

PAUL DE PIERRES, OAM — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [12.51 pm]: I rise to pay tribute to Paul de Pierres, OAM, who sadly passed away on 28 August this year after a valiant fight with cancer. Paul, husband of Colleen, father to Madeleine and Julianne, and beloved gramps to Amelie and Demi, lived a full and rich life. A proud resident of Wyalkatchem, Paul was a third-generation farmer on the family property, Derdebin. Paul was no bystander in life—he was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a farmer, an author, a keen sportsman and stalwart of the Wylie Bulldogs, a Vietnam veteran, a St John Ambulance officer, a man of deep faith, an entertainer and musician, and a historian. He received the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2016 for service to the community of Wyalkatchem—recognition of his commitment to the town he loved so much. Paul had an enthusiasm for 60s music. Along with Colleen and a merry band of musicians, he created a number of highly entertaining musicals under the guise of Big Jim and the Jockstraps, which filled the Wyalkatchem Town Hall to the brim with families and visitors to sing, laugh and dance along as they fundraised to give back to the community. A self-published author, his books captured local and military history, sporting and family history—a wonderful legacy for future generations. He moved through life with an attitude of determination, respect and kindness. Uncle Paul was our family's neighbour and father of my best and lifelong friends, and he is greatly missed. He was an exceptional human being who remained humble through service and commitment to his community.