




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Commemorative Services

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.06 pm): It has been an especially solemn week for the residents of Mount Ommaney, but it was also a week when our famous community spirit was on display. Last week our local schools commemorated Anzac Day, showing beautiful respect to our fallen service men and women. I was privileged to attend the services at Corinda State School, Middle Park State School, Jindalee State School, Corinda State High School and Centenary State High School, alongside my good friends Milton Dick, the member for Oxley, and Graham Perrett, the member for Moreton. I must say how lovely the schools' floral tributes were. They were handmade by the students and teachers, which was a very fitting way to honour our Anzacs.

Like all members of this House, I was up well before dawn to attend the Sherwood subbranch dawn service, which was beautifully organised by Kylie, Hayley and President Glenn Mostyn. After a fabulous breakfast at the Sherwood Services Club with the cadets, I was off to the Mount Ommaney subbranch to attend a stunning service at the brand-new memorial, under the gumtrees and surrounded by birdsong. President Georges Leferve did a fantastic job leading the service and RSL member Terry did a stupendous job singing the national anthem. The Centenary State High School band, led by Fiona Harvey, was absolutely outstanding. Without a word of a lie, that band is at an absolutely professional level. I finished up at Oxley.

I thank my dad, David, for representing me at the Mount Ommaney dawn service, where Josie and Rochelle sang the anthems so beautifully, and the Darra subbranch RSL, led by Peter and the team. I know that both Josie and Rochelle got choked up when they sang the anthems and the truth is that I do, too. When I stood up at my three Anzac Day services to sing the New Zealand anthem for the Pugh Anzacs in my father's family, it filled me with joy and pride. It was incredibly special, looking out over the 5,000-odd people attending each of the services. I hope I made Nanna Pugh proud.

Last Sunday, at the St Stephens Catholic Church in Brisbane, the Sri Lankan community came together in mourning, along with many other faiths. It really was very special to be a part of that service, where I stood alongside the Premier, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and my good friend the member for Ipswich West. I thank my good friends Anu Perera, a Riverhills local, and Ash Misra who invited me to attend the service. I will also mention just a few of the many organisers: Alexandria, who is a second-generation Sri Lankan, and her father, Kumudu; it was also lovely to see consul Anton Swan. At the time of the bombings my own aunts were enjoying a trip to Sri Lanka. I am deeply grateful that today they returned home safely. Tragically, far too many did not.

Finally, on Tuesday, 30 April my beloved Vietnamese community commemorated the Fall of Saigon. My very good friend Phuong Ngyuen was my representative, as I sadly could not be at that wonderful event. Being the member for such a multicultural community is a blessing. Our community shares their joys—

(Time expired)