



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**Community Recognition Statement**

23 March 2021

**RAY PRICE**

**Ms SONIA HORNERY ( Wallsend ) :**

Ray joined the RAAF in 1966 and in 1969 arrived in Vung Tau, South Vietnam, as an Airfield Defence Guard. He was a door gunner with 9 Squadron flying in the "Huey" helicopter, inserting and extracting troops, evacuating the wounded, resupplying units in the field with ammunition, water and food.

Ray was on two helicopters that had forced landings due to malfunctions. On 26 October 1969, the helicopter was shot down by Viet Cong at Hat Ditch. Ray's helicopter received heavy ground fire from AK47 machine guns and rocket propelled grenades.

Ray engaged the enemy soldiers by suppressing them with machine gun fire.

The heavy ground fire caused the helicopter to crash with Ray badly injured. He and other crew were rescued and flown to the Australian Army Hospital at Vung Tau.

Due to his injuries he was flown to Malaya and then on to Australia, where he spent a year in hospital. He was discharged medically unfit in 1970.

Members of 9 Squadron, including Ray, were eventually awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation for operations in South Vietnam.

Thank you Ray for your service to our country.