




Speech by

Hon. Margaret Keech

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Hansard Thursday, 8 September 2011

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

 **Hon. MM KEECH** (Albert—ALP) (3.55 pm): The Korean War is no longer the forgotten war thanks to the recent unveiling by Premier Anna Bligh at Cascade Gardens on the Gold Coast of a stunning memorial to commemorate the sacrifice of Australian defence personnel during the 1950 to 1953 Korean War. The Gold Coast is home to a large and vibrant Korean community. It is not surprising then that the inspiration for the building of a worthy memorial to commemorate the sacrifice of the Korean War was initiated by this wonderful community.

After three years of hard work, the unveiling of this moving memorial is a fitting monument to the sacrifice of the Australian veterans in the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force who, together with 22 nations, fought and died as allies under the UN banner. As a result of their sacrifice, South Korea is now a peaceful democracy, a major world power and a significant trade and tourism partner to Queensland. Our veterans are forgotten no more. They are remembered for all time by Queensland's first ever Korean War Memorial, which stands so proudly within the grounds of Cascade Gardens close to the memorial recognising the Kokoda campaign.

On behalf of the organisers, I thank the generous financial contributions from the Queensland and federal governments, the government of the Republic of Korea and the donation of a site by the Gold Coast City Council at Cascade Gardens. It has been a very long labour of love for many people who have worked so hard to see the memorial come to fruition. In particular, I would like to thank Mr Joseph Ahn, President of the Australian Korean War Memorial Queensland, Retired Colonel Maurie Pears and liaison officer Mr Richard Hetherington for their determined efforts in never giving up on seeing that our Korean veterans receive the recognition they deserve. 'They sacrificed yesterday for our tomorrow.' Lest we forget.