



Reserve Forces Day Council

RECOGNISING THE VALUE OF RESERVE SERVICE TO THE NATION ON JULY 1

ARBN 098 991 970 CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACT CFN 16628

Patron in Chief Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

NSW Patron Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of New South Wales

National and NSW Chairman the Honourable Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC

National Executive Officer and NSW Deputy Chairman Lieutenant Colonel John Moore OAM RFD ED Retd

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1950 - 2010

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MEDIA RELEASE

RIBBON RECOGNISES RESERVISTS' SELFLESS ACTIONS

Volunteering for military service overseas by current and former Reserve Forces members will be recognised in a ceremony to launch Reserve Forces Day 2010 at North Sydney on this Saturday December 5. The recognition ribbon will be pinned on 42 people who, while members of the part time Defence Forces over the last 60 years since the Reserves were reformed after WWII, elected to voluntarily serve overseas in UN and other operations from Korea in the early 1950s to modern day Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Commander of the 2nd Division, Major General Craig Williams, AM, Commander of almost every Army Reservist currently serving, and the Chief Government Whip, Mr Roger Price, MP who will represent the Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, will present special commemorative ribbons at a parade of Navy, Army and Air Force Reserve Unit Associations at Shore School, commencing at 9.30am. Led by Pipes and Drums the colorful Association Standards, that carry the traditions of famous units, will be paraded.

On hand to congratulate each ribbon recipient will be the national RSL President, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan, AO, and popular veteran, Queenslander, Warrant Officer Keith Payne, VC OAM, who was awarded Australia's highest honour for gallantry during his service in Vietnam in 1969. One of the former Reservists is Capt Bede Tongs MM from Canberra who volunteered to serve in Korea in 1953 as a UN observer. He was awarded his Military Medal serving as a Sergeant on the Kokoda Track in 1942.

July 1, 2010 will be Reserve Forces Day and Major General Williams will formally launch the Reserve Forces Day Parade nationally and locally in Sydney the Parade will be held on July 4 at the historic Domain.

"It is important to recognise the effort made by Reservists who, without hesitation, decided to leave the safety of their homeland to serve the nation in conflict and assist their Regular Forces comrades in arms," said Reserve Forces Day Council chairman, Sir Laurence Street, AC KCMG QC.

"In some cases they paid with their lives, while others received wounds of varying severity".

"Reserve Forces Day and Parades are celebrations nationally of service in the part time forces which, over the past 60 years, has seen more than 1.25 million Australian men and women take the oath of allegiance to serve the nation," he said.

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For interviews and individual photos please be at the School by 9.15am

For further info: Lieutenant Colonel John Moore OAM RFD ED Ret'd Tel: Mob: 0403 160 750 OR Major Frank Woodhams ED Ret'd Mob 0418 234 892