

NEWS RELEASE



The Hon. Graham West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering
Minister Assisting the Premier
on Veterans' Affairs

Saturday 18 April 2009

Honouring the veterans of the Korean War

Member for Drummoyne, Angela D'Amore, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Graham West, today laid wreaths at the annual Battle of Kapyong Service, held at Concord Hospital's 113th Army General Hospital Memorial Chapel today.

Organised by the Korea and South East Asia Forces Association of Australia, NSW Branch, the Service commemorates the 58th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong in Korea.

The Battle of Kapyong occurred ten months into the Korean War on the 23rd and 24th of April 1951. Australians, as part of the United Nations forces, supported South Korean troops in stalling the Chinese army's offensive, which had been aimed at retaking the capital City of Seoul.

Ms D'Amore said that 340 Australian servicemen were killed in the Korean campaign between the war's beginning on 25th of June 1950 and its armistice on the 27th of July 1953. A further eighteen servicemen died during the years that followed with Australians continuing to serve on the Korean peninsula through to 1957.

"The Battle of Kapyong was the most significant engagement for Australian troops during the Korean War," Ms D'Amore said.

"These young Australians, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice, have helped preserve our peace and freedom.

"In the lead-up to Anzac Day on April 25, it is important to remember the sacrifices made by those who served our country," Ms D'Amore said.

Mr West said the Battle of Kapyong was an important stage of the Korean War that saw the advancing Chinese army repulsed even though the UN forces were significantly outnumbered. The courage and heroism of Australians who fought that day have often been recounted.

"The sacrifice involved in defence force service is well known to many New South Wales families," Mr West said.

"The Korean War is an important legacy of Australia's proud military history that has shaped the peace and safety we all enjoy today."

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