




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MEMBER'S PRIVATE STATEMENT

Remembrance Day

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.58 pm): Yesterday we paused for Remembrance Day. I know that around the electorate of Nanango and all across the state our dedicated RSL subbranches conducted special services to commemorate this very important day. I wanted to pass on my heartfelt thanks to all of my local subbranches and RSLs for the work they do year round to support our veterans and help us remember the impact of war.

Remembrance Day marks the day in 1918 when World War I ended and it also helps us remember the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts from World War I to the current conflicts. We pause to reflect on the young lives lost and pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice that they have made in the name of peace. In regional areas like the Nanango electorate, the losses during World War I and World II had major impacts on our small towns with local war memorials bearing many names of the young men and women who never returned.

Today though I would like to pay tribute to one young man who did return from World War II and has since lived a peaceful and productive life with his wife and children residing in the small town of Yarraman. Mr Paul Tunn, who is now a lively 93 years old, fought in the skies above France and Germany in a Halifax bomber. He was part of a seven-man crew in the No. 158 Squadron, which made their first operational flight just six days after D-day to Amiens in northern France where they bombed a rail junction and marshalling yards. He flew 36 sorties between June and November in 1944, serving as a wireless operator in the Halifax crew.

Mr Tunn is a humble man and over the past few years I have come to know him better and learn more about his life and his service. In June this year, he was just one of 17 Australian World War II veterans who received the highest honour that can be awarded by the French government—the Legion of Honour medal. This medal is the premier order of the French Republic created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. Men, women, French citizens and foreigners, regardless of rank, birth or religion, can be admitted to any of these classes.

While it was some 70 years later that he was presented with this honour, the French government said the honour was a way for their country to express the depth of its gratitude to the liberators of France. Mr Tunn now wears the medal with pride and we are extremely privileged to have him as a member of our community. I caught up with Mr Tunn just recently at the opening of the Military Museum at Yarraman's Heritage House. I acknowledge Helene Johnson, who is the driving force behind Heritage House and this new museum, and the wonderful work of the volunteers who put the displays together.

The Yarraman Military Museum is a remarkable display of our military mystery, particularly in the South Burnett, and it includes up to 30 guns dating back to 1856. I would like to thank all of the locals around Yarraman. I also thank Terry Reid and Tom Clarke, both active members of the local Yarraman RSL, for the work that they do in our local communities.