



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

13 May 2010

World War II “Forgotten Soldiers” need to be remembered with access to Gold Card

Australian soldiers who were prepared to defend Australia on our own shores during World War II but who did not directly face the enemy should still be eligible to the benefits of the Veterans’ Gold Card according to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor and his fellow Independent MP, Bob Katter divided the Parliament today on his amendment to the Veterans’ Entitlements Amendment Bill which stated that “while supporting the Bill, the House is of the opinion that the *Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) should be extended and that the full repatriation benefit, including the health entitlement Gold Card, to Australian veterans who are aged 70 years or over, irrespective of whether those veterans have been in danger from hostile forces of the enemy as the current legislation and proposed amendment bill demands.”

However, the Government and the Opposition voted together to continue their poor treatment of these World War II Veterans.

Mr Windsor told the Parliament that these men, now well into their 80’s, were prepared to go wherever they were ordered to go and were very much part of the Australian war effort.

He says that these now ‘Forgotten Soldiers’ deserve access to the Gold Card to ensure that they are looked after in their now twilight years just as they were prepared to look after the rest of the nation and those of us who came later.

“If our frontline troops had not been able to repel the enemy off shore, the now ‘Forgotten Soldiers’ were ready, willing and able to defend Australia on shore.

“Many endured physical hardship for the duration of the war in very isolated places on our coastline whilst others sustained injuries that they have carried throughout their lives.

“Now, with the onset of age, these injuries are returning but they do not have the Veterans’ Gold Card to help ease their condition.

“These ‘Forgotten Soldiers’ are unfortunately dying in large numbers but for those who are still with us, we owe them a great deal and by providing them with a Gold Card we would in some small way assist to not only make life a bit easier for these men but would also recognise the service they gave to our country.

“Just because they didn’t face an odd angry shot, their contribution should not be viewed as being any less important a role than other members of the defence forces who did.

“They should not be viewed as second class soldiers, they were first class men who were prepared to die for our country who answered our nation’s call when we needed them,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868