




Speech by  
**Ian Berry**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

Hansard Wednesday, 22 August 2012

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## VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC DAY

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (10.35 pm): I wish to speak today in honour of Victory in the Pacific Day, which was celebrated on Wednesday, 15 August 2012. VP Day commemorates Japan's acceptance of the allied demand for unconditional surrender in 1945. For Australians, Victory in the Pacific Day, or VP Day, meant that World War II was finally over. History tells us that the day really was a celebration after six long years of war, and Australia woke to find a world at peace. Many recall singing and dancing in the streets across the country and even in Sydney, and shredded paper raining down from office windows. A day later on Thursday, 16 August 1945, a large crowd gathered to watch the march of ex-servicemen and to respect the fallen with a traditional minute's silence. Of course that includes Australians, Americans and other allied forces.

On 11 August I attended a Victory in the Pacific Day commemorative service held at The Monument, Manson Park in Raceview. I would like to recognise and pay my respects to the namesake of the park, Mrs Rose Manson, a local Ipswich resident who cared for the graves in the Ipswich cemetery during the war and wrote to the families of the fallen American soldiers. A war widow herself, Mrs Manson cared for 98 Australian soldiers' graves and 60 American graves every Sunday until the number grew to over 1,400, when she decided to place one bowl of flowers every night at the base of the flag pole as a memory to every mother's son. Mrs Manson also wrote to the mothers of all the fallen American soldiers, and she gives Ipswich great credit for having performed that service.

I am also proud of the wartime service of my family: from the Boer War, where Sergeant RE Berry gave his life in an ambush by the Boers; to my grandfather, Charlie McConachy, a drover from Longreach, who served in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment; and to my father, who served as a 17-year-old on HMAS *Katoomba* in New Guinea.

I thank all Queenslanders who paused on Wednesday for a few moments to remember those Australians and those like me who attended commemoration services to remember those who gave their lives to help achieve the peace that VP Day stands for. We must never forget, nor should their past sacrifice be forgotten. On VP Day it is also important to honour those veterans who returned to enjoy the peace that they had helped deliver to all Australians. According to the annual report of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, there are 121,000 surviving World War II veterans. I thank those Australians for their service to our country and those who are currently serving our country. Their sacrifice and service to our country must not be forgotten.

I pay tribute to our American brothers who helped and assisted us to defeat a force which certainly was formidable in the Pacific. My daughter is American and I know that she attends marine balls and so forth. It is a shame that the member for Logan is not here.

*(Time expired)*