



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 23 May 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Von Nida, Mr N

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.49 am): Like all members, I was saddened earlier this week to hear that an Australian sporting legend had passed away—Norman Von Nida, a great in the golfing community and one of the finest players the nation has ever produced. He won three Australian Opens and four Australian PGA championships, notching up more than 80 titles worldwide. He grew up in Brisbane. We can safely claim him as one of our own. I seek leave to incorporate a tribute in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Von Nida was born in Sydney but we won't hold that against him.

He played out of the caddies shed at Royal Queensland and the skills he acquired there helped him take on and beat giants of the game such as Gene Sarazen.

He had a very distinguished career and helped pave the way for current crop of Aussie golf stars.

He was still playing golf into his nineties.

This is despite the fact that in his later years he had been declared legally blind.

I believe he used yellow paint on top of his clubs and yellow balls to help him see and despite this obstacle still managed to hit most of them straight and true.

I would like to pass on my condolences to the family and friends of Norman Von Nida.