



State Minister's Message
Issue 29 (26 August, 2009)

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

Flying Officer Michael Herbert and Pilot Officer Robert Carver Nearly Home

Family members and representatives including the Director of Veterans SA, Bill Denny AM will depart for Vietnam on 28 August to return the remains of Michael and Robert to Australia.

After a Hand Back Ceremony in Country arranged by the Republic of Vietnam the aircraft carrying the coffins will fly direct to Australia arriving at RAAF Richmond on Monday 31 August, 2009 when a "Ramp" Ceremony will welcome the airmen back onto Australian soil. After this they will be returned to their home States.

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.

Michael's family has expressed their appreciation to all who have provided their support over the last 39 years and have extended a warm invitation to the entire ex-service community to attend the ceremony and join them in farewelling Michael.

The family has also 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.

The funeral of Michael Herbert will be preceded by that of his navigator Pilot Officer Robert Carver which will now take place in Toowoomba, Queensland on Thursday 3 September 2009.

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.