



**David Elliott**  
Minister for Transport  
Minister for Veterans

## STATEMENT

Monday, 14 February 2022

### VALE BERT COLLINS

I extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Bert Collins on behalf of the NSW Government and community, following his passing yesterday.

Bert was one of our few remaining World War II veterans and was due to celebrate his 106<sup>th</sup> birthday next month.

As a Sergeant in the 52nd Australian Composite Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Bert served with distinction in New Guinea fighting against the Japanese Imperial Army in their attempt to invade mainland Australia.

Bert was a native of my hometown of Bankstown, having moved there when he discharged from military service just after the end of the war.

His story is one of hero and he deserves our eternal gratitude for accepting the call when our nation was facing its greatest threat.

Our gratitude to Bankstown RSL sub-Branch for their care of Bert in recent years.

RSL NSW President Ray James OAM said Bert Collins had been cared for by his fellow members of the Bankstown RSL sub-Branch until he passed away.

He said Bert dedicated more than 75 years to helping his mates as a proud member of the RSL.

Mr James said that being able to march on ANZAC Day last year was a huge thrill for Bert, who will not be forgotten on 25 April this year.

Vale Digger, Lest We Forget.

**MEDIA: Mitch Compton | 0466 514 010**