



# WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

## NEWSLETTER

### Editorial

An important year for the WVF has come to an end. 2015 has been, in many senses, a year of transition. After the tragic and sudden death of our former President, Datuk Abdul Hamid Ibrahim, at the end of 2014, Mr. Jacques Goujat proved to be replacement of great quality and dignity, illustrated by his leadership at a particularly successful 28th General Assembly. Since my election as President of the WVF on 3 September 2015, my mission has been to assist the new members of the Executive Board in assuming their duties, and to set in place our new goals for the future. In this respect, the 153rd meeting of the Executive Board held in Paris on 19 and 20 November was the opportunity for each member of the new Board to take up their roles at the head of the Federation and reflect on what is to come.

I would like to congratulate and warmly welcome Lt. Col. Joseph Falzon (United Kingdom) as our new Secretary General. I know he is looking forward to playing a full part in taking the Federation forward together with the Executive Board and the Secretariat team.

As we all know, 2016 will be a big year for the WVF. A new Strategic Plan has been adopted unanimously by the Executive Board and numerous projects are already being worked on, such as the Veterans' Communication Platform. Throughout the New Year, we must be bold, creative and inventive, so that together we can create a more promising future. Finally, as we draw to the end of the year, along with the rest of the Executive Board and staff of the Secretariat of the World Veterans Federation we send you our very best wishes for peace and prosperity in the New Year.



Dan-Viggo Bergtun  
President



The Executive Board met the 19 and 20 November 2015 in Paris. For this occasion, a dinner was organised with the Secretariat, Mr. Jacques Goujat, Honorary President of the WVF, and Mr. Serge Wourgaft, President d'Honneur.

Back row, starting from left to right: Mr. Hans Song, Mrs. Faye Purcell, Mr. Jos Weerts, Col. Alfred Fuller, Lt. Col. Joseph Falzon, Mr. Florian Delval, Mr. Theo Radford, Mr. Jacek Polanczyk, Mrs. Maryse Brachet. Front row, starting from left to right: Mrs. Inge Nedergaard, Mr. Serge Wourgaft, Mr. Dan-Viggo Bergtun, Mr. Jacques Goujat, Senator Admiral Mohd Anwar, Gen. Stanislaw Wozniak.



## Remembrance Weekend in London

### The Festival of Remembrance

On Saturday 7th November, the WVF President, Mr. Dan-Viggo Bergtun, was the guest of the newly appointed Secretary General, Lt. Col. Joseph Falzon at The Royal British Legion's annual Festival of Remembrance which took place at The Royal Albert Hall in London.

The Festival commemorates and honours all those who have lost their lives in conflicts, and is both a moving and enjoyable experience. It took place in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and members of the Royal family, the Prime Minister and senior Military representatives. The Festival attracted a television audience of over 6 million.

This year Andrea Bocelli, Rod Stewart, Gregory Porter and Pixie Lott performed alongside the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, the Queen's Colour Squadron, the Band of HM Royal Marines, and the Band and Pipes of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and was originally intended to honour the sacrifices of those who died in World War One, however it now includes tributes to the war dead from all past and more recent conflicts.



*The Festival of Remembrance—The Royal Albert Hall*

### Cenotaph Parade

Remembrance Sunday fell on 8th November. The WVF President and Secretary General attended and took part in the National Service of Remembrance held at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. This year the Nation's tribute to the war dead was once again led by the Queen, along other members of the Royal family, former and current senior politicians and members of state representing the Commonwealth.

This event is the focal point of the Remembrance Sunday ceremonies held all over the United Kingdom and across the Commonwealth. It ensures that no-one is forgotten as the nation unites to honour all who have suffered or died in wars and conflicts. In London the two-minute silence, at the heart of the service, was marked at the beginning and end by the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery firing one round from one of their 13-pounder First World War guns from Horse Guards Parade.

After the ceremony, as the bands played, a huge parade of veterans marched past, with each contingent saluting as they passed the Cenotaph, paying tribute to all those who died and who lie buried elsewhere. This year Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, took the salute at the end of the parade.



*Veterans saluting Prince William at the Cenotaph Parade, London*



In November 2015, the Executive Board of the WVF established two Divisions to increase support to our members.

### **Peace and Security Division of the WVF**



The WVF is looking to become the cornerstone and promoter of international peace and security. The Peace and Security Division of the WVF will work as a champion of peace and human rights in accordance with its Constitution and, if possible, will take an active role in the mediation of conflict zones. The WVF will also play an important role in activities for victims of war and refugees.

The Executive Board of the WVF has appointed Gen. Stanislaw WOZNIAK (Poland) as Head of the Division.

During his military career he was selected to attend several studies and courses including General Staff Academy Polish Armed Forces and Warsaw University. He got a PhD degree in 1986 and received the first general's nomination from the hands of the President of Poland Lech Wałęsa, former Solidarity Leader, in 1993.

At the international level, he has been very actively involved as a Polish military diplomat to London 1980-84, Washington DC 1987-90, Moscow 2000-04 and Force Commander UNIFIL, Assistant Secretary General UN in 1995-97.

In 2006, after 42 years of military service he retired from the Polish Armed Forces. Since 2007 until now, he is the President of the UN Peacekeeping Missions Veterans Association of Poland.

He has been involved in the activities of the World Veterans Federation since 2012 as a member of SCEA Working Group for Western Europe.

In 2015, he was the Head of the Polish Delegation to the 28th General Assembly in Sopot, where he was elected Chairman of the Standing Committee on European Affairs and Vice President of World Veterans Federation. Gen. Wozniak was also appointed WVF Ambassador to the United Nations. We wish him good luck with his important work.

### **WVF Health and Welfare Division**

The WVF have established WVF Health and Welfare Division, which will provide WVF members with up-to-date information including statistics on all matters related to veteran affairs. This division will also establish a research and development unit. This unit could subsequently develop into the proposed International Institute of Veteran Affairs which will provide comprehensive services such as information, training in veteran affairs management, legislations, fundraising techniques and general research facilities. The creation of such an institute would establish the WVF as the world leader in veteran affairs.

The WVF Executive Board has appointed Mr. Jos Weerts as Head of the Division. Jos has worked with civilians affected by war, with soldiers and military veterans, and with humanitarian aid workers and development workers. He has worked in the former Soviet Union and Russia, in Nigeria, Sudan, Haiti, DR Congo and in Mali.

In working with individuals and with groups or organizations, he is especially focused at identifying resources on a personal level and within the organization, and at educating people how to use them. He has extensive experience in counseling individuals as well as in working with groups and with senior leadership and teams within an organization.

Jos is currently employed as senior researcher and adviser at the Veterans' Institute in the Netherlands. He studied medicine with specialized training in psychiatry, social medicine and epidemiology.

The WVF warmly welcomes him to the team.





## Strategic Plan adopted by WVF Executive Board

The WVF is the largest international veteran organisation that actively promotes peace and security and champions health and wellbeing initiatives as its core activities. It recognises all those who have served whilst ensuring enduring remembrance for the fallen. The Executive Board, during their 153rd Meeting in Paris 19 and 20 December, unanimously adopted a new Strategic Plan. It was conceived to guide and advise our member organisations so that they can take the lead in supporting initiatives that foster peace and security and to campaign for health and welfare initiatives that will enhance the wellbeing and independence of their members, all while respecting the memory of those who have suffered before.

### Support our member organisations – create interest and give advice

- **Provide** the tools they need so that they can achieve their objectives and aspirations.
- **Recognise** their efforts and create awareness.
- **Be there** for members when they need leadership, guidance and advice.
- **Generate** templates as required.
- **Reach out** to individual members and allow them to voice their opinions.
- **Connect and stimulate** the exchange of expertise and information.

### Advance the recognition and public image of WVF

- **Bring** the WVF in to the modern electronic age.
- **Maximise** social media.
- **Recognise and promote** the activities of member organisations.
- **Need** to attract new members.
- **Develop** trusted partnerships.

### Get involved in meaningful projects

- **Encourage and empower** members to get involved in projects.
- **Establish** global projects that members can join in.
- **Promote** alliances with others to achieve our goals.
- **Ensure** maximum inter-activity at all times.

### Correct the WVF model for future financial stability

- **Deliver** fundraising projects in a more “joined up” and collaborative way.
- **Get involved** in profitable projects.

### Specials and discounts for individual members

- **Create** a database as a target market for vendors.
- **Strive** to get the best deals possible for our members.

**Core Values**  
To guide and inspire our members to be impartial, responsive, committed, accountable, collaborative, resourceful and to act with respect, dignity, compassion and integrity.

## Share your Association's news and activities

We would like to share the activities of our member associations, and so invite you to send us your articles and photos of your past or future events, so that we can publish them in our following editions of WVF News. You can send them to us by the following e-mail address: [wvf@wvf-fmac.org](mailto:wvf@wvf-fmac.org) or by post to:

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