

KAZ MALAWSKI

Statement by Member for Hillarys

MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys) [12.50 pm]: I wish to highlight a significant milestone of one of my constituents, Mr Kaz Malawski, of Kallaroo. Kaz turned 100 years of age on 2 March. He was born in Poland and was 19 when World War II began. As a young Polish army officer, he was taken as a prisoner of war but soon afterwards managed to escape by foot to his hometown in Eastern Poland. However, following the Soviet invasion of Eastern Poland, Kaz fled to the Baltic states, first to Lithuania and then to Estonia, where he became a POW for a second time. He spent time in a Siberian labour camp cutting timber while enduring harsh conditions. Kaz was eventually freed and whilst in Kazakhstan, he volunteered with the Royal Air Force serving in the Middle East, later transferring to the Royal Navy. When the war ended, and with Poland under Soviet occupation, Kaz joined the Merchant Navy. Sadly, in 1946 he learnt that his father had been executed by the Soviet secret police in 1940.

While on a holiday cruise between Durban and Mombasa, Kaz met his wife, Yvonne. They initially made South Africa their home, but later migrated to Australia to be close to family. It is a well-worn story of people migrating to Australia to be close to family. They were among the earliest residents of St Ives Northshore Retirement Village in Kallaroo.

It was my privilege to spend part of Kaz's birthday with Kaz and his family, hear stories about his amazing life and learn how Australia has become a wonderful home for him and his family. I wish Kaz and his wife, Yvonne, continued good health and happiness in the years ahead.