Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**Statement - Darwin Remembers**

19 February 2015

On the 19th of February 1942 war came to Australian shores casting Darwin into the centre of a conflict that would ultimately cost the lives of almost 40,000 Australian Defence Force personnel by its end.

On this day 73 years ago, the Japanese bombs rained down on the harbour and the city, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.

Many of the hundreds who died in the Bombing of Darwin came from families far too familiar with war.

Many had already lost loved ones in World War I and were subjected to the same pain all over again as their children enlisted in World War II.

Sixteen year old Robert Henry Stobo is one of those children.

Today I was honoured to share ‘Bobby’s’ story and welcome his relatives to the Bombing of Darwin Service.

Bobby’s widowed mother had lost her brothers in the First World War and she found it heart wrenching to watch her teenage son enlist for World War II.

Bobby was a deck cadet on-board the ill-fated *MV Neptuna* which fell victim to the Japanese air attack in Darwin Harbour. Bobby was among the 36 crew killed.

He wasn’t even old enough to vote when he died but he has never been forgotten.

For years a local lady in Adelaide River has put flowers on his grave in the town’s War Cemetery - She didn’t want him to be alone or forgotten.

Of course, he is just one of more than one hundred thousand Australians who have died over the course of the past century, defending our unique way of life.

Every one of them deserves to be remembered for their service just like Robert Stobo,

Every one of them deserves our thanks.
I urge all Territorians to pause today and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our great city.

It’s also a time to think about those currently serving our country overseas and wish them a safe return.

Lest we forget.

Attached: Image of Chief Minister Adam Giles with members of the Stobo family.

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CM with Stobo Family.JPG