



Speech by

JOHN MICKEL

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Hansard 12 November 1998

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY

Mr MICKEL (Logan—ALP) (10.27 a.m.): On the evening of Thursday, 15 October, a number of members on this side of the House and I had the pleasure of attending Refugee Week at Ben's Restaurant, which was held in honour of the Vietnamese community of Queensland. I particularly congratulate its President, Viet Tran, and the President of the Vietnamese Women's Association of Queensland, Mrs Phuong Nguyen, for the moving ceremony, which was attended by the Governor, the member for Sandgate, the member for Mount Ommaney and the Minister for Primary Industries.

The ceremony was organised by the Vietnamese Forum for Multiculturalism. Its purpose was to say a special thanks to the Australian and Queensland friends of the Vietnamese community who have helped the community over the past 20 years, especially in the earliest days of resettlement when such things as housing, clothing and other special needs were required. The people who helped the community wanted no thanks from anybody in particular, and it was a very moving ceremony. I am sorry that more members from both sides of the House were not in attendance.

As I know from my association with the suburb of Inala and the electorate of Logan, the Vietnamese community has progressed magnificently in the past 20 years. I pay special tribute to the hard work and dignity with which those people, who have progressed so well over the past 20 years, are now helping their own friends and families. In fact, it is very interesting to see how they value education and how they have got their families involved in the commerce sector and are making a real contribution to the Queensland economy. In other words, they are paying Queensland back for the early days when they were supported by their Australian families and friends.

We have a lot to learn from multiculturalism——

Time expired.
