



1 September 2011

Local MLA Attends Malaysian Commemoration Day 2011

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton, attended the Malaysian Commemoration Day ceremony hosted by the Malaya Borneo Veterans Western Australia that was held at the Flame of Remembrance at Kings Park to honour the Malaysian Independence Day and those who served and died in the Malaya and Borneo conflicts.

"I was honoured to attend the service, which was held on 31 August to commemorate Malaysia's Independence Day, known as Merdeka Day, and to remember those who fought and died in the conflicts in the region from 1941 through to 2008," said Dr Nahan.

"The service was run by the Malaya Borneo Veterans Western Australia and I was very pleased to join Hamidah Ashari, the Malaysian Consul General in Western Australia and the WA Governor, Malcolm McCusker at the event."

Dr Nahan said honoured guests laid colourful flower wreaths in honour of the fighting in Malaya, Borneo, Singapore, Java and Timor during World War II, the Malayan Emergency from 1948–1960, the Thailand-Malaysian Border Operations from 1960-1963, the Far East Strategic Reserve deployments from 1951–1971, the Communist Insurgency Peninsular Malaysia from 1968-1989 and in East Timor from 1999-2008.

"Many Western Australians served in those conflicts as either fulltime military personnel or as reservists and their work assisted in the development of Malaysia. Their involvement in those conflicts was vital to the region and it cemented our relationship with Malaysia, which has flourished ever since," said Dr Nahan.

"The Commemoration Day is particularly important to many of the people in the Riverton electorate given that more than 19% of our local community is of Malaysian origin. In fact, we have the largest percentage of Malaysian people born here or overseas of any electorate in WA."

Dr Nahan said he was also very pleased that the Selangor Philharmonic Society Choir from Malaysia was in attendance at the Commemoration Day ceremony.

"The Choir was originally formed in 1958 and it is made up of people from all ages, genders, religious backgrounds and experience. Their performance at the event epitomized the strong linkages between Australia and Malaysia and was a fitting tribute to honour Merdeka Day and its importance to our community."

Photo caption:

Commemorating Malaysia's Independence Day – from left, Mr Bill Adamson, President of the Malaya Borneo Veterans WA; Rasa Subramaniam OAM, City of Melville Councillor; Puan Hamidah Ashari AMN, SDK, Malaysian Consul General WA; the Governor of Western Australia, Malcolm McCusker AO QC and Dr Mike Nahan, Member for Riverton.

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