

Speech

Address By

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

On the occasion of

Remarks at the investiture ceremony for Australians involved in the Thailand cave rescue

Government House, Canberra

24 July 2018

Prime Minister, Ministers, Leader of the Opposition, ladies and gentlemen, my fellow Australians watching the broadcast and most importantly those being recognised by their nation today.

Of all the Australian values and human qualities we cherish, selflessness and courage stand in the front rank. We see it often within our wider community, among our emergency services, among our military forces. Recognising it in this manner is part of our modern practice, part of our perpetual duty.

We do so now, in the national capital, a few days after a globally known event at which our fellow Australians, along with Thai citizens and the men and women of other nations conducted a thrilling rescue of helpless young men, themselves strong and brave, and in doing so captivated the world.

To those recognised today, let me say that in gathering the information supporting this recognition, those who did the research reported two invariable elements of your responses:

- First, that others involved did wonderful work;
- Also, that you weren't exceptional, you were just doing your bit.

None of us will dispute the former.

On the latter, we think that you were remarkable - skilful, tireless, compassionate and courageous.

Your nation is so proud of you.

Today, Australia salutes you.

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