




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 3 May 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

QFES; Jackson, Mr AJR

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.59 am): I would like to take the opportunity to update the House on a significant fire that occurred in the Brisbane suburb of Salisbury on Sunday night that left an elderly man's residence destroyed. Ninety-nine-year-old Arthur James Robert Jackson was a pilot in World War II. He received many medals for his service, including the French government's highest honour, the Legion of Honour. Mr Jackson's Legion of Honour was lost in the fire on Sunday night. Unfortunately, firefighters could not find his medal as they braved the flames. However, they did manage to retrieve other medals awarded to Mr Jackson throughout his World War II career including memorabilia, uniform badges and patches. These medals are extremely important not only for Mr Jackson himself but also as a story that tells a significant part of Australia's history. They have stood the test of time, and it is humbling to see that our firefighters went above and beyond to ensure the house fire did not get this prestigious award.

The medals recovered are now in the safe hands of Mr Jackson's power of attorney. Firefighters have indicated that the fire took hold very quickly and that Mr Jackson was fortunate to get out safely. Thankfully, his house was fitted with a working smoke alarm, which alerted Mr Jackson and his neighbours to the danger. Neighbours rallied, doing a great job helping him get to a point of safety as quickly as possible.

An incident such as this highlights not only how working smoke alarms save lives but also how it is a joint effort from several different areas across QFES. I would like to personally thank the Firecom staff who received the first triple 0 call at 7.13 pm and the 16 firefighters from multiple fire stations, including Acacia Ridge, Kemp Place, Annerley and Rocklea, who quickly arrived on the scene and were immediately thrown into action. A total of eight crews attended, with some crews remaining on scene for nearly five hours. The QFES Fire Investigation unit attended the following morning at 9.45, when they managed to determine the probable cause of the fire.

On behalf of all Queenslanders, I would like to finish by taking this opportunity to thank every person who contributed in their own way at Mr Jackson's place. They should be very proud of their efforts, their selflessness, their professionalism and their dedication.