

American Veterans Dedicate Plaque to World War II Pacific Vets

7 DEC 2007

Veterans from the American Ex-Servicemen's Association dedicated a memorial in honour of the American Veterans of World War II at the Shrine of Remembrance on the 66th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The ceremony was opened by Master of Ceremonies Michael Bartlett who introduced former Sgt Thomas P. Lyons, US Air Force, to welcome Veterans, guests and dignitaries to the ceremony.

The opening welcome was followed by addresses by Premier John Brumby, Consul General of the United States the Hon Earl Irving, and Sgt Lyons, President of the American Ex-Servicemen's Association.

The speeches were followed by a joint dedication of the plaque by the Premier and Guadalcanal Veteran Chief Petty Officer Morris Pollock, United States Navy. Wreaths were laid by various dignitaries including Messrs Brumby,

Irving and Lyons, Minister for Innovation the Hon Gavin Jennings, Chairman of the Shrine Trustees John Taylor, RSL President Major General David McLachlan AO (Retd), Air Commodore Ken Watson, Peter Colliver, RAAF Association, Kevin Smith, HMAS Australia Veterans Association and Anthony Barbone, 22nd Bombardment Group.

The ceremony closed with a reading of the Ode by WWII Veteran Cpl Mal Cooper, United States Army Air Force, Vice President of the American Ex-Servicemen's Association, followed by the Last Post, a Minute of Silence and the national anthems of Australia and the US.

The ceremony was followed by a reception in the Shrine Visitor Centre attended by members of the Ex-Servicemen's Association, Trustees of the Shrine, guests and representatives from the Hanks/Spielberg organisation

which is currently filming a 10 week mini-series on World War II in the Pacific.



Above: American Ex-Servicemen's Association Secretary/Treasurer Ed Bartosh and President Thomas P. Lyons