

Police Remembrance Speech - 3 minutes (460 words)

Deputy Speaker, when we are in this place, we can perhaps overlook the dangers that some Australians face on a daily basis, so I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of people, whose bravery and commitment I can only admire.

I am talking about the brave men and women who keep our streets safe in every state and territory through their work in the police service.

While there are immense rewards, and no doubt job satisfaction, by preventing and solving crime it is unquestionably sometimes difficult and dangerous work.

Sadly, one of those dangers, is the risk of losing your life, that's why it is important that we continue to honour those killed in the line of their duty.

As well as their sacrifice, their families, friends, and colleagues also pay a high price for their loss, and we must remember them too.

On September 29th, I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the constituents of Forde, during the annual National Police Remembrance Day service in Beenleigh.

Each year, on this day, vigils, services, and marches are held across the country to remember and honour all police personnel who have died in the line of duty.

Deputy Speaker, just a few kilometres from where we meet today, stands the National Police Memorial, located in Kings Park on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin.

The Memorial commemorates those who have been killed on duty or have died as a result of their duties and recognises the police contribution to the Australian Community.

There are now 823 name on that nearby memorial, among them an officer from my electorate of Forde, Damien Leeding.

Detective Senior Constable Leeding died after he was shot in the head while trying to stop an armed robbery at the Pacific Pines Tavern, in 2011.

I also wish to recognise all the police personnel who serve in my electorate of Forde, and in particular, the Officers in Charge at Beenleigh: Senior Sergeant Corinne Brown; Loganholme: Acting Senior Sergeant Melodie Mulder; Pimpama: Senior Sergeant Michael Leafe, and Coomera: Senior Sergeant Jay Notaro.

And thank-you also to all the officers and staff at our neighbourhood 'Police Beat' facilities, located at Edens Landing, Eagleby, Loganholme, Norfolk Village, and Loganlea.

Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, might I suggest that while National Police Remembrance Day is held every year on September 29th, the next time we encounter a police member, no matter what the day, we should thank them for the good, and often dangerous, work that they do.