

**JAMES MUNGO WHITE**

*Statement by Member for Collie–Preston*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston)** [12.57 pm]: Recently, I attended ceremonies to honour young men who committed their service to the Vietnam conflict on behalf of Australia. We honoured in particular the men who returned home with physical and mental scars and those who sadly did not come home at all.

I would like to speak briefly now about a young man from Collie, named James Mungo White, who fought and died in Vietnam in 1969 at the age of only 21. Private White was honoured on Tuesday morning in his home town after the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association selected him as this year's fallen soldier to be given its special annual dedication. My constituents and I are very thankful that the association chose one of our Collie boys to be recognised with this important posthumous honour on this very important day.

I would like to now share a few brief details of James's life and service history in honour of his sacrifice. Private White was born and raised in Collie and still has family members living in the town, including his mother and his twin brothers, Ron and Ross. He lived in the Collie–Cardiff region and was a true country boy. His hobbies included fishing, marroning and collecting boronia in the spring. Life was simple before he was called up for service in 1968 as a rifleman. James spent time in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, before later being posted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion. James was tragically killed in enemy battle on 4 April 1969 in Phuoc Tuy province, less than a year after he enlisted. Private White's young age made his death all the more tragic. Like so many families of the good young men we lost in that war, his family have been left wondering what could have been in the years that have passed. On behalf of this house, I would like to acknowledge the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion for James's dedication service, which helped to comfort his family and let them know that his sacrifice has not been and will not be forgotten.