




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 4 February 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Leafe, Ms CJ

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.26 pm): It is with great honour that I speak tonight to recognise the work of one of Logan police district's finest, a constituent and a good friend of mine. It is with great sadness that I do this posthumously and I seek the House's indulgence to outline the service of Sergeant Charmaine Jannette Leafe. She joined the Queensland Police Service in May 1998 and was sworn in on 4 December that year and was appointed to the Logan police district. This is where I first encountered Char when she came to Slacks Creek as a first-year constable. Even at that early stage of her career her work ethic was impeccable, but that was not to say that we did not enjoy our work. We were a tight-knit crew at Slacks Creek and her send-off was one of the biggest we ever had.

Over the next seven years Charmaine and her family would live and serve in Mareeba, Rockhampton, Ipswich, Palm Island and Ingham before returning to Brisbane. It was pointed out by the Logan district officer during his valedictory speech that Charmaine and her family had undertaken transfers equivalent to the distance of London to the North Pole and back in service of this state. That is the toll that frontline service takes on our uniform families. I table the valedictory speech that was given.

Tabled paper: Queensland Police Service valedictory for Ms Charmaine Jannette Leafe [170](#).

I again crossed paths with Char at the Police Academy where we were both recruit instructors, and a finer role model for police recruits you would never find. While you can take the officer out of Logan, we all seem to return and in 2014 she was appointed the officer in charge of the Loganlea community police beat. She was proud of her beat; she was proud of her community. She also provided leadership in establishing the Logan district's Domestic and Family Violence Unit. In 2016 when I was working in the Vulnerable Persons Unit in police headquarters, I called up Char for a favour. I was developing a statewide DFV training package and I needed an officer that police throughout Queensland respected and would listen to. She was not keen for the attention but she stuck her hand up, and for that I am eternally grateful.

My last project in 2017 was the inaugural QPS Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Awards and on the night I was delighted to see Charmaine and her team from Logan win the state's gold award for their local work. Whilst a career is more than the sum of its parts or its postings, she was awarded a Commissioner's Certificate for her role in search and rescue operations at Grantham in 2011 and a District Officer's Certificate for her response to an armed man threatening a three-week-old baby in Kingston in 2016. I want to acknowledge the commissioner's awarding of the Queensland Police Service Meritorious Service Medal at her funeral. I could not think of a more deserving recipient. To Michael, Megan and Jack, know that you are in our thoughts and in the arms of the blue family. I will leave the House with a quote from Charmaine—

You do tend to get that feeling from society that (the police) are to fix it all. In your eight hours you try to make it better than what it was, if you can. We can't fix every problem. You just have to go out and be proud of what you do for the day.