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# Theophanous resigns from Parliament

Victorian Labor MP Theo Theophanous will quit Parliament at the end of this week.

He informed a cabinet meeting of his decision this morning.

**M**r Theophanous had planned to leave at this November's state election.

But speaking this morning with his wife by his side, Mr Theophanous explained his departure date has been brought forward.

"The journey has been a joint journey, and we now think it's time that I moved on and we moved on," he said.

"You have to know in politics when it's time to go. I've made a significant contribution in senior portfolios and in senior positions in government and in opposition."

The Cypriot-born MP resigned as minister in late



2008, because of a rape allegation against him.

Police charged Mr Theophanous with rape later that year, but the charges were dismissed in 2009 when a magistrate ruled that the evidence against him was not sufficient to commit him to trial.

During his 22 years in Parliament, Mr Theophanous has served as a minister for Industry, Trade, Major Projects, Information and Communication Technology.

The Premier, John Brumby, says Mr. Theophanous received a standing ovation from caucus when he announced his decision this morning.

"I firmly believe that the decision that he and his family have taken is the right decision, it's the right decision to draw the line," he said.

The Opposition Leader, Ted Baillieu says Mr Theophanous has joined a long list of Labor MPs who have jumped ship.

"You now have Steve Bracks, John Thwaites, Andre Haermeyer, Lynne Kosky, Theo Theophanous. All have dumped on this Parliament, all who have left," he said.

"That's not a great expression of confidence in this Government."

His departure will leave a casual vacancy in the Upper House, which Labor will fill with unionist Nathan Murphy.

(source: abc)

## 'Blood, bottles, bodies' in back of crash boat

**A** drunk, drug-affected passenger accused of crashing a boat sobbed and swore as bodies lay tangled among blood and beer bottles in the back of the vessel, a jury has been told.

Percy Small, a barman, was allegedly handed the wheel of a work boat by the intoxicated skipper, Matthew Norman Reynolds, before it collided with a fishing trawler on Sydney Harbour about 2.30am on

May 1, 2008, killing six people.

Ambulance officers treated Mr Small, 24, and Mr Reynolds, 32, as they sat on a bench on Taronga Zoo Wharf.

Scott King, a paramedic, said Mr Small looked shaken as he sat on the bench and was unco-operative in answering questions. "He appeared emotionally distressed. He was crying and swore a couple of times, saying 'f---'," Mr King told the NSW Supreme Court yesterday.

He had asked Mr Small how much he had drunk and Mr Small had replied "heaps", he told the court.

When Mr Reynolds was asked how much he had drunk, he had replied: "Heaps of JD [Jack Daniel's], but they wanted me to drive, but I wouldn't," Mr King said.

Senior Constable Jeremy Woo, who was one of the first to step onto the boat, said it was difficult to move around the vessel because of the dead bodies. He said that while he was on the boat he could smell intoxicating liquor and his jeans and shoes were stained by blood.

The court was told about 17 bottles of beer, two bottles of wine and a bottle of vodka were found on the boat, as were a glass



pipe and a small brass cone.

Mr Small has pleaded not guilty to six counts of dangerous navigation causing death. Mr Reynolds has pleaded not guilty to six counts of manslaughter through gross criminal negligence and faces alternative charges of aiding and abetting Mr Small in dangerous navigation causing death.

Six of the 14 people on board died as a result of the crash: Mr Reynolds's girlfriend Ashlei Ayres, 32; Alexander Rumiz, 22; Jessica Holloway, 25; Elisabeth Holder, 20; Stacey Wright, 21; and Alex Nikakis, 30.

The trial before Justice Michael Grove, continues.

Article from The Sydney Morning Herald