



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

**MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD**

**NATIONAL RESERVE FORCES DAY 2012**

Service as a reservist is, in a very profound way, an expression of loyalty to our nation and of the obligations of citizenship in a free country.

That spirit of service has been abundantly in evidence for the whole life of the Commonwealth.

Indeed on the day of Federation itself, Australian reservists were fighting for 'Queen and Country' in the South African conflict, and in 2012 we mark the 110 years since that war's ending with remembrance and gratitude.

In the eleven decades since the Boer War, Australian reservists have served with valour and distinction in wars and conflicts across the world, none with greater impact than those men who protected our nation at its moment of maximum vulnerability in 1942, another great anniversary we honour in 2012.

It is a vivid reminder of the fact that our reservists freely remove themselves from the safety and certainty of civilian life and place themselves at the disposal of our nation, too often at the cost of life and limb.

It is humbling to lead a nation where such service and sacrifice are given so generously.

And it is fitting that Reserve Forces Day has become such a special part of Australia's commemorative calendar, providing our community with a welcome opportunity to simply say 'thank you' for a debt of honour that can never be repaid.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julia Gillard'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

The Honourable Julia Gillard  
Prime Minister of Australia