




Speech By
Barbara O'Shea

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

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ADJOURNMENT

Vickery, Mr G, AO

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (9.14 pm): With the recent effects of Tropical Cyclone Alfred, I want to thank the volunteers who have worked tirelessly in my electorate of South Brisbane looking after the most vulnerable in my community. I would particularly like to thank the volunteers who provided shelter, meals and support for the homeless at Emmanuel City Mission and Micah Projects.

In celebrating the work of volunteers at this time, I would like to share with this House the extraordinary achievement of Greg Vickery AO, a member of my community of South Brisbane who has volunteered with the Red Cross for over 50 years. Greg is the first Queensland and only the fifth Australian to be awarded the highest honour of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: the Henri Dunant Medal. Henri Dunant was a Swiss humanitarian. In the 1800s he witnessed the dreadful suffering of wounded soldiers on the battlefield in Italy and determined to form a neutral organisation to provide care to the wounded in times of war. He went on to co-found the Red Cross.

Last October Greg Vickery travelled to Geneva to receive the Henri Dunant Medal in recognition of his outstanding service to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Greg Vickery has served as national president of the Australian Red Cross, on the board of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and as chair of the Standing Commission of Red Cross and Red Crescent, one of the top three positions in the Red Cross. In these roles Greg Vickery has made an invaluable contribution to the integrity and governance of the Red Cross, supporting the organisation's ability to be an impartial, independent actor in the humanitarian field. All of the positions Greg has held in the Red Cross have been voluntary positions, with Greg using his holidays to attend international meetings. We thank Greg's wife, Dr E Sally Vickery, their children and grandchildren for the time they have given up with Greg to allow him to contribute so much to the international community.

As well as giving his time to the Red Cross, Greg Vickery forged a distinguished legal career, serving as president of the Queensland Law Society and as the Honorary Consul for Indonesia in Queensland. When I caught up with Greg recently to personally congratulate him on receiving this award I was struck by his intellect, his gentle humour and his kindness. It is his focus on community spirit and generosity that has resulted in Greg being recognised on the global stage by being awarded the Henri Dunant Medal. Congratulations again, Greg.