



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONDOLENCES

Baird, Corporal Cameron Stewart, MG

SPEECH

Monday, 24 June 2013

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Date Monday, 24 June 2013
Page 6657
Questioner
Speaker Abbott, Tony, MP

Source House
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Mr ABBOTT (Warringah—Leader of the Opposition) (14:06): I rise to support the words of the Prime Minister. As the Prime Minister has noted, when the avenue of honour at Yungaburra was opened on Saturday we hoped there would be no further additions to it. Before the opening was complete that hope had been dashed. Corporal Cameron Baird is our 40th casualty. He was from the 2nd Commando Regiment. He was on his fifth tour of Afghanistan. The Defence Force chief, David Hurley, described him as someone who in combat as a team commander was the man to watch, never happier than when the situation demanded decisive action and courage. We grieve for his family, we grieve for the other two Australians wounded in the same incident.

This death is a reminder that it is a difficult and dangerous mission in which our forces are engaged in Afghanistan. We owe it to the Afghan people; we owe it to ourselves; we owe it to our soldiers, particularly those who have paid the highest possible price; and we owe it to the values for which this nation stands not to flag in that mission.