



VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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VIETNAM VETERANS TO HONOUR THE DEAD

The National President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Mr Brian McKenzie said today, 'that thousands of Vietnam Veterans and their families will gather around the Nation on Wednesday 18 August 2004 to remember mates who made the supreme sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

Mr McKenzie said; Vietnam veterans and their families have been attending the day in ever increasing numbers since the then Prime Minister Bob Hawke declared the day "Vietnam Veterans Day" on 18 August 1988.

This particular day was chosen as it commemorated the Battle of Long Tan where D Company 6th Battalion the Royal Australian Regiment engaged a large enemy force and as a consequence 17 fine young Australians were killed in action on 18 August 1966.

This day is synonymous with the Vietnam War and we remember all those who made the supreme sacrifice during Australia's involvement and the thousands who have died (many prematurely) since on their return; he said.

Mr McKenzie said that; the Association continues to provide support and assistance to all returning veterans from all conflicts and Peacekeeping operations including, Timor, Afghanistan, the Middle East and Iraq through our many welfare and advocacy services.

I will be attending the commemorative Service at the Hobart Cenotaph at which the Premier of Tasmania, Hon Paul Lennon will deliver the Vietnam Veterans Day address; he said

Mr McKenzie called all Vietnam veterans and their families to take a moment to contact office bearers of the Association to identify the location of local services of commemoration.

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