



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 28 March 2006

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: DEATH OF SIR WALLACE ALEXANDER RAMSAY
RAE**

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.33 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Sir Wallace Alexander Ramsay Rae, a former member of the parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Sir Wallace Alexander Ramsay Rae, or Sir Wally Rae as he was better known, was born on 13 March 1913 at Lindfield in New South Wales. He was educated in New South Wales at Lindfield Public School and Sydney Technical College. Following his move to Queensland, Sir Wally Rae commenced work as a jackaroo and progressed to the roles of overseer and manager with the Australian Pastoral Company at Noondoo, Dirranbandi. He later worked as a pastoral inspector, a stock and station agent and a grazier at Ramsay Park in Blackall.

Sir Wally Rae served with the Royal Australian Air Force from March 1940 to August 1946, reaching the rank of flight lieutenant. He was a coastal command pilot in England, Africa and Gibraltar until his return to Australia where he received a commendation for meritorious service. Following his discharge from the Royal Australian Air Force in 1946, Sir Wally Rae returned to his work and personal interests in outback Queensland.

On 5 October 1957, Sir Wally Rae was elected as the state member for Gregory at a by-election representing the Country/National Party. In his maiden speech in this House on 12 November 1957 Sir Wally Rae confirmed his dedication and commitment to the electorate of Gregory. He highlighted the pressing issues faced by outback Queensland towns, in particular education, lack of appropriate housing and poor living conditions.

In 1969, Sir Wally Rae was appointed minister for local government and electricity. This was a position he held until 1972, when he was appointed minister for lands and forestry. Sir Wally Rae resigned as a member of parliament in December 1974 and was appointed Agent-General for Queensland in London. On 12 June 1976, he received the honour of Knight Bachelor, and in 1978 he was made Freeman of the City of London. Sir Wally Rae held the position of Agent-General until 1980.

A private funeral for Sir Wallace Alexander Ramsay Rae was held in Port Macquarie, New South Wales. I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of the House, and particularly my government, to his siblings and their families.