

SPEECH BY
HIS HONOUR THE HONOURABLE JOHN HARDY OAM
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE

*Swearing-in of the 21st Administrator of the
Northern Territory*

Government House, Darwin

Monday, 10 November 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to acknowledge the Larrakia people, traditional owners of the lands on which we gather here today.

I would like to begin by saying how much I appreciate receiving the honour of becoming the 21st Administrator of the Northern Territory.

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever consider that I would be chosen for this important position. Now that I have been appointed, many people ask me the question “How do you become the Administrator of the Northern Territory?” Well, quite frankly I don’t know. You do not apply: someone in the Government makes the decision on who will be the next Administrator. I have thought about what might guide those in the decision-making process and how that led them to me.

I have worked and lived in the Territory for 43 years. I have had a long and happy marriage, raised 5 children who have gone on to raise 8 grandchildren, all in the Territory.

Soon after arriving in 1971, I was a radiographer at the old Darwin Hospital for three years and x-rayed thousands of Territorians, including on the night of Cyclone Tracy.

I went on to found Airnorth, now the Territory's major airline, and many years later began a second airline, Hardy Aviation. That company has now operated for 20 years. Aviation has often been in the media spotlight and I have been interviewed on many occasions to explain issues that otherwise may have been a mystery to the public. Over the years I have become the spokesperson for local aviation issues and my face has become familiar to many.

This must all be a plus.

As an airline operator I have met a great number of people from all walks of life. I have flown Governors-General and Chief Ministers; Leaders in Government, Industry, the Military and Aboriginal elders. In fact, people from all walks of life working to progress the Territory. I have had an ongoing close relationship with the Aboriginal people of the

Top End and count as my friends many prominent members, past and present, of those communities.

The original question was “How were you chosen?” Perhaps by building a good reputation based on community service. I have been a long-term member and President of the Rotary Club and a lifetime member and past Commodore of the Darwin Sailing Club. This, combined with working hard in a high profile industry for a very long time, probably helped my cause.

I was honoured to receive a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2012 for services to aviation and the community.

The Territory has been good to me and I’ve tried to pay it back over the years by assisting where I can.

As Administrator I will try to help find opportunities to continue to progress the Territory. I learnt from my first flight to Baucau in East Timor, on the way to Ambon Indonesia, in 1971 how close the Northern Territory is to Asia and I would like to help expand trade and cultural links to our north for the betterment of all.

Thank you all for attending this ceremony. Our whole family is very proud of the honour bestowed upon us. With pride and

humility as the 21st Administrator, I will carry out my duties to the best of my abilities.