

their willingness to embrace the change that my commitment to this House necessitates. I thank the House for the courtesy extended to me during this, my maiden speech.

**JUDITH COLLINS** (NZ National—Clevedon): Since this is the first time that I have spoken in Parliament, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Speaker on his appointment, an appointment, I note, that was made with the full support of this House.

I am proud to represent the electorate of Clevedon on behalf of the New Zealand National Party. Clevedon is a diverse electorate, located both to the south and to the east of Auckland. It is 80 percent urban and 20 percent rural. Included in its boundaries are the historic township of Papakura, the rural areas of Clevedon, Orere Point, Kawakawa Bay, Brookby, Alfriston, Whitford, and Ardmore—which, incidentally, is home to the busiest airport in New Zealand. It encompasses the coastal townships of Maraetai and Beachlands, and to the north, New Zealand's fastest-growing residential areas: Dannemora, Somerville, Shamrock Park, Point View, and Shelly Park.

The people of Clevedon are ethnically diverse. The population includes European New Zealanders, Māori New Zealanders, Pacific Island New Zealanders, and, increasingly, New Zealanders who have migrated mainly from Taiwan, Korea, India, China, South Africa, and Fiji. It is an electorate of schools with the highest decile ratings, and schools with the lowest decile ratings. Clevedon is an electorate of old and new traditions, of Christian churches and Buddhist temples. On the one hand it is the home of the present Minister of Justice; on the other hand it was the home of Michael Choy until he was brutally slain. It is New Zealand as it is today.

I am the youngest of six children born to Percy and Jessie Collins of Walton in the Waikato. We were dairy farming people. We were not wealthy people but we were not poor. We were and are middle New Zealand. In a way, we were very privileged. We had two parents, discipline, responsibilities, plenty of love, and, more than anything else, we had security—a family in reality, not just in name.

I decided to become a lawyer. I did not know any, but I had seen them on television and I knew that lawyers could, if they wanted to, do a lot of good for people. That vague ambition was made solid when someone made the mistake of telling me that I could not do it. The exact words were: "You won't be a lawyer. You're a nice girl; you'll get married." Well, at university I met and later married my husband, David Wong Tung, who was then a police officer. David had come to New Zealand as a child from Samoa. I have been a lawyer for over 20 years, and in that time I have also been a restaurateur, a public company director, a Law Society politician and regulator, a gaming regulator, a business person, a wife, and a mother. So the nice girl did get married, she did become a lawyer, and she did a little bit else, as well.

My ancestors came from England, Ireland, Wales, and Germany. All were looking for a better life: a life of freedom, opportunity, and security. The first of them sailed into Nelson harbour in 1842. But, like many of my generation and of later generations, this country is my only home. It is a country of which I am immensely proud and a country for which I am prepared to upturn my life, and that of my family, in order to serve here in Parliament.

When I look around this profoundly beautiful debating chamber, I am moved by the knowledge that this is a war memorial. War memorials, like Anzac Day services, are not about the glorification of war but are, instead, about the commemoration of the sacrifice made by individual citizens for others. I am proud that my family has contributed to New Zealand in both peace and war. In this country they were farmers, breaking in the lands of Taranaki and the King Country, and they served their country in the New Zealand wars in Taranaki, in both World Wars, and in Vietnam. When I look around these walls, I see commemorated so many famous battles, including battles that my father told me about and battles where he fought—El Alamein and Monte Cassino, to name just two.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to my family. I pay tribute to my parents, who personified to me the New Zealand spirit and the New Zealand culture: honest, hard-working people who called a spade a spade. I thank my husband, David Wong Tung, and our son, James, who have always been supportive of me, and whose sacrifices I appreciate. I thank my mother-in-law, Flory Wong Tung, who has been a wonderful grandmother to James and friend to me.

Winning Clevedon, against the odds and with a healthy majority, took some doing. It also took an incredible team, led by campaign chairman Chris King, and electorate chairman Roger Burrill. Five of my campaign team have travelled to Wellington today to support me. I would put my campaign team up against any other, any time—I will not say any place—and we would still win. I thank the people of Clevedon for the faith they have shown in me.

At this time, I pay tribute to two former parliamentarians. The first is my good friend Annabel Young, who is here today and who has long been a promoter of my coming into Parliament. The second is the long-serving Hunua member Warren Kyd. Warren served Hunua and its predecessors faithfully and well for 15 years, and when I won selection as National's Clevedon candidate, Warren called on voters to support me, in the gracious and generous manner that one expects of him.

A maiden speech should include what a politician stands for. I have a vision for New Zealand. I have a vision that recognises and supports business, as well as New Zealanders at every level of society, that encourages opportunity, that celebrates success, and that rewards hard work—a New Zealand that will grow. All through the pre-election campaign, I have said that there is nothing wrong with this country that a change in attitude would not fix. I say that again today. As a lawyer, I know that laws affect attitudes. Good laws help to make good attitudes. Parliament makes the laws and shapes the attitudes, and that is why I am here. I am here to make a difference to those attitudes.

I have told the people of Clevedon what I stand for. I stand for one standard of citizenship for all, for one justice system for all, for one country, and for one sovereignty. Conversely, I do not stand for political correctness. I do not stand for dividing this country—my country, our country—along the lines of race. I stand for all young people knowing, as I did, that they can achieve anything they want, if they are prepared to use their talents and their energy and to make sacrifices. Conversely, I do not stand for young women leaving school to go on the domestic purposes benefit because they think that is an easy option. It is not; it is a trap. I stand for a safety net, not a welfare trap.

I stand for a robust justice system that gives the police the resources and, just as importantly, the political backing to sort out the criminal gangs. It is those gangs that manufacture the methamphetamines currently fuelling much of the increase in violence in the south Auckland region, and that fill the gaps left by absent or incompetent parents. The criminal gangs recruit from and are affiliated to the youth street gangs. They have turned whole districts of this country into cannabis plots, and they are said to run the prisons.

I stand for business, particularly small business. Eighty-five percent of business in New Zealand is small business. I know first hand what it is like to mortgage our home in order to go into business. I know first hand the hours and the money spent on completing silly little forms that seem to go nowhere, and do not achieve anything, anyway.

We have heard a lot over the years about the changes brought about in the 1990s. Well, I remember what this country used to be like before the 1990s, and the changes that the previous National Government put into place. I remember how every Christmas holiday, the ferries and the airlines could be counted on—counted on to go on strike. I remember how every time there was a drought, the freezing works could be counted on—counted on to go on strike. I remember what it was like to try running a business with 28 percent interest rates. I remember what it was like under compulsory unionism, as an employee, being forced to pay union fees and never once seeing a union delegate. I have seen plenty of small-business owners put the welfare of their staff first, but I have yet to see a union put a worker first and the union second. Big unions might have a place in big business, but they have no place in small business.

I stand for sensible defence. I stand for New Zealand committing to its allies, pulling its weight, and growing up. Conversely, I do not stand for bludging off other countries. I do not stand for us, as a country, riding on the coat-tails of our SAS force and believing that that is all we have to do. I stand for First World health-care and education, and I know that only a strong, growing economy can deliver them. There is a form of poverty in this country, but it has little to do with poverty in a monetary sense. The poverty of which

I speak is a poverty of responsibility, a poverty of courage, a poverty of truth, a poverty of love, and a poverty of faith.

And that brings me to my final point. I stand for the dignity of the individual. I believe in God, and I believe that every human being is created with free will to do either good or evil. That is what I stand for, and the people of Clevedon have generously told me that they agree. I pledge to the people of Clevedon that I will stand up for them, and that I will represent them and their views to the very best of my ability. And, Mr Speaker, you can be assured that I shall.

**BILL GUDGEON** (NZ First): Mr Speaker, honourable members of the House, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour and privilege to stand before you all to give this, my maiden speech, on this day the 29th of August 2002. Before doing so I would like to pay special regard to members of my family, families that have now passed on, to my father, who I believe is here in spirit, and to my mother, who I am blessed to have here today. To those members of New Zealand First, my campaign team, and specially those who voted for us throughout the country, I say thank you. In regard to the leader of New Zealand First, the Rt Hon. Winston Peters, I offer my humble appreciation for giving me this opportunity to serve. I must honour my wife and our children, along with all our grandchildren here in New Zealand, Australia, and the United States, for their unwavering love and support, regardless of the challenges that lay ahead, that has enabled me to continue the fight, and to hold on to those principles that I knew to be right.

In particular I honour my Ngāti Porou heritage, the people who, along with my parents and grandparents, instilled in me the work ethic, the importance of education, and of being accountable. In reverence to our tipuna Sir Apirana Ngata, I pay great respect to him for the legacies he created and left behind, the father of the 28th Māori Battalion, of which my own father was a member—the history they left us, the feats they performed in the heat of battle, so that we, their children, and the children of this nation, would enjoy the fruits of freedom.

I enjoy the memories of Anzac Day when we, their sons, have marched alongside our fathers to commemorate the fallen and to listen as they reminisced about their experiences. I will always remember a quote by Colonel Awatere when he said: “We have won the war and now for the battle.”

My name tells members that I am of mixed heritage, and it is with great respect, honour, and aroha that I refer to my great-grandfather, Walter Edward Gudgeon.

To my Pākehā relatives, I extend honour and love, and in particular to Janet Mackey, MP for Labour.

As a returned serviceman I recognise the service given so freely by my fellow soldiers of the 1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, which served in the conflicts of South-east Asia: namely Thailand, Malaya, Borneo, and Vietnam. It was here we really became New Zealanders and still retained the cultural heritages we belong to.

In my brief sojourn in this House the indicator that impressed me and will have a lasting effect has been the spirit of those who have served with dignity, and that will always be a governing factor for me personally.

In his critically acclaimed biography of John Adams, author David McCullough quotes one of Abigail Adams’ favourite sayings about integrity: “The second woman to serve as first lady in the United States believed that fame without honour would be like a faint meteor gliding through the sky, shedding only transient light.”

Unfortunately that transient light can seem awfully appealing to many people. In recent results the world has watched as the heads of huge US corporations, people previously valued and placed in positions of enormous trust, were being led away and charged with embezzlement and fraud. The guilty ones will come to see that the transient light they longed for has for ever been overshadowed by the darkness of a reputation ruined, and of trusts that were broken.

Ill-gotten fame and riches can never buy back the priceless things that are lost. We may not be guilty of crimes that could be prosecuted in a court of law, but are we less than honourable in any of our dealings? Allow me to quote David Starr Jordan: “There is no excellence in this world that can be separated from right living.” Unlike the political opportunist, the true statesman values principle above popularity, and works to create

## **Collins, Judith: Address in Reply**

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