



GOVERNMENT HOUSE

ADELAIDE

Anzac Day 2020

A message from His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia

Anzac Day this year will be one of the most extraordinary in our history.

While many will not be able to take part in official dawn services, march in unison, watch marches or gather in commemoration, we will, as a nation, join together in spirit to honour our servicemen and women.

I know many will stand in silent tribute at home, watch broadcasts, privately visit a war memorial during the day, or simply make a phone call or send a message to a veteran they know.

In that way, Anzac Day will remain a sincere and heartfelt occasion where we can express our gratitude to those whose courage and sacrifice has enabled us to live in freedom and peace.

During this year we mark the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. The values forged on those battlefields remain beacons for our society – mateship, courage and sacrifice.

These ideals have never been more pertinent, as we harness the fortitude required to see us through this current pandemic.

Reflecting on our nation's history, commemorations to honour the fallen and pay tribute to our veterans have taken various forms since the return of our valiant servicemen and women from the First World War.

In 1919 there were no great victory parades for our returning soldiers because of the Spanish Flu pandemic; in 1942 and 1943, during the Second World War, there were no commemorative marches, and in 1971 a violent storm across Adelaide meant the official march was cancelled.

And so this year, we will adapt again.

In doing so, we can hold dear to the notion that remembrance is foremost an important time of personal reflection.

As a nation we will never forget. While this year Anzac Day will be commemorated under exceptional circumstances, our gratitude for our veterans' commitment and sacrifice remains resolute.

My wife Lan and I will be with you all in our thoughts and prayers as, along with all South Australians, we salute and pay our respects to the fallen, and express our deep gratitude to the generations of veterans, and members of our defence force who are currently serving our nation here and overseas.

Lest we forget.