MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 27 July 2015

KOREAN VETERANS’ DAY

Secretary of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Simon Lewis PSM, today encouraged all Australians to pause and remember those who served in the 1950–53 Korean War and post-armistice.

“Today is Korean Veterans’ Day, which marks the anniversary of the signing of the armistice in 1953. However, Australia maintained a presence in Korea until 1957,” Mr Lewis said.

“Some 18,000 Australians served, including during the post-armistice period, with more than 350 Australians losing their lives and some 1,500 wounded.

“I ask all Australians to reflect on the contribution and sacrifice of all those who served in this conflict. Our soldiers, sailors and airmen fought bravely and many gave their lives. We remember too, the medical staff, including Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps and Royal Australian Air Force nurses, who cared for the ill and wounded.”

Mr Lewis said it was 65 years since the beginning of the Korean War.

“Australia commenced operations in 1950 as part of a United Nations Force to defend South Korea from invasion by communist North Korea — it was the first collective United Nations action,” Mr Lewis said.

“The Korean War is sometimes called the ‘Forgotten War’. Today I assure those who served in Korea that their service and courage will never be forgotten.

“On behalf of all Australians, we thank you for your service and pay our respects to those who never came home.”

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