OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WWII ALLIED MEMORIAL WALL

18 February 2013

Chief Minister Terry Mills will today join World War II veteran Brian Winspear AM to open a memorial wall at the Darwin Military Museum ahead of tomorrow’s bombing of Darwin commemorations.

Mr Mills said the memorial lists the names of 1672 people who lost their lives defending northern Australia during World War II.

“This is the first time all the names of those who died in enemy attacks in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory have been listed together,” Mr Mills said.

“It’s a real honour to open this memorial with Brian Winspear, who was in Darwin when the first Japanese bombs fell on 19 February 1942.”

Mr Winspear, who served in the RAAF as a radio operator, air gunner and navigator, had just arrived in Darwin from Timor with his squadron on the morning of 19 February when the first attack began.

Brian survived the raid and the follow-up attack at midday, and went on to more missions, although many of his mates fell in battle.

“It’s important that we never forget the sacrifice these people made to protect our country,” Mr Mills said.

The Chief Minister will also join Consul General of the United States of America, Mary Warlick, to view a temporary exhibition in the Defence of Darwin Experience on the history of the United States/Australia alliance.

“The exhibition focuses on the role the American military played in the Northern Territory during WWII, and our enduring ties with the United States that continue to this day,” Mr Mills said.

“I would like to thank the United States Consulate for funding this important exhibition.”

Tomorrow the Chief Minister will attend the bombing of Darwin commemorations, including laying a wreath at the USS Peary memorial and the Darwin Cenotaph, and holding a private function at Parliament House.

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