

DEDICATION OF PLAQUE

29TH FEBRUARY 2012

Down through history, even back to the time of the Exodus mentioned in the Bible, people have erected stones, or dedicated sites, or established ceremonies, so coming generations would not forget significant events.

In Queensland, the suffering and loss of the floods and cyclone of a year ago have been similarly remembered, with an expression of heartfelt thanks to the Mud Army and other helpers and supporters for their magnificent efforts after the floods on 2011.

Today we follow that pattern.

Much has been said over the past few days as we have looked back on our service with RAAF Transport Flight Viet Nam, or 35 Squadron as it became. We commemorate 40 years since the RAAF Caribou departed Viet Nam after commencing service there in 1964. The years have not dimmed the stories, though the relationship to fact can vary somewhat as our memories fade.

As an 18 year old member of that Transport Flight, it is a privilege for me today to dedicate this plaque in recognition of those who served with RTFV/35 Squadron, both in the air and on the ground during the Viet Nam conflict.

No one would call the DeHavilland Caribou a nice looking aircraft, but none could fault its capabilities for the role it played in Viet Nam. Gathered here today, more round and balding than in their heyday, are members who served there who would only be too pleased to share with you today, or on some other occasion, what it meant to be part of a squadron proudly referred to as Wallaby Airlines.

Whatever the role was, be it in the air or support services on the ground, we remember and honour all who served with the dedication of this plaque.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that we have special occasions to ensure we do not forget significant events in history—a pattern You set with the sending of Your Son to give us the example of supreme sacrifice when He died on the cross for our sins.

We dedicate this memorial plaque to honour those who faithfully served their country in the Viet Nam conflict, with the RAAF Transport Flight, and 35 Squadron. We thank You for their dedication and commitment, and pray that those who visit this site in years to come may be touched by their selfless example. We pray this in the Name of Jesus Christ, the giver of true peace within.

Amen.