

Monday, 16 July 2012

## **GRANT LIGHTS UP VETERANS' WALK**

Seymour's Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk will soon be lit at night after the Gillard Government has provided a grant of \$150,000.

Federal Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell, today joined committee members and volunteers and Mitchell Shire from the commemorative walk to announce the funding through the Saluting Their Service Commemorations Program.

"This is the next step in the development of a memorial acknowledging the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans," Mr Mitchell said.

"I know the hard work the local committee have been doing and I congratulate them for their commitment to making this project a reality. It is heartening to see a community partnership culminate in such a wonderful tribute to our veterans.

"The Commemorative Walk will serve as a lasting reminder to the community and visitors alike of Seymour's rich military history and the important role it has played in ensuring Australian troops are well prepared for active service," Mr Mitchell said.

Veterans' Affairs Minister Warren Snowdon said \$150,000 would help Mitchell Shire Council to complete the final stage of the Vietnam Veterans' Commemorative Walk.

"The Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk recognises the region's rich service history and the significance of Seymour as a military training base, where many Vietnam Veterans first began their journey to serve their country," Mr Snowdon said.

"Some 60,000 Australian service personnel and many civilians were involved in the Vietnam War. Of those, 521 servicemen made the ultimate sacrifice and more than 3,000 were wounded," he said.

"I encourage all Australians to visit the Walk and take time to reflect on the efforts of the brave men and women who served our nation during the Vietnam War.

"As one of Australia's longest military commitments, we should not only remember those lost but the many more who have continued to live with the physical and emotional scars of their service."

### **Media inquiries:**

Minister Snowdon: Lidija Ivanovski 0407 108 935 or Marcus Butler 02 6277 7820 / 0417 917 796

Mr Mitchell: Chris Devers 03 5783 4880  
Department of Veterans' Affairs Media: 02 6289 6203