

SIR DAVID BRAND

Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot) [12.50 pm]: Today marks the fiftieth anniversary of the swearing in of the Sir David Brand Liberal government. He was this state's nineteenth, and longest serving, Premier from 1959 to 1971—a duration spanning 11 years and 335 days. He presided over an exciting era of unprecedented prosperity and development in this state's history and he laid the foundations for making Western Australia the envy of the country.

Born in Dongara in 1912, he left school at 14 to work on his parents' farm. In 1935 Sir David Brand moved to Kalgoorlie and worked as a truck driver in the mines. Following the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in November 1939. He served with distinction in various campaigns, including North Africa, Libya and Greece, where he was seriously wounded in 1941. He was a member of C Company in the 2nd/11th Battalion, which successfully captured Tobruk during Operation Compass. He was a proud member of the Returned and Services League.

Sir David Brand was discharged from the Army in 1945, and in the following year he won the seat of Greenough in a by-election, becoming the first person in Australia to win election to Parliament as a candidate for the newly-formed Liberal Party. He oversaw the establishment of the refinery at Kwinana, which he later described as one of his greatest achievements. A statesman and a visionary, Sir David Brand was a doer who led by example and championed the virtues of individual effort. He represented all that is great about Western Australia and remains to this day one of its finest sons.

I pay particular tribute to Lady Doris Brand, whom I had the pleasure of meeting at the Liberal Party campaign launch. She is an inspiration to all of us and I take this opportunity to thank her for her contribution to our state and the Liberal Party on this fiftieth anniversary of Sir David becoming the nineteenth Premier of Western Australia.