

NEWS RELEASE



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

Sunday 26 July 2009

Memorial for Korean War Veterans

The state's new memorial built to commemorate the veterans of the Korean War will be officially unveiled at Moore Park today, said Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs, Graham West.

Around a thousand people are expected to come to Moore Park to join dignitaries as they dedicate the memorial that honours Australians and Koreans who served in the Korean War and 340 Australians who died between 1950 -1953.

Mr West said "The NSW Government is proud to give public recognition to brave Australians who successfully defended the cause of freedom nearly sixty years ago on the Korean Peninsula.

"The NSW Korean War Memorial recognises the courage and sacrifice of those who served in the Korean War between 1950 and 1953. The names of all 340 Australians who lost their lives during the war are listed.

"Significantly, the memorial is the first official memorial in Australia to recall the names of the 18 soldiers who died during the post-armistice period through to 1956."

Mr Don Rowe, President of the NSW RSL, said "This is a memorial long sought after by veterans as too often, the Korean War is seen as the forgotten war. We thank the NSW Government and the Korean Government in ensuring the NSW Korean War Memorial recognises those veterans who made the supreme sacrifice are not forgotten."

Harry Spicer, president of the Australian and Korean War Veterans Shrine / Monument Association and one of the speakers at today's dedication, said "The memorial serves to recognise and commemorate the lives and achievements of our veterans. This memorial will tell our story long after we are gone."

The event will begin with a march of veterans of the Korean War from Kippax Lake to the Memorial. Following the dedication, veterans and their families will join the public in an afternoon celebration of Korean food, entertainment and cultural performances near the Moore Park rotunda.

"The building of the memorial is a result of four years of consultation, planning and construction by the NSW Government in partnership with the South Korean Government as well as Australian and Korean veterans' organisations," said Mr West.

"The memorial design is a result of a competition held in 2007. The themes of the design are 'commemoration, regeneration and remembrance,' paying tribute to both cultures," added Mr West.

Dedication of the NSW Korean War Memorial

Date: Sunday 26 July

Time: 10:30am for march; 11am ceremony

Where: Moore Park, corner South Dowling Street, Fitzroy St and ANZAC Parade

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