



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1300 301 839
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

28 May 2009

VETERANS' CEREMONY REFLECTS ON INDIGENOUS SOLDIERS GALLANTRY

The third Indigenous Veterans Ceremony held by the Pool of Reflection at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park Sydney this Friday at 11am is a timely reminder of the contribution and sacrifice made by a select group of Australians who for decades were lost in the pantheon of the ANZAC legend.

They have gone unsung and unrewarded, according to the Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor said he was honoured to be invited to lay a wreath at the ceremony and believed that the spirit of the apology issued by the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd had special significance to those indigenous soldiers who served to protect a nation that had failed to recognise their rightful citizenship for such a long time.

He said that tomorrow's service had been emboldened by the special march and ceremony conducted on ANZAC Day that had recognised the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in war.

"Whilst all Australian diggers were prepared to lay down their lives in the defence of our Nation, without thought of reward or benefit, the Indigenous members came home from the wars unrecognised and unsupported and I understand in some cases they even lost their tribal lands to the Soldier Settlement programs." Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor commended the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Veterans and Services Association, the Returned Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) and the Department of Veteran Affairs in their efforts to perpetuate the memory of those who served.

He said the day also offered the opportunity for the Nation's prayers to those who are now currently in the battlefields and on peace keeping and humanitarian duties around the World.

'Lest We Forget'

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 668868