**Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP**

**Korean War Veterans Memorial Service**

**Rose Garden, City of Cockburn RSL Sub – Branch, Hamilton Hill**

**27 July 2020**

Distinguished guests, veterans, serving men and women of the Australian Defence Force, ladies and gentlemen.

As we stand here today amidst the blue sky with a hint of sunshine, a light breeze blowing in our face think of how fortunate we are to live in this wonderful country.

A country that has an indigenous history, culture and heritage stretching back tens of thousands of years, a European history of over 220 years and the opportunity for future generations to live in relative safety, to raise a family and to provide for future generations.

The inaugural commemorative service to be held within the City of Cockburn to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War occurred in 2012.

Today we continue to acknowledge and thank those veterans who returned to our shores from that War.

Their numbers have dwindled over time.

The traumas of war, illness and age have all taken their toll.

However before us today, we see those who continue to carry the flag for their mates who they fought alongside, who stand tall and proud, and who alone know the real cost of war on themselves, their families and their communities.

Their stories continue to be told to young and old, to family, to friends and for some, in journals and other publications.

Their hearts reflect the ANZAC spirit for they alone know the feeling of enrolling to serve their country whether it is in our capital cities, towns or other locations.

They know of the dreams and aspirations of those who step up to serve their country.

They know that those young men and women of today will one day be amongst those who will be affectionately known as ‘Veterans’.

Many of those young men and women will have a wife or husband, or a partner, and in later years many will have children.

Their journey is just beginning.

Will it be the same as our Korean Veterans?

Will the war they serve in become known as the ‘Forgotten War’?

If the growing tide of people of all ages coming out to commemorative services throughout Australia and New Zealand and other parts of the world is any indication, our serving young men and women have nothing to fear.

For those who have gone before them they have left a legacy of mateship, courage, sacrifice and gallantry that we can all aspire too in our daily lives, our contribution to the community and to building our national pride.

That is why the ANZAC spirit is alive and well and burns within all that serve our great country in both war and peace keeping zones.

To our Koreans Veterans we owe you and your families a depth of gratitude that we could never hope to repay – let it be known that our presence here today is a mark of respect to you for the service you have given to Australia and its people.

Wherever the Australian flag flies around the world we can all stand tall as individuals, as a community, and as a nation in the full knowledge that we have and continue to seek out the ultimate goal of world peace.

The fight for freedom continues in many nations across the world - for good or bad - for mothers who wait in quietness with the home fires burning - the love of a nation surrounding them - their sons, and increasingly their daughters, bring great honour and respect to our nation and those that we stand shoulder to shoulder with in war and during peace keeping efforts.

In closing; I leave you with a quote from the historian of the ANZAC legend, the renowned Charles Bean, he said:

“Their story will stand … it rises,

as it will always rise,

above the mist of ages,

a monument to great hearted men, and,

for their nation, a possession forever.”

**Lest we forget!**