

Annual Remembrance Day Commemoration of the Fallen Heroes

13 November 2011

Speech by the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Clr Mpho Parks Tau, on the occasion of the Annual Remembrance Day Commemoration of the Fallen Heroes, Cenotaph, Harisson Street – Johannesburg

Speaker of Council: Clr Constance Bapela

Chief Whip of Council: Clr Prema Naidoo

MMC for Community Development: Clr Chris Vondo

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Fellow Councillors

City Manager: Mr Trevor Fowler

Representatives of the South African Defence Force: Generals and Admirals

Members of the South African Military Veterans Association (SANMVA)

Chairperson of the Commission on Religious, Cultural and Linguistic Managers and Officials of Council

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Fellow Citizens

ON behalf of the Council, the residents and citizens of Johannesburg, I would like to welcome you to the 91th National Civic Remembrance Sunday Service and Wreath-Laying Ceremony held in Johannesburg to commemorate our fallen heroes.

Remembrance Sunday is an annual event which honours all South Africans who made the supreme sacrifice for their country in wars and conflict, including the struggle for freedom and democracy. In supporting the overall theme of unification and nation-building, it is important to acknowledge sacrifices made by heroes and combatants drawn from all communities and sections of our people.

Since 2006, each year a different theme has been highlighted for the Remembrance Sunday service. The focus this year falls on the Families of the Fallen, those family members of military veterans who have lost loved ones. In many cases it was a strong one in the family who has passed on, and those that remain have to carry on. The City of Johannesburg wishes to salute the families of our fallen heroes

Worldwide, over 200 million people have been killed in wars over the past century. We remember the pain and destruction of war, which affected not only the ex-combatants, but also their families who are left behind, and the many who have lost bread-winners.

To lead today's service, we are pleased to have with us the Chaplain General of the SANDF, namely Rev. Marius Cornelissen.

Programme Director, allow me once again to welcome every organization and individual present here today for this special Remembrance Sunday event.