

11 November 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

To News Editors

SAF VETERANS' LEAGUE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH COMMEMORATIVE DINNER

Close to 400 members of the Singapore Armed Forces Veterans' League (SAFVL) and their families, foreign dignitaries and guests celebrated the League's 25th anniversary at SAFRA Toa Payoh this evening. Minister for Defence and Chairman of SAFRA Board of Governors, Dr Ng Eng Hen, graced the dinner as the Guest-of-Honour. Dr Ng was joined by Senior Minister of State for Defence and President of SAFRA, Mr Ong Ye Kung.

During his address to the veterans, Dr Ng acknowledged the important role they played in fostering commitment to defence among Singaporeans. "We remember and honour their sacrifice, are inspired by their indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to Singapore. We need veterans to inspire future generations to fight for our country," he said.

President of SAFVL, Brigadier-General (NS) Winston Toh, said in his welcome address, "We have many dedicated volunteers in the SAFVL, who divide their time between their work and helping out in the league. Our veteran members have volunteered as Commitment to Defence (or C2D) Ambassadors, where they shared their rich operational and life experiences with students, national servicemen and Regulars. Looking forward, we hope to see the SAFVL as an established partner in national education efforts."

The C2D Ambassador initiative is one of the many ways the SAFVL has played an active role in supporting and raising awareness of defence issues among Singaporeans. SAFVL also worked closely with the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) to build a Konfrontasi Memorial near MacDonald House to honour those who lost their lives.

Also present at the dinner were senior MINDEF officials and Singapore Armed Forces officers, as well as representatives from MINDEF, SAFRA, National Heritage Board and sponsor companies of SAFVL.

Kindly refer to the fact sheet on the SAFVL's 25th Anniversary Dinner at **Annex A**.

About SAFRA National Service Association

SAFRA was formed in 1972 to provide for the social and recreational needs of NSmen and their families through quality sports, social and educational programmes to recognise NSmen for their contributions to National Defence.

SAFRA currently has a network of five clubs conveniently located in Jurong, Mount Faber, Tampines, Toa Payoh and Yishun. Complementing the modern facilities at SAFRA clubs is a host of quality membership benefits and activities specially packaged for over 330,000 members and their families.

Issued by SAFRA National Service Association on 11 November 2015.

**SAF VETERANS' LEAGUE
25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

FACT SHEET

Event details

Date : Wednesday, 11 November 2015

Venue : SAFRA Toa Payoh

About the Singapore Armed Forces Veterans' League (SAFVL)

The Singapore Armed Forces Veterans' League was established in 1990 to foster and maintain the spirit of camaraderie among ex-regulars. All ex-regulars who are 40 years of age and above and have served in the Ministry of Defence or Singapore Armed Forces for at least 6 continuous years and are no longer in service are eligible. Membership to the League is voluntary and regular get-together sessions and activities are organised for members. The SAFVL plays an active role by sharing their experiences with the younger generation. Today, the league has about 500 members.

Annually, veteran members actively support and participate in many activities and events organised by the league, or organised in partnership with other organisations such as the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The activities and events include the following:

1. Commemorative events and memorial services held at the Kranji War Memorial and the War Memorial Park at Beach Road.
2. A commemorative service held at National Gallery Singapore (formerly the City Hall Chamber) in August this year to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.
3. Memorial services held near MacDonald House to remember those who suffered or lost their lives during Konfrontasi, and to honour those who fought valiantly for the survival of our nation during this period.
4. Veterans leading school uniform groups to various World War II battle sites in Singapore to impart lessons that emphasise the need for a strong defence and the importance of a society that comes forward readily to support our nation in times of need.

5. Veterans sharing their rich operational and life experiences in engagement sessions with students, national servicemen and Regulars, as part of their appointments as Commitment-to-Defence (C2D) Ambassadors.
6. Veterans attending meetings held by the World Veterans Federation and the Veterans Confederation of ASEAN Countries.