

# Senator Sue Boyce

Senator for Queensland

Title : **Commitment**

Event : **United Nations Day Commemoration Service**

Date : **October 24, 2009**

Location : **DJ Smith Park, Canungra**

Contact : **Military Brotherhood Tri Services Club**

Commitment.

As we gather to remember those who serve and have served in defence and policing, we acknowledge their solemn pledge to commit themselves in word and deed, with purpose, and deeply held beliefs.

An American management expert, talking about great corporations, said:

"...the basic philosophy, spirit, and drive of an organization has far more to do with its ... achievements than do ... resources ... structure ... and timing.

All these things weigh heavily in success. But they are, I think, overshadowed by how strongly the people in the organization believe in its principles and how faithfully they carry them out."

This is just as true for the success of our Defence and Police Force organization. It is even more so for their personnel, their soldiers, sailors, airforce men and women and Police Officers.

Commitment is the bedrock upon which individual success is built.

Effectively demonstrating commitment to others and to yourself is never easy. In many instances it is hard and dangerous work.

Commitment that falters is often worse than no commitment at all.

Genuine commitment stands the test of time through ongoing determination and persistence.

When we waver, when we shrink back from the task at hand, then we fail to demonstrate our commitment.

Our defence and Police personnel are deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq, Korea, Samoa, Cyprus, Cambodia, Namibia, Haiti, Somalia, Rwanda, and Bougainville.

That is commitment.

Today our Defence Force has a commitment to some 13 operations overseas involving the deployment of 3,300 defence personnel. Another 500 are actively protecting Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

That is commitment.

There are currently 350 Police who are providing skills and experience in Cyprus, the Solomon Islands, Sudan, East Timor, Nauru, Tonga, Vanuatu, Cambodia & Afghanistan.

That is commitment.

Commitment is easy during easy times. But during the tough times we learn the value and the true meaning of commitment.

And we know, for some, that commitment has meant illness, injury and death.

Shortly the names of those Australians who have made the ultimate sacrifice as a result of UN service will be read.

As the names are read, I ask you to consider the commitment required to make that sacrifice.

Thomas Jefferson wrote "the tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

Their blood was shed to further an ideal greater than any of us.

To preserve the ideal of a free, just and peaceful world, it is incumbent on all of us to consider the effort made by those for whom commitment was not just a word, but a statement of purpose, belief and action.

Lest We Forget.

**ENDS**