



Media Release

Darwin City Council

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67th Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin Commemorations, February 19th 2009 Lord Mayor's speech

A commemoration service was held at the Cenotaph today to mark the 67th anniversary of this day in 1942, when Japanese forces began a bombing campaign of Darwin that claimed more than 240 lives and devastated a large part of the city. At 9:58am, The precise moment when the first bomb fell on Darwin in 1942, a spectacular re-enactment was staged by the Royal Australian Army and The RAAF's F/A 18 hornets. The 3000 plus crowd was also entertained by the Australian Army Band and the Darwin Chorale.

Wreaths were laid by veterans, survivors and their families, as well as by dignitaries and officials, and the 3000 plus crowd was addressed by The Administrator of the Northern Territory Mr Tom Pauling, veteran *Defender of Darwin* Mr Ross Pulling, and Lord Mayor of Darwin Mr Graeme Sawyer.

In his speech, Mr Sawyer said to the veterans "your presence here today bestows upon us an immense honour, and in future years and for future generations, we and those who follow us will always remember what you did here. We will work to make sure that the rest of Australia is also aware".

A full transcript of the Mayor's Address is attached.

Today and over the next few days, over 120 veterans of the bombing of Darwin, who have travelled from all over Australia to be here, will participate in tours of historical sites and a number of official receptions.