

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Youth
Minister for Volunteering

Linda Burney MP



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MEDIA RELEASE

lemma Government to build Korean War memorial in Sydney

A lasting tribute to honour the heroes who fought and died in the Korean War 1950-1953 will be built in Sydney's Moore Park, Minister for Volunteering Linda Burney announced today.

Ms Burney was joined at the announcement by Mr Woong-nam Kim, Consul-General of the Republic of Korea, Mr John Haines, RSL State Vice President (Metropolitan) and Mr Steve Corbett, Director and Chief Executive of the Centennial and Moore Park Trust.

The memorial will cost \$700,000, of which \$350,000 is being contributed by the lemna Government, with the remainder to be raised by the Korean community and veterans' groups, along with \$25,000 from the Commonwealth Government.

"The whole community, especially our younger generation, needs to be reminded of the sacrifices made by Australian service personnel in this terrible war," Ms Burney said.

"We also need to acknowledge the heroic efforts of our brave South Korean allies to protect their homeland from Communist aggression."

During the three year conflict, 339 Australians and 230,000 South Koreans made the supreme sacrifice.

Korean War veterans Harry Spicer and N Y Paik also joined the Minister in welcoming the memorial, saying it would help ensure Korea would no longer be considered 'the forgotten war'.

"Our generation is passing on and we want this memorial to tell our story long after we are gone," they said.

Mr Corbett said he was proud that Centennial and Moore Park Trust was able to host the memorial.

"Moore Park is a beautiful place for Korean War veterans and their families to come and remember those who gave their lives for freedom," Mr Corbett said.

The winning design, chosen by a jury chaired by NSW Government Architect Mr Peter Mould, was submitted by artist Jane Cavanough in partnership with Pod Landscape Architecture.

The winning design has four main elements:

- a circular stone wall enclosing the site, which symbolises “strength”.
- a central pathway based on the *taeguk* or yin and yang device found on the South Korean flag. This symbolises “commemoration”.
- a field of metal sculptures based on the Korean national flower, the Rose of Sharon. These flowers, up to two metres high, will be made of high-strength steel topped with bronze petals. These flowers symbolise “regeneration”.
- polished concrete blades or silhouettes representing the rugged mountains of Korea, with each plate inscribed with the name of a major battle. This element represents “remembrance”.

In addition, at the centre of the memorial will be an altar for wreath-laying made of two stones, one from the battlefield of Kap Yong, Australia’s most successful engagement in Korea, and the other a piece of stone quarried in New South Wales.

At the back of the memorial will be the words “Lest We Forget” in English and Korean, while the central pathway will list the 21 nations that fought or provided medical aid as part of the United Nations’ force in Korea.

Mr Mould said the winning design was a compelling and sophisticated design that would provide a rich variety of symbolism both to veterans and to those who are unfamiliar with the Korean War.

“This will be a place where veterans can feel at home but also where young people can learn about an unfamiliar conflict,” Mr Mould said.

Community consultation is currently under way, with a DA to be lodged shortly with the City of Sydney. Construction will occur early in the new year, with the memorial expected to be completed by April 2009.