



The Hon Victor Dominello MP

Minister for Citizenship and Communities
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW HONOURS VIETNAM VETERANS

Minister responsible for Veterans' Affairs Victor Dominello MP and Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans' Affairs Charlie Lynn MLC today attended a commemoration service at the Cenotaph in Martin Place to honour Australia's veterans of the Vietnam War.

Vietnam Veterans Day is held each year on 18 August, the date on which Australian soldiers fought in the 1966 Battle of Long Tan.

"This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, one of the most infamous engagements in Australia's military history," said Mr Dominello.

"Its heroes are the men of Delta company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment – some 108 Australian and New Zealand soldiers, many of whom were national service conscripts.

"Together they fought against more than 2,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops under torrential rain in a rubber plantation near the village Long Tan.

"The skillful work of artillery men, timely resupply of ammunition and the arrival of reinforcements by armoured personnel carrier made all the difference and our troops were ultimately victorious," said Minister Dominello.

Parliamentary Secretary Charlie Lynn MLC, a Vietnam Veteran himself, said we must always remember those who gave their life in our country's name.

"We must never forget the 18 Australians who perished that day - the largest number of Australian casualties in one Vietnam War operation at the time," Mr Lynn said.

"A further 24 were wounded.

"Steep as these numbers may be, they are only a small fraction of the enemy's losses which are believed to have numbered in the high hundreds.

"Today we pay tribute to all the Vietnam diggers, both those who made it home and the 521 who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Though the war they fought was not a popular one, they did their duty with honour and great courage," Mr Lynn said.

"Vietnam veterans have earned our nation's lasting gratitude – lest we forget."

Media contact: Kristen Kelly 0408 592 793