



State Minister's Message Issue 30 (2 September, 2009)

A regular update from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P.

Last Servicemen From Vietnam War Home At Last

Family members and representatives including the Director of Veterans SA, Bill Denny AM have returned the remains of Flying Officer Michael Herbert and Pilot Officer Robert Carver to Australia.

The families joined Air Force chief Mark Binskin, Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Mike Kelly M.P., R.A.A.F. 2 Squadron veterans and representatives of the Vietnamese Government at a farewell ceremony at Noi Bai Airfield near Hanoi on Sunday 30 August before they returned to the Richmond R.A.A.F. Base where the caskets were received with full military honours.

Flying Officer Michael Herbert will be laid to rest after a full military funeral to be held at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Wakefield Street, Adelaide commencing at 11.00am on Monday 7 September, 2009. Pilot Officer Carver will be laid to rest tomorrow in Toowoomba, Queensland.

Michael's family has extended an invitation to all those who want to acknowledge Michael to join them after the ceremony at the Combined Mess, Torrens Parade Ground for fellowship and camaraderie. Family and friends are welcome to both the funeral and the wake. Medals to be worn.

Minister Atkinson encourages all members of the community, but particularly those members of the ex-service family to make the effort to attend Michael's funeral. It will be a significant event for all Vietnam Veterans, the entire ex-service community, our State and for the whole nation.

Legacy Week (30 August - 5 September)

Minister Atkinson encourages South Australians to buy a badge during Legacy Week and support an organisation providing invaluable support to the families of Australian Defence Force personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Legacy is a non-profit organisation established by the ex-service community in 1923 to support and care for the families of those lost in war.

Nation-wide, Legacy supports more than 115,000 war widows from both World Wars, Korea and Vietnam as well as the families of those who have lost a parent or partner in more recent deployments.

Legacy provides support in many forms including assistance to individuals tailored to their needs such as welfare services, advocacy, medical and education support.

Legacy representatives are often among the first people to approach grieving families after the loss of a loved one and their support and guidance are vital during these difficult times.

For more information on Legacy or to donate visit www.legacy.com.au or call 1800 534 229.