

MEMORIAL AND REDICATION CEREMONY

OPENING ADDRESS 2016(as given 053016)

(NB – MUST BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH NOTES ABOUT MEMORIAL SERVICE)

GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS JOHN BERTINI

THE OCCASION FOR OUR GATHERING HERE THIS MORNING IS FOR A MEMORIAL AND REDEDICATION SERVICE TO HONOUR THOSE MEMBERS OF 104 SIGNAL SQUADRON AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORP OF SIGNALS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE VIETNAM WAR AND IN LATER CONFLICTS.

IT IS MY HONOUR TO BE YOUR MC FOR THE SERVICE AND SO THEREFOR, ON BEHALF OF DENIS HARE, DON SUTHERLAND, PETER THORNE AND MYSELF WHO COMPRISE THE 104 SIGNAL SQUADRON 2016 REUNION COMMITTEE I WOULD LIKE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO-

GUEST OF HONOUR MAJOR BRENTON LAWLOR, THE PRESENT OC OF 104 SIGNAL SQUADRON

GUEST SPEAKER MAJOR KEN MCKENZIE (RETIRED)

FELLOW VETERANS AND THEIR WIVES OR PARTNERS

AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

BEFORE I GO ON, I HAVE TO INTRODUCE AS AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR THIS MORNING .THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL MC CORMACK THE ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR DEFENCE. MICHAEL HAS ASKED IF HE CAN JOIN US TODAY AND WE WELCOME HIM. I'M SURE HE WILL PROBABLY BE AVAILABE AFTER OUR SERVICE TO TALK TO YOU AND TAKE QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE.

CELEBRANT

OUR CELEBRANT TODAY IS REVEREND DEACON DES NEAGLE. REVEREND NEAGLE IS NO STRANGER TO MILITARY MATTERS HAVING SERVED FOR 20 YEARS IN THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY.

HE SERVED INITIALLY IN SURVEY CORP FOLLOWED BY THE MAJORITY OF HIS SERVICE IN ORDNANCE CORP. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS CAREER WERE POSTINGS AS CSM HQ TRAINING COMMAND, CSM HQ 2ND DIVISION, AND WO ADMIN HQ BRIGADE BNE LOG GP BULIMBA. HE RETIRED IN 1993 MAKING BRISBANE HOME. SINCE HIS RETIREMENT HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AS A PERMANENT DEACON IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED ON OR ARE ILL

OUR CEREMONY TODAY IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO REMEMBER OUR MATES WHO HAVE PASSED ON OVER THE YEARS AND PARTICULARLY THOSE SINCE WE LAST GATHERED HERE IN 2011. ALSO THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO BE WITH US TODAY BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH. HARDLY A DAY GOES BY WITHOUT AN EMAIL FROM ADAM WEST ADVISING THAT ANOTHER CORP MEMBER HAS PASSED AWAY OR IS SERIOUSLY ILL. WE SALUTE THOSE WHO ARE HERE IN SPITE OF ILLNESS.

I SHOULD MENTION THAT STAN CONLON WAS TAKEN OFF TO HOSPITAL LATE LAST NIGHT. HE IS UNDER OBSERVATION AND IS PROBABLY THERE FOR A FEW DAYS.

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE READING

I NOW ASK DEACON NEAGLE TO LEAD US IN PRAYER AND A SCRIPTURE READING

GUEST SPEAKER

OUR GUEST SPEAKER THIS MORNING IS MAJOR KEN MACKENZIE (RETIRED). KEN SERVED IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS A RADIO TROOP SERGEANT AND WILL NEED NO

INTRODUCTION TO MANY OF YOU. THERE IS A NOTE ABOUT KEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN A VERY HARROWING AND TRAGIC DAY IN VIETNAM FOR AUSTRALIAN DIGGERS IN YOUR WELCOMING NOTES.

KEN JOINED THE AUSTRALIAN REGULAR ARMY IN 1963. HE WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1987 AND RETIRED IN 2002 AFTER THIRTY-EIGHT AND HALF YEARS' SERVICE.

KEN'S OPERATIONAL SERVICE INCLUDES TOURS OF DUTY IN MALAYA, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND INDONESIA.

FOLLOWING HIS RETIREMENT, KEN WAS HEAD-HUNTED BACK INTO DEFENCE. HE RETIRED FOR THE SECOND TIME IN 2006. KEN HAS SPENT THE PAST EIGHT YEARS TRAVELLING AND PHOTOGRAPHING AUSTRALIA'S GOLDFIELDS IN PREPARATION FOR A BOOK ON SAME.

AS MANY OF YOU WOULD KNOW, KEN IS A FANATICAL COLLINGWOOD SUPPORTER. HE DECIDED NOW WAS A GOOD TIME TO GET OUT OF VICTORIA BEFORE HE LOSES ANY MORE MONEY.

LAYING OF WREATHES

IT IS NOW TIME FOR THE LAYING OF WREATHES AND I INVITE-

BRIGADIER NEIL HORN (RETIRED) AND MAJOR BRENTON LAWLOR TO JOINTLY LAY A WREATH ON BEHALF OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORP OF SIGNALS

MR PETER THORNE TO LAY A WREATH ON BEHALF OF THE SIGNAL VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION (QLD)

IF THERE IS ANYONE ELSE WHO WISHES TO LAY A WREATH OR OTHER MEMORIAL
WOULD YOU PLEASE COME FORWARD NOW

ODE

THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO, PLEASE STAND FOR THE ODE AND THE LAST POST
FOLLOWED BY ONE MINUTES SILENCE

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING WE WILL
REMEMBER THEM.
LEST WE FORGET

LAST POST

ONE MINUTES SILENCE

REVEILLE

PLEASE BE SEATED

BENEDICTION AND REDEDICATION

I NOW ASK DEACON NEAGLE TO GIVE THE BENEDICTION AND REDEDICATION

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO, PLEASE STAND FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

CONCLUSION AND DISPERSAL

OUR SERVICE IS NOW CONCLUDED.

ON BEHALF OF THE REUNION COMMITTEE, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO-

GUEST OF HONOUR, MAJOR BRENTON LAWLOR

GUEST SPEAKER MAJOR KEN MACKENZIE (RETIRED)

THOSE WHO HAVE LAYED A WREATH OR MEMORIAL

VETERANS AND PARTNERS AND EVERYONE WHO HAS ATTENDED OUR SERVICE THIS MORNING

AND OUR CELEBRANT REV DEACON DES NEAGLE.

OUR NEXT FUNCTION IS OUR DINNER THIS EVENING. BRENTON, KEN AND DES WILL BE AT THE DINNER AND I AM SURE THEY WILL BE HAPPY TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AND SWAP STORIES. BRENTON WILL PROBABLY TELL US ABOUT THE CURRENT ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF 104 SIG SQN

SO I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THERE TO CONTINUE OUR GOOD TIMES.

FINALLY KEN MCKENZIE HAS ASKED ME FOR THE 70-71VETERANS TO ASSEMBLE FOR A PHOTO AFTER WE FINISH AND ALSO I AM ADVISED THAT IT IS KEN'S BIRTHDAY TODAY.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL