

## Media Release

**EMBARGOED RELEASE: Friday 14 May 2021**

### **LONG DUE SERVICE FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE LIVES LOST**

Fire and emergency service personnel who have died in the line of duty will be commemorated at the National Memorial Service in Canberra today.

This event marks the first opportunity for the fire and emergency service community to gather on-site at the National Emergency Service Memorial since the catastrophic 2019–20 bushfire season. The 2020 service was held virtually due to COVID-19.

Family members and agency representatives will come together on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin to acknowledge those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while keeping their communities safe.

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley will join the service to present an AFAC Memorial Medallion to each family of the 12 fire and emergency service personnel commemorated during this year's event.

The event provides a national platform to honour the commitment of all fire and emergency personnel, the tragic loss of those who have died in the line of duty, and the families they leave behind.

This year, commemorations will recognise personnel from NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, ForestrySA and the NT Fire and Rescue Service.

The National Memorial Service on the bank of Lake Burley Griffin is a day of both gravity and gratitude. An additional 12 names have been engraved onto the Memorial Wall from NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, ForestrySA, NT Fire and Rescue Service and the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.

Built in 2018, the Memorial Wall is a permanent reminder of the 578 fire and emergency personnel who have lost their lives while keeping communities safe in Australia and New Zealand since records began.

Stuart Ellis AM, CEO AFAC said: "Every loss is devastating, every name etched on the wall reminds us of the sacrifice our people make and the importance of looking out for each other on the job.

"Behind our fire and emergency service personnel are the families and communities that support them. They make our sector stronger. We owe it to these families to honour and respect those they love and who have died in the line of duty."

ForestrySA is pleased to honour Mr Maurice Henry Treloar, who perished alongside seven of his Woods and Forest Department workmates in South Australia's 1958 Wandilo Forest Fire. A commemorative medal will be presented to his grandson, Ben Treloar.

ForestrySA Chief Executive Julian Speed said six decades on, the tragic loss of life remained a pertinent reminder to local fire crews.

“Many lessons have been learned from this unthinkable tragedy, with major improvements made to fire equipment, training, communications and inter-agency cooperation. However, the terrible losses of the past will never be forgotten.”

Now in its seventh year, the National Memorial Service provides an opportunity to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of fire and emergency personnel. The annual event is timed to coincide with St Florian’s Day (May 4), the Patron Saint of Firefighters.

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**Event information:**

National Memorial Service for fire and emergency service personnel  
Friday 14 May 2021  
08:45am (sharp)  
, Rond Terrace, Parkes ACT

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**About AFAC:**

AFAC, as the national council for fire and emergency services, supports the sector to create safer, more resilient communities. We drive national consistency through collaboration, innovation and partnerships. We deliver enhanced capability by developing doctrine and supporting operations.

AFAC service delivery:

- Facilitation and collaboration
- National authority
- Delivery partner
- Forward looking

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