




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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ADJOURNMENT

Radford, Mr F; Legacy Week

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.14 pm): I rise tonight to recognise the contribution of a man who has dedicated his life to serving Australia and the community. That man is Frank Radford, who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in this year's Queens Birthday Honours. Frank is a Townsville local and for the last three months he has been laid up in hospital after suffering a stroke. Although he understandably cannot be here tonight, I would like to take the opportunity of this regional sitting of parliament in Townsville to add my words of recognition to a man who embodies the best of all of us.

Frank is a proud Australian who during his life of service served in the Australian Army for more than 30 years, enlisting as a private soldier and retiring as a major. Among other postings, Frank served as a section commander in Charlie Company 2 RAR during the Vietnam War. After discharging from the Army Frank continued serving the military family by working as a volunteer pension and welfare advocate with the Townsville RSL. Veterans' advocates are volunteers who assist veterans and their families navigate the complex, time-consuming and often stressful process of putting in a Department of Veterans' Affairs claims process. For more than 11 years Frank has helped veterans young and old as they deal with the physical and mental effects of their military service. While based out of Townsville, Frank's work as a veterans' advocate has taken him west to Longreach, north to Cardwell and south to Airlie Beach.

I was privileged to get to know Frank and his loving wife Helen more than 25 years ago when my family lived across the road from them in Singleton, New South Wales. On behalf of the veterans' community I would like to recognise Frank for his lifelong commitment to others. It is through the efforts of people like Frank, with the lifelong support of his wife Helen, that the fabric of our community is made stronger.

Like Frank Radford's lifetime of service to the community, Legacy is an organisation dedicated to supporting the veterans' community. As I have spoken about previously, Legacy focuses on supporting the families of those who have served our nation. In my opinion, there is no more worthy cause than supporting the widows and children who are left behind. This week is Legacy Week, Legacy's annual national appeal to raise awareness and funds to support their work. I encourage members as they pass through the airport or their local shopping centre to stop and have a chat to the Legacy volunteers who are there selling badges and if you are in a position to, please lend your financial support so they can continue their important work.