



Speech by

BONNY BARRY

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Hansard 9 October 2003

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

Ms BARRY (Aspley—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): Last week it was particularly heartening to see Queenslanders displaying their thoughts and wishes for our police on National Police Remembrance Day. The recent tragic loss of Senior Sergeant Perry Irwin brought home to us the very real risk that our police men and women face every day they go to work. But for me this was a lesson that I learnt many years ago. I am the daughter of a retired Queensland police officer who served on the force for over 30 years. Last Monday week at the gracious hour of 5.30 a.m. I had the privilege and honour to stand beside my father, Stan Barry, at the first Police Remembrance Day to be held outside the Police Wall of Honour in George Street. I was at the time not only a daughter supporting a father honouring his fallen comrades but also a very proud member of a government that had taken the time and thought to construct the memorial that we see in our city today.

Amongst the names on the wall was my father's best friend, Constable Les McCosh. I remember clearly as an eight-year-old the day in 1968 that Les McCosh lost his life. I recall that he had dinner at our house the night before he died and that my father was due to work with him on the road when he died in a motorcycle accident. My father attended court duties instead and wonders what would have happened if he had been there. They were motorcycle cops, partners and mates, and his loss and his family have never been forgotten by our family.

After the service last Monday I watched dad spend a few minutes in silence at the wall, and I know that he was like so many people there that day at dawn—simply honouring a mate. My dad is a quiet man who expressed a real appreciation that Les McCosh was remembered for his ultimate sacrifice by the memorial that has been built in his and other police officers' honour. It is a tough gig being a cop, and being a member of the police family is, we say, 'for life'.

We shared the morning with the Police Minister, the shadow police minister, my own local police and a fellow whom my father has become quite close to, his local member and fellow police officer, John English, the member for Redlands. The police memorial holds a real, special place for all Queenslanders, but for my family and for many like ours it is a place of honour that we will treasure for a long time to come. So, on behalf of my father, to my government I wanted to say thankyou for its presence.