

3171634 Major Leslie James Tranter RFD
11 March 1943 - 20 June 2015
VSR - 2RVR - 5RVR - 1RAR - 2RTB - 3TRG GRP

The funeral of Major (ret) Les Tranter was held at the Alexandra Shire Hall on Saturday, 27th June, 2015. The Shire hall was packed with 200 plus, many of them ex servicemen from across Victoria and the Nation. RVR Association members John Leyden, Ian Campey, Glen Foster and Lionel Boxer, who bagpiped, attended.



The eulogy was given by former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fisher AC and a letter received from the Governor General of Australia Peter Cosgrove AC MC - both served with Les in 1RAR in Vietnam. Les served in the Army from 1960 to 2004. He started out in the Victorian Scottish Regiment (CMF), then 2RVR (Pentropic) in the early 60's. From 1965 - 1968 Lieutenant 5RVR; 7 Nov 1968 (T/Lt), Australian Staff Corps (Short Service Commission); 1968 - Lieutenant, 1RAR; 1969 - Lieutenant, 1RAR (Regimental Duty); 1971 Lieutenant 2RTB (Instructor); OR Training Wing, 3 Training Group, Puckapunyal, in late 1970s.

He saw active service as a Lieutenant in South Vietnam with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment from 18/03/1968 to 28/02/1969. He was OC Anti-Tank/Tracker Platoon with 1RAR and was present at the battle of Fire Support Base Coral. He went onto serve for 44 years in total, some of that service here in Victoria. Les lived in Alexandra with his beloved wife Tess, and children Abby and Callum. Les passed away peacefully following a long battle with Cancer.



Tributes:

Les Tranter and I were the best of mates at Puckapunyal and beyond. I was coming into the Army and Les was a seasoned veteran, that's how it was in those days. I had been a Victorian cop for seven years and decided to join the Regular Army. I went on to be the Second in Command of SASR, but I will always, always remember Les. He had such a lovely sense of humour and a wonderful spirit. I feel ashamed for dropping out of contact, for when advised of a great friend's passing, we always feel deep regret for letting our friendship slip. Life goes on in its own way and we always regret those who were our friends. Les was one of the best. I will dig out the photographic memories of Puckapunyal and remember Les with great admiration. I offer you my sincere condolences.

Andrew J Leahy

I served with Les at 3 Training Group on and off from around 1981 until 2001. We had many long talks and discussed many things about the world, the government of the day and life in general. I always found that he was a thorough gentleman and was willing to offer sound advice if needed and would not hesitate to help when required. He would not hesitate to impart knowledge and experience onto young soldiers to assist them in their endeavours. Having heard of his passing has saddened me immensely. Please accept my condolences for your loss and take comfort knowing that he had a lot of friends and people who loved and respected him. RIP LES. Rest now in the arms of Angels. Stand Down.

Your duty is done.

Barry Brewer (WO2 Retired)