



**PETER STYLES** MLA | Member for **SANDERSON**  
MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **FILIPINO MERCHANT MARINERS REMEMBERED**

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16 February 2014

The Northern Territory will honour the roles and services of 14 Filipinos who lost their lives in World War II in Territory waters on Tuesday.

The service will be held at the Darwin Military Museum, and for the first time, will recognise these servicemen.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Peter Styles said on 19 February 1942, 14 Filipino Merchant Mariners were on board as crew of the steamships SS Florence D and SS Don Isidro and were killed during the Japanese air raids off Bathurst Island.

“I am honoured to be able to acknowledge the links between the Filipino and Territory communities and the growth of and contribution of the Filipino community to the Northern Territory,” he said.

“The service and sacrifice of these merchant mariners represents a significant contribution by the Filipino community to the military history of Australia and this should never be forgotten.”

Mr Styles said he was proud of the strong Filipino community that was still strong in the Territory.

“The Filipino community is now estimated to be around 7000 strong, and is represented through various active community associations from Darwin to Alice Springs,” he said.

“The community actively shares their culture through their cultural festivals and is part of the Territory’s economic and social life.”

Mr Styles encouraged all Territorians to pay their respects on Tuesday, at the Military Museum.

“We have finally seen the Bombing of Day become a day of significance, a mark of respect for all service men and women who served during the Second World War.

“I think many Territorians would also want to pay their respects to those Filipinos who lost their lives during the raid on the Darwin coast.”

The service will be held on Tuesday, 9.00am at the Darwin military museum.

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