

HEROES HONOURED AT SADF COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Pretoria, 22 May 2012. The annual commemoration service at the SADF Wall of Remembrance situated on the Voortrekker Monument Heritage Site will be held on Sunday, 3 June from 09:00 for 09:40.

This year the SA National Defence Force has consented to support the service and serving members of the SANDF are welcome to attend the service in uniform. The Chief of the SANDF is unfortunately unable to personally attend the service but he has appointed a General to lay a wreath on his behalf.

As a result of the unprecedented interest in the commemoration service, the seating area in front of the Wall has been expanded to make space for 1 200 chairs on terraces. The supporting wall behind the seating will be utilised as a wall of remembrance with 280 niches for former members and civilian employees of the Defence Force.

This year there will be a few new additions to the service. During the service, the Pro Patria medal will be given to a former member who lost his eyesight as well as his hands during a land mine incident, but as a result of circumstances never received his medal. A special wall will be unveiled next to the SADF Wall of Remembrance containing all the names of persons who were awarded the Honoris Crux decoration (all classes), the Van Riebeeck decoration and medal and the Louw Wepener decoration and medal for valour. During the service there will be a fly past of five Harvards and an Impala jet.

The SADF Wall of Remembrance was inaugurated on 25 October 2009. Currently there are 2 579 names on the Wall, including 774 who died during military operations.

In addition to the fact that the SADF Wall of Remembrance at the Voortrekker Monument is much more up-to-date and is updated annually, it is also more visible and easily accessible, also for the physically disabled. It is also backed up by the excellent infrastructure at the VTM such as parking, ablution and reception venues. Several other commemoration services already take place annually at the Wall of Remembrance.

The seating plan is being prepared for more than 1 200 guests who have already accepted the invitation. Other members of the public who would like to attend are welcome to do so but will be accommodated on unmarked seating. Guests are cordially requested to arrive by 09:00 and to take their seats by no later than 09:40.

Enquiries may be directed to Thea Furstenburg on 012 325 7885 or at thea@erfenisstigting.org.za.

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