



# VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH INCORPORATED

## Administrative Instruction 24/2011

### VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY MEMORIAL SERVICES AND FUNDRAISING

#### Introduction

1. In 1988 the Australian Government proclaimed the 18<sup>th</sup> of August as Vietnam Veterans' Day. This date was chosen because it is the anniversary of the battle of Long Tan and it provides a focus for all Vietnam veterans to commemorate the service and sacrifice of their comrades during the Vietnam War.
2. This main aim is to advise all VVAA (SA) sub-branches and individual members of their responsibilities in regards to our day of remembrance.

#### **Individuals**

3. There is an obligation that each and every Vietnam veteran to attend his or her local memorial service on Vietnam Veterans' Day to ensure the continued importance of the day is maintained. If a local service has not been arranged then it behoves all Vietnam veterans to promote the memorial service concept with their local sub-branch or RSL.
4. If for some reason no support can be organised for a local memorial service then each veteran should give serious consideration to attending the State Memorial service at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.

#### **Sub-Branches**

5. All sub-branch committees should make an attempt to commemorate Vietnam Veterans' Day in some way that would meet local requirements and available support. The State Executive offers encouragement and moral support but does not become involved at local level unless specifically invited to do so.

#### **State Branch**

6. The State Branch Executive via the Vietnam Veterans day Committee, has responsibility for the organisation and management of the Memorial Service at the Cross of Sacrifice. Financial responsibility for conducting the service is met from the State Branch Vietnam Veterans Day Function Account.

#### **Media Release**

7. Enclosed is a prepared media release, which explains the origins of Vietnam Veterans' Day and the memorial services involved. The involvement of the VVAA in veterans' welfare is briefly explained and the need to raise funds to allow the Association to continue its necessary welfare work.

#### **Authority**

**State Council Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2011**

## Media Release

### **Vietnam Veterans Day**

In 1988 the Australian Government formally recognised the 18th of August as Vietnam Veterans' Day. Consequently, each year on this day, memorial services are held throughout Australia in memory of those who suffered or died as a result of their Vietnam War Service.

Unfortunately, many Vietnam veterans and/or their families are still suffering and are in need of assistance. The Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia was formed specifically to assist these veterans and their families by providing the welfare support they desperately need. The constitution of the Association therefore restricts the membership to welfare activities.

On the Friday before the Vietnam Veterans' Day, the Vietnam Veterans Association conducts a fund raising drive known as 'Badge Day'. This is the major fundraising activity undertaken by the Association and at this time sub-branches throughout Metropolitan Adelaide and Country South Australia will seek financial assistance from their local communities. A 'Vietnam Veterans Welfare Badge' will also be on sale to the general public to raise the necessary funds to enable the Association to continue with its welfare role.

Separate leaflets are available which provide the details of the Aims and Objectives of the Association as well as the specific welfare activities undertaken in South Australia. For further information please contact:

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