



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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PRESENTATION OF ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL SERVICE 1951 – 1972 MEDAL AND CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Member for New England, Tony Windsor is pleased to announce that a special ceremony is being held in Tamworth to present local National Servicemen with their Anniversary of National Service Medals as well as presenting Certificates of Appreciation to Veterans from various theatres of war, as a way of expressing the nation's gratitude to their service in the defence forces.

The special presentation ceremony is being held at **9.30am on Saturday 13 December, 2003 in the Hands of Fame Park, Kable Avenue, Tamworth.**

The Anniversary of National Service Medal was issued by the Department of Defence to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the introduction of universal conscription in Australia. National Servicemen, or Nasho's as they became known, were conscripted from all walks of life into military service during the 50's, 60's and 70's and served in the Army, Navy and Airforce during this time.

Of the more than 300,000 National Servicemen who served their country through some very difficult times in our domestic and international environments, 187 paid the ultimate sacrifice and some 1,500 were wounded during service.

Due to the vast numbers of applications being received by the Department of Defence, there have been some delays in issuing all medal requests and Saturday's presentation ceremony is one of several that have and will continue to take place as the opportunity arises.

Certificates of Appreciation are also being presented to local veterans from World War II, the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces, the Vietnam War, and Peach Operations in Cyprus. These certificates are being presented as part of the Government's *Saluting Their Service* Program which provides the opportunity for communities to recognise the service of Australians who served in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

"I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognise the efforts of all of these veterans and servicemen in the company of their family and friends," Mr Windsor said.