



Speech by

CHRIS CUMMINS

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard 26 November 2003

DEATH OF MR J. HOLMES

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (10.29 a.m.): Australian lifesavers are held in high regard not only by Queenslanders but also by interstate and international visitors. Australian iron men and women are often held in even higher esteem as they compete in the most gruelling conditions in a highly competitive environment. The Sunshine Coast is extremely proud to have some of the most talented competitors in surf-lifesaving.

Sadly, we as a community are in mourning at the tragic loss of surf-lifesaving stalwart John Holmes. John had created a surfing dynasty and was immensely proud of his children Zane, Kirsty, Denby, and son-in-law, Brad Stokes. They are all obviously devastated at the tragic loss. My family's thoughts and prayers go to them and John's wife, Vicki.

The Sunshine Coast community is very appreciative and much the richer for the generosity of John and his family. John, who was 58, was a very proud grandfather who had recently turned to training after a battle with throat cancer. He passed away while doing what he loved, as was his way of life. John, a former Australian champion, was paddling his ski off Mudjimba—Old Woman Island—when he suffered a heart attack.

I fully agree with many of our community tributes, including: 'John stood for everything that was good in life-saving'; 'He really brought something special to Kawana Waters Surf Life Saving Club'; 'He was a well-respected lifesaver and the profile of Kawana Waters Surf Club was raised by his family's presence.' With much sadness our deepest thoughts go to his immediate family and friends. May he rest in peace and may God comfort and bless his family.