



NSW State President Message

VVFA National President, Jim Wain, writes on the Federation website;

‘The former National President, and NSW State President, Tim McCombe OAM (deceased), was at the forefront of the welfare for Vietnam Veterans in Australia since the late 1970’s, until his untimely death on 31 January 2015. Tim’s dedication and commitment to the welfare of Veterans was legendary, particularly in our struggle to have the effects of herbicidal spraying in South Vietnam accepted as the cause of many cancers in returning veterans and their offspring.

When we came home from Vietnam there was much wrong with how we were treated by the Repatriation system, some ex-services organisations, the government, and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

It is, I believe, our duty to ensure our more recent comrades, the soldiers, sailors and airmen of Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers too, do not suffer in the same way. We can do this by helping our younger comrades with their compensation claims and appeals, ensuring we acknowledge their outstanding service given under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions and keep reminding the government of its obligation to properly compensate and care for those whose service has damaged them.

This will become even more important when most of our troops are pulled out of Afghanistan. A few years down the track we know that the psychological damage done by the trauma of these wars will really begin to blossom. By then, the media interest in our veterans will have waned. What is newsworthy while the war is being fought will fail the ‘interest’ test when the fighting is over. It is then that the really hard work begins of reminding governments of their continuing obligation.

The Vietnam Veterans Federation will do what it can to ease the path for our worthy successors.

**Jim Wain - National President.
Vietnam Veterans Federation of Australia Inc.’**

As a long-time volunteer alongside Tim McCombe, I echo Jims’ thoughts, above, and fully support the need to look after and educate today’s younger ADF members.

**Frank Cole – NSW State President
Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers & Peacemakers
Association of Australia, (NSW Branch) Inc.**