



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Message from Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

I am very proud to be Patron of the Reserve Forces Day Council and delighted to provide this message of support to all those participating in Reserve Forces Day.

On this occasion, we commemorate the exemplary service given to our nation by the Citizens Forces of the Defence Reserves. We also remember friends and colleagues with whom they served.

2009 marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning of World War II and celebrations this year will acknowledge the men who volunteered to serve in the part-time forces of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, the Militia and the Citizens Air Force before the War. Seventy years on, our Reservists continue the fine traditions established by those courageous men.

The surviving members, who are known as the "Thirty Niners", now have an average age of 89 and they provide an important link to those turbulent days. I am pleased to know that they and their service will be acknowledged in 20 cities and towns throughout Australia taking part in Reserve Forces Day parades and celebrations.

Today the men and women of our Reserves are engaged in operations around the globe, and serve with distinction alongside our full time servicemen and women.

On behalf of all Australians, I acknowledge our nation's great debt to the Reserves for their commitment and courage in continuing a long tradition of distinguished service. To this end, I wish all Reservists and the Reserve Forces Day Council every success in the years ahead.

I also thank the families and employers who have supported, and continue to support our Reservists in their service to the nation. Without their flexibility, commitment and understanding our reserve forces would not be as capable as they are today.

I send my sincere thanks and warmest wishes to you all.

Governor-General