




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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ADJOURNMENT

National Police Remembrance Day

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.18 pm): I rise tonight to talk about an important event that occurred across Queensland last month and one that is very dear to my heart. On 29 September Queenslanders paused to remember and pay tribute to 143 fallen policemen and officers on National Police Remembrance Day. I attended two events in Gladstone: the candlelight vigil and the service held at St Xavier's Anglican Church. I must say that there was a strong turnout of local support at both of these events which was excellent to see. Services, marches and vigils were held throughout the state to remember those officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the communities that they serve. These events also present an opportunity for us to thank the dedicated men and women of our Police Service for their bravery, courage and sacrifice in the name of keeping our communities safe.

My twin brother Wayne is a senior sergeant based in Gladstone, and he has been a police officer for the last 15 years. In that time he has seen more trauma than we could possibly imagine. He has been the first on the scene of fatalities delivering news to loved ones and simply fronting up to work day after day, year after year, not knowing what he might be confronted with and with the ever-present danger that he might be injured or, even worse, killed. In the words of the Police Commissioner, Ian Stewart, 'no matter how experienced, skilled, equipped or courageous an officer may be, at times, fate and circumstances will conspire, resulting in the serious injury or the tragic death of an officer'.

Police officers put their safety aside for the betterment of the community they serve. As the brother of a police officer I want to say that this sacrifice is acknowledged and appreciated. I have talked to my brother on many occasions, and fear for their own safety is a real issue police officers face every single day on the job—day and night and every time they clock in to do their shift.

As a former tradesman, supervisor and maintenance superintendent I have strived every day to ensure that not only I but also my workmates and my workers went home at the end of the shift in a safe way. This concern is replicated with our dedicated police force. I cannot praise them enough, including my brother, for the work they do and the conditions they sometimes have to deal with in our communities. I also acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice made by those fallen officers—and their families, their partners, their friends and their colleagues, who have also lost so much. We have not forgotten and we will never forget each and every one of those people.