



Speech by

**Dr DAVID WATSON**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Hansard 11 November 1998

#### **ARMISTICE DAY**

**Dr WATSON** (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.22 a.m.): In common with the member for Cleveland, it is my privilege to say a few words about the day that we must never forget. Today, 11 November, marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War I. A total of 330,000 Australians served in the Great War. At the time, our population was just four million. On a per capita basis, Australia sent more men to the First World War than did any other nation, and all of them were volunteers.

More than 58,000 Australian soldiers, sailors and airmen lost their lives in World War I. Another 156,000 were injured, gassed or taken prisoner. Today, just 66 of our World War I veterans are still with us. Seven of those brave men are Queenslanders. They are Eric Abraham, August Band, Cyril Baldwin, Henry Guinn, William Holmes, John Mayne, Ted Smout and Thomas Talty. We thank them for their service to their country.

Today, we remember all Australians who served in that war. Australia's first official war historian, C.E.W. Bean, said it best when he stated—

"Anzac stood and still stands for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship and endurance that will never admit defeat."

Today, as we face battles of a different kind such as the economic battle to remain competitive in a highly competitive world, we would do well to embrace those qualities of our Great War veterans—enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship and endurance that will never admit defeat. Those of us who are entrusted with the future of this State and country owe it to those who went before us to keep the flame burning. Lest we forget.

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