




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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ADJOURNMENT

Vietnam Veterans' Day

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (9.50 pm): I rise tonight to bring to the attention of the House the recent events in my electorate to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day in August this year. Originally it was a day to commemorate the Battle of Long Tan in 1966, but it has since been adopted by all veterans. I have been reading up on the history of Long Tan, and I have learned that the Battle of Long Tan was the largest single unit battle fought in Vietnam by Australian troops. It began on the afternoon of 18 August and went right through the night until the morning of the 19th. The Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese army were aware that the Australians were there to secure the province and they decided they would take them on. This was the fate that befell Delta company—6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment—who were on patrol that particular day. The enemy lay in wait for them; it was a huge ambush in a rubber plantation called Long Tan. The Australians had to hold off thousands of enemy troops for the duration of that battle. Eighteen Australian troops were killed and up to a thousand of the enemy.

In acknowledging Vietnam Veterans' Day communities throughout Australia remember the sacrifices made by our young men and women in a conflict that spanned a 10-year period. The commemorations in Kallangur started with a rededication of Anzac Park in Petrie, continuing the work of Moreton Bay Regional councillor Dave Dwyer, who has been a huge voice in my area with his passion to make Anzac Avenue a tribute to those who have served in the military. Another event was a Vietnam veterans service at Vietnam Veterans' Place in Kallangur. Attended by many Vietnam veterans, it was a particularly moving service with some great stories from some of those who had served in that conflict.

The final service was the most remarkable. I was invited to our local veterans motorcycle club The Patriots for the most stirring service of all. I rode out there on my motorbike and was welcomed as the new local member. We heard from some ex-servicemen with experience in many conflicts and although I am not usually an emotional person, the respect I feel for those who have served always moves me. My own military experience consisted of a brief period in the reserves in RAEME 104 Field Workshop, and I participated in one military exercise, Kangaroo 89, in the Northern Territory. I will always admire those who have dedicated a large part of their lives to serve.

I was invited to this event by the master of ceremonies and event coordinator and now proud member of the club, my predecessor Trevor Ruthenberg. He took the air cadet troops that he is training along for the service, and the youth and pride they added to the ceremony helped to make it the most remarkable and memorable of all.