



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Federation Chamber**

**CONDOLENCES**

**Smith, Corporal Scott James**

**SPEECH**

**Tuesday, 30 October 2012**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## SPEECH

**Date** Tuesday, 30 October 2012  
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**Questioner**  
**Speaker** O'Dwyer, Kelly, MP

**Source** House  
**Proof** No  
**Responder**  
**Question No.**

**Ms O'DWYER** (Higgins) (17:31): I join with my colleague the member for Herbert in speaking with great sadness on the death of Corporal Scott James Smith. On Sunday, 21 October 2012, 24-year-old Corporal Scott James Smith was killed on his second tour of Afghanistan by an improvised explosive device. Australia has lost an exceptional soldier who possessed all of the qualities of a great leader. I wish to express my deepest sympathies to his partner, Liv; his parents Katrina Paterson and Murray Smith; his sister, Roxanne; his friends; and the fellow soldiers who knew and served alongside him.

Corporal Smith was a member of the Special Operations Task Group and was from the Special Operations Engineer Regiment based at Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney, New South Wales. Corporal Smith joined the Army in February 2006 and moved quickly up the ranks, proving to be a leader. He is described by his unit as a genuine, honest and dedicated member who was probably one of the best junior non-commissioned officers the unit has seen. Corporal Smith's family describe him as a man who lived life to its fullest, had a great sense of humour and loved being outdoors. He pursued many sports, such as cricket and waterskiing. He was the lovable character that held the family together.

In addition to having been deployed twice to Afghanistan in 2010 and 2012, Corporal Smith also served in the Solomon Islands in 2006. Corporal Smith was awarded various honours, including the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Army Combat Badge and the Australian Defence Medal. The loss of Corporal Smith is indeed very sad. On Remembrance Day, in just a few weeks time, we will be honouring those who have given their lives for our country. It is a great tragedy that Corporal Smith's name will be amongst those.

Corporal Smith's death is again a terrible reminder to all Australians that our soldiers in Afghanistan work in an extremely dangerous and life-threatening environment on a daily basis. Their dedication, courage and sacrifice can never be taken for granted and we honour them for it. I offer again my sincerest condolences to his family, who will feel Corporal Smith's loss for their lifetime. We honour him. We honour them for their sacrifice. Lest we forget.