



PRIME MINISTER

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**SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER
ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNING DESIGN FOR
MEMORIAL TO AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM FORCES
CANBERRA, 3 OCTOBER 1990**

Today is the third anniversary of the welcome home parade of Vietnam veterans in Sydney when we recalled the commitment and sacrifices of all those who took part in that conflict.

So today is an appropriate time for me to announce that the Canberra National Memorials Committee, which I chair, has agreed on a design for the National Memorial to Australian Vietnam Forces.

Before announcing the winning design, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial Committee, under the Chairmanship of Peter Poulton, for its initiative and determination to establish a permanent memorial.

And I thank all those throughout Australia who have contributed to the Committee's fund raising appeal.

The Committee has been closely involved with the planning for the memorial and the assessment of the designs submitted in the competition.

And it has worked closely with the Federal Government in this endeavour. For our part, the Government has provided significant financial assistance and administrative support for the project - and will continue to provide the necessary support to ensure the memorial can be formally dedicated in 1992.

We have of course also provided the land on which the memorial will be sited. As is proper for a national memorial of this character, the Vietnam memorial will be sited in Anzac Parade where, alongside other memorials to Australia's armed forces, it will add to the already impressive approach to the Australian War Memorial.

The Government is more than pleased to have been able to provide, in accordance with the wishes of the Vietnam veterans themselves, the particular site chosen. Placing this memorial next to the Australian Light Horse memorial puts the Vietnam experience firmly in the Anzac tradition - where it should be.

And now to the memorial itself. After an extensive nationwide design competition, the winning design for the national memorial to Australian Vietnam Forces has been submitted by Tonkin Zulaikha Architects, of Sydney, working in association with the distinguished Australian sculptor, Ken Unsworth.

The Committee believes the triangular design provides for a simple yet dignified memorial, open in concept and providing an inner area for contemplation and reflection.

The badges of the three armed services will be located in the centre of the memorial and the inner chamber will also record the names of those Australians who gave their lives in Vietnam.

Those who have seen or heard of the Vietnam memorial in Washington will appreciate the enormously significant role it plays in alleviating the trauma of the Vietnam experience and honouring the sacrifice of those Americans who gave their lives in this conflict.

I am confident this Australian design will be a fitting and lasting commemoration to those of our armed services who took part and suffered in the Vietnam conflict.

It will be welcomed, I am sure, not only by those present here today, but by all Australians who now increasingly recognise the difficulties borne by those who fought in Vietnam.

In conclusion, let me announce that the Government has agreed to extend the period of eligible tax deductibility for donations to the memorial appeal up to 31 December this year to enable the financial target for this fine project to be reached.

I commend the project to all Australians and hope they will continue to contribute to the appeal in recognition of all those who served their country so faithfully in Vietnam.

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