

## American Memorial Day - Melbourne

The chapter shares a pretty good relationship with the Victorian branch of the American Ex Servicemen's Association down here and each year we are invited to attend their memorial Day service on the last Sunday of May as the actual day in the US is the last Monday in the month.

During the service we are invited to lay a wreath on behalf of the Chapter, this year this was done by one of our staunchest members, Scott Birnie, a veteran of the US Americal Division, who hails from Hawaii and now lives in Melbourne as a naturalized OCKER.

Due to a quite busy schedule of many of our members it was only Scott who could attend and lay the wreath when usually we would have 4 or 5 at this service.

Nevertheless, it was a moving ceremony and conducted with the respect and honour that is required. Below is a short synopsis of Scott's recall and some pictures.

### **Report by Scott Birnie**

*The American Memorial Day Service commenced at the Shrine of Remembrance at 1400 hours on the 29th of May with the American Civil War reenactors marching up the steps and into the Shrine carrying the appropriate flags.*

*Ed Bartosh, Secretary of the Victorian branch of the American Ex Servicemen's Association, opened the service with introductions to the veterans and their families followed by welcomes from the Shrine Group Captain and Shrine Governor Major Warren Sampir, President of the American Ex-Servicemen's Association then read both the prologue and address, explaining what Memorial Day meant to all Americans and how the day came to be.*

*The Presidential Proclamation was then read by Major Jason G. Dudley, a four tour veteran of Iraq, and an exchange senior officer in Victoria.*

*After prayers for the fallen and The Lord's Prayer, the Shrine guards arrived before the laying of some 10 wreaths, including one from the 173 Airborne Brigade. After the reading of the Ode both the American and Australian National Anthems were played before the departure of the Colonial Colour guards, which signalled the end of the service and the serving of afternoon tea.*



*Major Dudley and School Cadets*



*Civil War Colour Guard*



*Major Dudley Reading the Prologue Proclamation*

A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country.

~Texas Guinan. 19th century American businessman