences and adventures, rather than academic skills.

However, he will be remembered most of all for his extraordinary commitment and devotion to the Queen. For more than seven decades, he has been at her side. Their marriage has been a symbol of strength, stability and hope, even as the world around them changed—most recently during the pandemic. It was a partnership that inspired millions in Britain and beyond.