

**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

*Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition)** [3.39 pm]: On this Remembrance Day, how little is asked of us that we only have to remember the sacrifice of others. For some, the sacrifice was a life cut short, a journey never completed. For others it was a life changed, the path altered forever and overshadowed by an experience known by only those who have served in conflict. I have no real knowledge of what war is like. I have no real notion of the pain, suffering, fatigue or sorrow that this experience creates. For that privilege, I thank every man and woman who has ever carried that burden. I am thankful that I live in Australia, a free and prosperous country. I am thankful that there have been men and women prepared to protect these freedoms with their own lives. There is no greater gift or legacy than that of freedom for future generations.

In my life, this gift has a human face. It was my pop's medals that I wore today. It was my grandfather who enlisted a matter of days after his eighteenth birthday, trained in Northam and served in New Guinea. It was my great-uncle who died aged 37 years in a Sandakan prisoner of war camp in northern Borneo. It was my great-great-uncle who served as a private in the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion and was killed in action in France, and now lies with his mates in a cemetery in Harbonnières. It was my nan and great-aunties who nursed returned servicemen in York. It is my neighbour who was conscripted to fight in Vietnam.

Thank you to all our service men and women around Australia on this Remembrance Day. Lest we forget.