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PRIME MINISTER

126/93

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP**REMEMBRANCE DAY**

I was honoured to participate today in the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Australian War Memorial for the entombment of the Unknown Australian Soldier. After the service, I spoke with the 14 First World War veterans who attended the ceremony and thanked them on behalf of all Australians for their involvement.

I congratulate all those involved in the arrangements for the ceremony and in particular members of the Australian Defence Force for the extraordinary care they took with the preparations for the ceremony.

The Entombment of the Unknown Australian Soldier involved the cooperation of a large number of people and organisations in France, Britain and Australia. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the High Commission and Embassies in Britain, France and Belgium all played important roles.

The ceremony brought to the attention of all Australians the important role the Australian War Memorial has played and continues to play in the life of the nation. I commend the dedication, professionalism and commitment of all those involved.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator John Faulkner, has announced today that supporters of the Australian War Memorial intend to establish a Foundation to assist the memorial. I strongly support the establishment of such a Foundation and encourage all Australians to respond.

The Australian War Memorial helps us to learn about our country's proud history and understand more about our own national character. We should never forget those who gave their lives and all who had served their country.

CANBERRA
11 November 1993