

**Sir Eric Neal A.C., C.V.O.
Chair**

Sir Eric Neal served as Governor of South Australia from 1996 to 2001.

From 2002 until 2010 he was the Chancellor of Flinders University and since 2003 Chair of the S.A. Government Road Safety Advisory Council. Sir Eric is an engineer and private sector leader who has worked in the mining, construction and defence industries for much of his life.

In 1981, Sir Eric was a member of a committee appointed to review Australia's Higher Defence Organisation. In 1992 he was awarded the United States Department of Defence Medal for distinguished public service by the Secretary of Defence, in recognition of his contribution in Chairing the Council which organised the commemorative events in Australia to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Sir Eric is an Honorary Life Member of the R.S.L. of Australia and former Honorary Air Commodore of the City of Adelaide Squadron of the R.A.A.F.

Mr Michael Benyk J.P.

Mr Benyk served in the Navy from July, 1963 to June, 1972. His rank on discharge was Petty Officer Engineering Mechanic. Mr Benyk completed two tours to Vietnam in 1965 on HMAS Sydney and HMAS Duchess and tours on HMAS Duchess and HMAS Hawk in 1965-66 during the Malaysia/Indonesia Confrontation. He was on the HMAS Voyager when she collided with HMAS Melbourne on 10 February, 1964 and was also serving on HMAS Melbourne when she collided with USS Frank E. Evans on 3 June, 1969.

Mr Benyk has a Degree in Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management) and worked as the Human Resources Manager for the Crippled Children's Association for 25 years.

Mr Benyk is the President of the Vietnam Veterans' Association (S.A. Branch) and has previously served as the Secretary and as a Pension Officer Advocate.

Mr Greg Blyth

Mr Blyth served for 3 years in the Australian Regular Army as a sapper in the Royal Australian Engineers.

Mr Blyth has been a member of the Association of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women (S.A. Branch), since 1992. He served as President between 2001-2004 and was re-appointed to that position in 2005.

Mr Blyth is a member of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Younger Veterans' Committee, and a member of the Regional Consultative Forum of the Veterans' and Veterans' Families Counselling Services.

Lieutenant Colonel Graham “Moose” Dunlop O.A.M. (Retd)

Mr Dunlop served for 25 years in the Australian Regular Army and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Australian Infantry. During that time he saw active service in South Vietnam with the 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

Mr Dunlop is the immediate past President of the Royal Australian Regiment Association (S.A.), Honorary Colonel of Australian Army Cadets S.A. and an Exercise Commander for Operation Flinders.

Mr Dunlop is a qualified builder and has been the owner and operator of Moose Constructions for the past 20 years.

Mrs Brenda Fergusson

Mrs Fergusson was elected as State President of the War Widow's Guild of Australia (S.A. Branch), in June, 2008.

The War Widows Guild provides companionship, counselling and support to all widows and partners of deceased veterans.

Mrs Fergusson is a member of the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council Inc., the Veterans' Aged Care and Health Advisory Committee, and is also a Committee member of the Manningham Legacy Widow's Club.

Kenneth John Gillman

Mr Gillman is the President of the Vietnam Veterans' Federation (V.V.F.) in South Australia and serves as a Pension Officer and Pension Advocate.

Mr Gillman was a National Serviceman from 1966 till 1968 and served with 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment in South Vietnam from December, 1967 till August 1968.

After his National Service Mr Gillman worked for the Department of Marine and Harbours for over 20 years.

Mr Gillman has been a member of the V.V.F. for eight years and is also a member of the Naval Association. He is a member of the South Australian Deputy Commissioner's Consultative Committee (D.V.A.) and hosts a veteran themed radio program on Coast FM.

Lieutenant Commander John Godwin R.A.N.R.

Mr Godwin served as a Weapons Electrical Engineer Officer in the Royal Australian Navy for thirteen years and attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander, before transferring to the Royal Australian Naval Reserve. During that time he saw active service in Iraq in 2004 on HMAS STUART and was subsequently awarded a Maritime Commander's Commendation.

Since leaving full time service, Mr Godwin has worked in Sydney and Timor Leste before relocating with his family to Adelaide. He is a senior consultant with Nova

Systems and has worked within the Air Warfare Destroyer Alliance. In 2010 he participated in the inaugural South Australian Defence Industry Leadership Program organised by the Defence Teaming Centre.

Mr Godwin is a member of the Naval Association of Australia and currently holds the position of Vice President for the Port Adelaide sub section.

Gerrald Francis Harrison O.A.M.

Mr Harrison served with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (4 Platoon B Company) in the Korea War from 1951 till 1953. Mr Harrison was wounded in the Battle of Maryang San in October, 1951 and again in July, 1952. Mr Harrison went on to serve in Japan in 1954, the Malaya Emergency in 1957 and then with the Tropical Trials Unit until discharge in 1958.

After his time in the army, Mr Harrison worked as a cane cutter, an interstate transport driver and as the South Australia/Northern Territory Sales Manager for Industrial Sales & Service.

Mr Harrison has been a member of the Korea & South East Asia Forces Association of Australia (S.A. Branch) for 28 years including three years as Vice-President and 14 years as President.

Squadron Leader David Helman (Retd)

Squadron Leader Helman served with the Royal Australian Airforce for 26 years. During that time he saw overseas service in Ubon, Thailand.

Squadron Leader Helman was elected as State President of the Royal Australian Airforce Association (S.A. Branch), in 2006. The Royal Australian Airforce Association exists to support serving personnel and veterans.

Squadron Leader Helman is President of the Royal Australian Air Force Ubon Association (S.A. Branch) and the Chief Executive Officer of the Consultative Council of Ex-Service Organisations.

He is also a member of the Returned and Services League of Australia, the Defence Force Welfare Association and the Vietnam Veterans' Federation.

Mr David Kerr

Mr Kerr served 21 years in the Royal Australian Navy attaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

He was awarded the Maritime Commander's Commendation in 1992 and was previously the Communications Manager, Staff Training, Department of Defence (Navy).

Mr Kerr has been State President of the Naval Association of Australia (S.A. Branch) since 2007.

He is a delegate to the Consultative Council of Ex-Service Organisations, a member of the Commemoration Consultative Committee and the Semaphore/Port Adelaide Returned and Services League.

Brigadier Laurie Lewis A.M. (Retd)

Brigadier Lewis served for 32 years in the Australian Regular Army. During that time he saw active service as an infantry officer with the Royal Australian Regiment in Malaya and South Vietnam.

Brigadier Lewis subsequently became the General Manager of the Aged Care and Housing Group from 1984-1996, and was Chairman of the Repatriation General Hospital between 1993-2005.

Since 2006, Brigadier Lewis has been Chairman of the Consultative Council of Ex-Service Organisations which represents 26 ex-service organisations in South Australia. Brigadier Lewis is also a Patron of the Royal Australian Regiment Association (S.A. Branch) Inc. and the Guards Association, Vice-Patron of the Association of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women (S.A. Branch) Inc., Adviser to the War Widow's Guild of Australia (S.A. Branch) Inc. and a member of the Veterans' Review Board.

In 2006, Brigadier Lewis was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for service to veterans as an administrator of aged care and health services, as an adviser to state and national ex-service welfare groups, and through support for charitable organisations.

Mr William Schmitt A.M.

After enlisting in July 1940, Mr Schmitt served in WWII with the 2/3 Machine Gun Battalion in the Middle East in the Syrian Campaign of 1941, prior to being captured by the Japanese in March, 1942 in Java. Mr Schmitt spent the next three and a half years as a prisoner of war in Java and Changi (Singapore).

Mr Schmitt is the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ex-Service Organisations and a member of the S.A. Treatment and Monitoring Committee.

Mr Schmitt was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1994 for services to veterans, particularly through the Prisoners of War Association. He also received a Centenary Medal in 2001 for service to the veterans' community in South Australia.

Major Ian Smith

Major Smith served for 10 years in the Australian Regular Army. During that time he saw peacekeeping service in Bosnia-Herzegovina whilst on exchange with the British Army.

He is a serving Defence Reservist and is a member of the Legacy Funds Appeal Committee, the Youth and Education Committee, the Returned and Services League of Australia and the S.A. Peacekeepers Sub Branch.

Mr Smith has undertaken studies in public administration, and has qualifications and experience in the planning and conduct of large scale ceremonial and commemorative activities.

Lieutenant Colonel John Spencer O.A.M., R.F.D. (Retd)

Lieutenant Colonel Spencer has over 35 years of military service including as a National Serviceman from 1965-72. Active Service and Operational postings included: South Vietnam (1971-1972), Indonesia (1975), Malaysia (1979-1981), Namibia (1989), UN Headquarters – New York (1991) and Cambodia (1991). Lieutenant Colonel Spencer was awarded a Defence Commendation for subsequent service in Cambodia (1993).

Lieutenant Colonel Spencer has a Bachelor of Business and a Diploma in Public Administration. He was the Executive Director of the South Australian Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia from 1997 -2008 and has also served on the Adelaide Legacy Club Board of Management, the Board of the Repatriation General Hospital, the Consultative Council of Ex-Service Organisations, the Veterans' Health Advisory Council and is a member of the National Servicemen's Association.

Lieutenant Colonel Spencer is the Vice-President of the Council on the Ageing (COTA). He has been a member of the COTA Policy Council since 2003 and the COTA representative on the Veterans' Aged Care and Health Advisory Committee since 2000.

Mr Jock Statton O.A.M.

Mr Statton has held the position of State President of the Returned & Services League of Australia (S.A. Branch) since 2004.

The Returned & Services League represents 13,800 members in 145 sub branches throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Mr Statton served as a National Serviceman and saw active service in South Vietnam where he served with the 9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

In 2003, Mr Statton was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to veterans and their families, particularly through the South Australian Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

Mrs Janice Wallent

Mrs Wallent is the President of the South Australian Branch of the Partners' of Veterans Association (P.V.A.). Mrs Wallent's husband served in Borneo and the Vietnam War (Field Engineer).

Mrs Wallent is the President of Carers SA, on the National Board of the P.V.A., the Secretary of the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council, the Consultative Council of Ex-Service Organisations, the DVA/UniSA Veterans Reference Group, the Veterans, the Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) Regional Forum and the SA Dementia Implementation Plan Advisory Group.

In 2010 Mrs Wallent was awarded the Joy Noble Prize for Volunteering in recognition of her work with the P.V.A. and Carers SA.

Mrs Wallent worked as a nurse and also as senior management in the aged care sector before retiring in 1999 to care for her husband.