




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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ADJOURNMENT

Brough, Mr R

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (12.30 am): In June last year I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Robert Brough, a veteran of the Avro Lancaster Bomber K2 and member of 460 Squadron RAAF that saw action in the European theatre of the Second World War. K2 was one of the most photographed Lancasters, with a conspicuous symbol of the dagger piercing the swastika painted on it. When we met, Roy, as he was known, had just received the Legion d'honneur appointed by the President of the French Republic. The Legion is France's highest order for both military and civil achievement and was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

Membership of the Legion d'honneur is only ever bestowed on non-French citizens when that country is indebted to their extraordinary service. The Lancaster crews and their bravery were not only fighting to free Europe and the world from the tyranny of Nazism but were indeed fighting for the values espoused by the French motto of *liberté, égalité* and *fraternité*. Hence, Roy was a deserving recipient of that great award. Thus I was very saddened to hear of the passing in April of this Australian and local hero at the age of 93 years. I wish to pass on my condolences to his wife, Gloria, and their family including Glen, Narelle, Errol, Robin, Lex, Sue, Margaret, Jean and more.

Roy was just 22 years old when he was stationed at Brighton in the south of England, and on the numerous sorties experienced the hardships and challenges of war firsthand. Of the entire RAAF bomber command during this period, just 24 per cent of personnel survived unharmed. As a state and as a nation we are indebted to the service of Roy and 17 other Queenslanders who were bestowed with the award from the Republic of France last year.

I know that on Anzac Day all of my parliamentary colleagues took the time to join with their communities in remembering the sacrifice and service of former and current Navy, Army and Air Force personnel. I must admit that my favourite local commemoration is the RAAF Association's Anzac Day sunset service held at 19th Avenue in Brighton at a memorial dedicated on the site of the guard house of the RAAF Sandgate Station, which during the 1940s occupied the site many know as Eventide. I joined Mr Roy Lincoln, president of the RAAF Association's Sandgate branch, federal member for Lilley, Wayne Swan, Deagon ward councillor Jared Cassidy, representatives from the Sandgate RSL sub-branch, other branches of the RAAF Association, Australian Air Force Cadets and the residents of the Eventide community who laid wreaths. This special occasion was a poignant time to note the passing of Roy Brough. Vale Roy Brough. Lest we forget.