



Australian American Association Queensland Division, Brisbane



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Patron: Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland.



2024 MORETON VOLUNTEER AWARDS. The Association's Teresa Pokoj.



Teresa is a Life Member & Member of the Board of Directors, Treasurer & Assistant Secretary of the Australian American Association, Queensland Division, Brisbane. Teresa is seen above being presented with her Award by the Honourable Graham Perrett MP, Federal Member for Moreton.

Reasons for Teresa Receiving the Moreton Volunteer Award:

“Teresa has been involved in the local community in supporting veterans organisations and veterans care, through her efforts of catering for these events (countless shortbread biscuits over many years have been baked and given to other organisations to support their activities).

Teresa attends memorial events including - Bastille Day for the French community, Kokoda Track Commemoration, Naval Association Events, ANZAC Day March, Chinese, Indian and Korean Veterans Commemorations, the Victory in the Pacific and Victory in Europe Wreath-laying Services to name but a few, preparing and laying wreaths for some 25 events annually.

Most importantly however, Teresa supports the Australian American Association, Brisbane Inc in preparations for events and supporting its President, Mike Harris, in inviting dignitaries, organising the running of the Annual Battle of the Coral Sea Wreath-laying Commemoration, which is attended by the Association's Patron - the Governor of Queensland Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, also the US Consul General the Honourable Christine Elder, and a wide range of distinguished dignitaries, of which Graham Perrett has represented the Australian Government on these occasions. There is always one volunteer that stands in my mind as the super glue that holds the Association (which is based in Coopers Plains) together, and she is Teresa.

Teresa organises over 70 representatives to lay wreaths at the Annual Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration and schedules everyone in from all areas including the US Navy 7th Fleet, its Fleet Band, the Australian Navy Band and the set up and catering. She is not one to put herself in the limelight and I would like to submit this nomination for Teresa. She has attended our Chamber events also, and we like to pay our respects to the work Teresa does in welcoming people into the Australian American Association fold of which I am Secretary, and I see the work she does tirelessly and willingly”.

Teresa was nominated by Alice Langford, who is the Secretary of the Australian American Association, Queensland Division, Brisbane.



Proudly holding her Award, Teresa is seen above with *(at left)* Frank Lamy President of Veterans de l'Armee Francaise d'Australie, and *(at right)* Mike Harris, President of the Australian American Association, Brisbane.





In front of a crowd of 290 guests assembled, are *(at left)* the Honourable Graham Perrett MP, Federal Member for Moreton and *(at right)* the “Master of Ceremony” for the Moreton Awards Ceremony - Lewis Lee OAM Chairman of Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Committee.



Front Row (from left): Award Winner - Chujin Wu, the Hon Graham Perrett MP, Award Winner - Teresa Pokoj, Special Congratulatory Award Winner - Lewis Lee OAM Chairman of Chinese Veterans Association & Jane Chen Secretary of Universal Education & Multicultural Exchange Association,

Back Row (from left): Alan Chen President of Universal Education & Multicultural Exchange Association, Rudi Bianchi Vice President of the Naval Association Australia Qld Section, Frank Lamy President of Veterans de l'Armee Francaise d'Australie, Jill McKeon Association Member, Tony Chau Association Vice President, Irena Rutyna a good friend of Teresa's, and Mike Harris Association President.

Teresa is a tireless and much dedicated member of our Association's Board of Directors and it's really inspiring to see how much she cares and contributes to her local community as well as our Australian American Association. I'm certainly proud of what Teresa has achieved as an exemplary member of our Association!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the good Members of my Association, I warmly congratulate Teresa on gaining this much deserved Volunteer Award and I acknowledge her for the many years of outstanding and dedicated service she has given as a volunteer.

Yours fraternally,

Mike Harris, *Life Member & President,*
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Australian American Association, Queensland Division, Brisbane.



*The Australian American relationship is linked
across both sides of the Pacific Ocean,
with a common heritage and many countless and cherished ties.*

We also remember those who paid the price for our freedom.

Lest we forget!

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