



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 11 November 1999

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Remembrance Day

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.33 a.m.), by leave: Today all of Australia will stop to remember those who fell in the First World War and other conflicts. We in this Parliament will mark the occasion with a minute's silence. Many other people will join us in that solemn remembrance by pausing at 11 a.m., and still others will mark the day by quietly reflecting on the sacrifices, including the ultimate sacrifice, made by Australians in the pursuit of freedom. These people answered the call from their country and many laid down their lives so that we may live in peace.

World War I officially ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. 416,809 Australians enlisted for service during that conflict, and 324,000 of these served overseas. 62,918 were killed in action or died of wounds or illness. 155,000 were wounded and more than 4,000 were taken prisoner. If we think of those numbers, we realise the human tragedy that was World War I.

Of course, we also remember the fallen by wearing the red poppy, symbolising the blood on the fields of Flanders. This simple gesture reaches back through the years to ensure that we keep faith with our countrymen and women who fell and still lie in those far off fields and other battlegrounds. Australians have served and still serve with courage and distinction all around the world.

Let us not forget today our men and women serving in the Interfet multinational force in East Timor at the moment. Our thoughts are with them and their loved ones on this Remembrance Day. I ask all members to join with me in reflecting on the courage and sacrifice of all who have served and those who are serving. Lest we forget.

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