




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Vietnam Veterans; Vietnamese Women's Association

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.16 pm): It has been sensational to have some amazing events in all of our communities over the winter recess. Just last weekend I had the real privilege of attending two events that were not only very special but also interconnected. As members would know, last weekend we commemorated 50 years since the allied forces left Vietnam. My Centenary RSL, capably led by president Georges, gathered with many Vietnam veterans and many more community service members to pay their respects to our fallen and returned servicepeople. Many members of my Centenary RSL are, of course, Vietnam veterans, so the day was especially poignant for them. Servicemen Lancaster and McDougall shared fantastic—I will not call them speeches—recollections of their time in the armed forces. At the end, and at the beginning, there was a fantastic flyover. There was also an incredibly moving presentation to the veterans of scarves that were made in Australia.

That night, the RSL and special guests gathered at the fabulous Que Huong restaurant in Darra which, loosely translated from Vietnamese, means 'my homeland'. All of the personnel were presented with cufflinks and a tiepin for their service by the mighty Keith Buck. He is 100 years young and still has a sharp sense of humour. He is our oldest RSL member in the community. What was especially poignant was to have a significant cohort of the Vietnamese Women's Association at both events. Led by the wonderful Mai Nguyen, they were there to remind everybody in the community about the millions of Vietnamese who had to flee their homeland and who now call countries like Australia home.

My community of Mount Ommaney, as members would be aware, has a very significant Vietnamese Australian community. Many members of the Vietnamese Australian community came to Australia on boats, lived in the Wacol Migrant Centre in the electorate of Inala, just a stone's throw from my community, and settled nearby in the western suburbs. I do not need to tell members about the significant contribution they have made.

I am also very excited to tell members about the wonderful dinner hosted by the women's association on Saturday night. Hundreds of people came from all over Australia to celebrate Vu Lan, which is a Vietnamese mothers celebration. The day was emceed by Tram and Lin. Members may be interested to know that in Vietnam Mother's Day is not a one-day celebration; it goes for the month of August.

A government member interjected.

Ms PUGH: That is right. I talk about birthday months, member for Pine Rivers; they have the right idea for Mother's Day. It is the mothers month of August. It was fitting that I could take my oldest daughter to celebrate Vu Lan. We had such a wonderful day. We wore our Ao Dais, and there was dancing by Belesté and karaoke. One of the Vietnam veterans, John Bradley, sang a song in Vietnamese. It was amazing.