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RSL MEDIA RELEASE

70th Anniversary of VP Day

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), will deliver the commemorative address at The Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney at 11.00 am on Saturday 15 August, in a service marking the 70th anniversary of VP Day.

A number of men and women who served in World War II will be provided with special transport and carer arrangements to ensure that they can be present to commemorate the end of hostilities when Japan surrendered on this day in 1945.

“Remembering that these veterans of the war are now aged late 80s and older, it’s important that we make every possible effort to recognise them and salute their service in the defence of Australia,” said the NSW State President of The Returned and Services League of Australia, Mr. Rod White.

“As the anniversary falls on a Saturday, I hope that the people of Sydney – men, women and children – make a special effort to come into the city to take part in the service and to show our remaining veterans that the sacrifices their generation made have not been forgotten.”

Mr. White said the struggle for Victory in the Pacific War alone had cost more than 17,000 Australian lives – 8274 killed in action, 1196 who died of wounds, and 8031 who did not survive as prisoners of the Japanese.

“I imagine it must be difficult for today’s generation of young Australians to comprehend the enormity of World War II,” said Mr. White.

“Almost a million Australians enlisted and more than half of those served overseas. More than 27,000 died and just as many were wounded. That’s why it is so important this year that we pay tribute to those who survive, and reflect quietly on those young men and women who did not live to give thanks on VP Day 70 years ago.”