




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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ADJOURNMENT

Vietnamese Community

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.04 pm): I rise this evening to speak on matters regarding the Vietnamese community in Queensland, and in particular in my electorate of Inala. I first rise to pay tribute to Mr To Do, a respected elder of the Vietnamese community who tragically passed away late last year. The community has been greatly saddened by the sudden loss of a man who devoted his time to the support of others. Mr Do was president of the thriving Vietnamese Seniors Association, as well as an integral contributor to countless Vietnamese birthday celebrations, the children's moon festivals and special ancestor events. I was lucky enough to attend many of these with him over the years. His softly spoken and humble demeanour was attributable to a man whom people always gravitated towards.

Mr To Do's life was celebrated at a mass held in St Mark's Catholic Church, a reflective event which I had the great honour to attend with not only the Vietnamese community but also his friends and family and other community leaders. It was a testament to the enormous contribution that Mr Do was able to make not just to his family and friends but to the whole Vietnamese community in the electorate of Inala. Unsurprisingly Mr Do was also a devoted family man. I would like to pay respect on behalf of this parliament to his wife, Mrs Xuan My Do, and his children Kieu Oanh Thi Do, Hieu Due Do and Kieu Hanh Thi Do.

My personal rapport with Mr Do was always an immense privilege that can never be oversold. His service and kindness to others are the qualities that all Queenslanders should strive for. He helped not for glory or acclaim, but rather out of the kindness of his heart. This speech therefore serves as a modest reminder of his achievements; an opportunity to place on record the gratitude that I and the local community owe to him.

On a more positive note, I would also like to make comment on my recent Lunar New Year celebrations with the Vietnamese community in my electorate of Inala. Mr Do will be sadly missed as he always participated in the elders' ceremony. Friday, 31 January was cause for reflection and celebration. I was able to spend time with members of the local Vietnamese community over this period, reflecting upon the rich multicultural heritage that Queensland, and in particular my local electorate of Inala, enjoys as its collective culture. Spending time with friends like Quoi Pham at the Vietnamese New Year Festival at Darra's CaoDai centre and watching incredible fireworks at the Phat Da Temple with the Venerable Thich Thien Huu provided some definite highlights of the festivities.

According to the zodiac calendar we have now entered the Year of the Horse. Those born during this lunar cycle are said to be extremely clever, kind and positive. Let us hope that these qualities serve us well in parliament over the coming months as we, like Mr Do, serve the community. On behalf of the Vietnamese community I wish all members of the House a happy Vietnamese New Year—Chuc Mung Nam Moi.