



14 June 2016

Mr Richard Moyses  
President  
RAEME Association  
36 Hyacinth Avenue  
Macquarie Fields  
NSW, 2564

Dear Mr Moyses,

As you are aware, 18 August 2016 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, a date which would subsequently also be marked as Vietnam Veterans Day to represent the service of all those who served in Vietnam.

A special commemorative program will be held here at the Australian War Memorial over the period of 16<sup>th</sup> August – 18<sup>th</sup> August. A full schedule can be found in the attachment.

This letter is to discuss one element, a special performance of *I was only 19* by Mr John Schumann in the Hall of Memory at 1600 on the 17<sup>th</sup> August to which your organisation is invited to nominate one Vietnam veteran to attend. The performance is a unique gathering beside the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier, in memory of all those men and women who served this nation in the Vietnam War and to remember those that did not come home. Invitations have been sent to Vietnam Veteran Associations representing the contribution of the three services, Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force.

Due to the limited area within the Hall of Memory, attendance to the performance is strictly limited to veterans of the Vietnam War. Each invitation affords entry for one person only. Regrettably, guests of veterans are unable to attend.

However, Mr Schumann will again perform *I was only 19* as part of that afternoon's Last Post Ceremony which will commemorate the service of Private Kenneth Gant, 6RAR who was killed in action at the Battle of Long Tan. This second performance and the Last Post Ceremony is open to all veterans and their families, general visitors and school students alike. We are also speaking with ABC TV with the view to have the performance broadcast live.

To nominate one of your veteran members for this unique performance by Mr Schumann, please contact [rsvp@awm.gov.au](mailto:rsvp@awm.gov.au) and provide the name of your Association, full name of your nominated Vietnam veteran and the area of operations in which the veteran served (Name, Rank and Unit) and also their email, postal address and phone contact details. This information is required by

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***Here is their spirit in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made.*** C.E.W. Bean

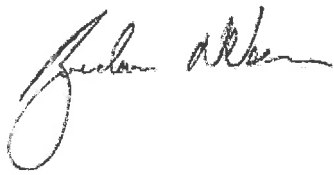
Friday 8 July 2016. If the above details are not provided in full by this date, the RSVP cannot be confirmed and we will offer the place to another Vietnam veteran.

Finally, please advise your members that there is also a Register of Interest in attending this performance, should there be an opportunity to welcome additional veterans to attend, once the Veteran Association RSVPs have been confirmed. This Register can be found here

<https://www.awm.gov.au/events/honouring-vietnam-veterans/register/>

I look forward to this important anniversary and thank you for your support in our commemorative endeavours.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'B'.

Brendan Nelson

## **ATTACHMENT: AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF LONG TAN AND VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM**

### **16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18th August**

#### **PROJECTIONS**

Commencing on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> August, photographic images from the Vietnam War will be projected onto the façade of the Memorial. Also projected will be the names of the key theatres of the war, and the names of the 521 personnel who are listed on the bronze plaques of the Vietnam Roll of Honour. The projections will continue until the night of the 18th August. Open to all veterans and visitors.

### **17<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **HALL OF MEMORY PERFORMANCE BY MR JOHN SCHUMANN**

At 4.00pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> August, selected veterans will gather in the Hall of Memory around the Tomb of the Unknown Australian Soldier whilst Mr John Schuman performs *I was only 19*. We are hopeful to have this broadcast live. Invitation only event.

#### **LAST POST CEREMONY**

Following this performance, at 4.50pm, Mr John Schumann will perform *I was only 19* as part of a special Last Post Ceremony to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Private Kenneth Howard Gant, 6 RAR who was killed in action at the Battle of Long Tan. Open to all veterans and visitors.

The ceremony will include the evocative sounds of an Iroquois helicopter and a performance by Mr John Schumann and the participation of Australia's Federation Guard. Attendees are advised to arrive early in the Commemorative Area (no later than 4.30pm).

### **18<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **VALE**

At 0530, cadets and midshipman of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College Duntroon will read the 521 names on the Vietnam Roll of Honour in the Commemorative Area. Open to all veterans and visitors.

#### **STAND TO**

At 7.00am, there will be a 'stand-to' ceremony on the Memorial's Parade Ground. The Governor-General His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) will deliver the Address. Open to all veterans and visitors.

#### **LAST POST CEREMONY**

At 4.55pm, the Last Post Ceremony will commemorate the service of Second Lieutenant Gordon Cameron Sharp who was killed in action in the Battle of Long Tan. Australia's Federation Guard will participate. Open to all veterans and visitors. Attendees are advised to arrive early in the Commemorative Area (no later than 4.30pm).