



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD

RESERVE FORCES DAY 2013

Today we honour our Australia Defence Force Reservists and pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We are deeply grateful for all the men and women of our part time Defence Force who volunteer their time and skills to serve our country with courage and distinction.

Sir Winston Churchill used the term “Twice the Citizen” to describe those who served their country as members of volunteer defence forces in combination with their civilian roles. In Australia, we know you as our ‘citizen soldiers’. We also know you as our neighbour, our colleague, our friend, our loved ones. We appreciate your contribution to major Australian military and peacekeeping operations. You make an invaluable contribution to the defence of our nation, including through applying specialist skills and undertaking operational deployments overseas.

This year we also celebrate the fifteen years since the inaugural Reserve Forces Day in 1998. Each year at this time, we take stock to recognise the contribution of Reservists. We also recognise the vital support provided by the families of our Reservists, allowing them to answer our nation’s call.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Australia, I thank all Reservists - here, around the country and serving overseas - for their continuing dedicated service to our nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julia Gillard'.

The Honourable Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister of Australia