



FEDERAL ROUTINE ORDER

VALE – Mrs. Ilma Nicholson, OAM, LM



- 1.0 It is with regret that I advise of the passing, on Wednesday 27^h November 2019, of Mrs. Ilma Nicholson, OAM, LM in her 100th year.
- 2.0 Ilma was born on 28th July 1920 in Sydney where her schooling and early working career took place.
- 3.0 In 1941 Mrs. Nicholson enlisted in the WAAAF which she served until 1944. After WW2, the WAAAF Association was formed by the ladies who were part of this service. Mrs. Nicholson was a member for 32 years. She also served as President of the Ex-Servicewomen's Association for 15 years. The trophies for NSW Girls' Group's Senior, Cadet and Junior Cadet of the Year bear the WAAAF emblem.

It was from her association with these organisations that Mrs. Nicholson first became interested in the Australian Air League.

- 4.0 Mrs. Nicholson became an Associate Member of NSW Girls Group in early 1987 being assigned membership number W.11602 and in April the same year became Patron of NSW Girls Group.

In October 1988, Mrs. Nicholson was appointed to the position of NSW Girls Group Chairperson with the rank of Hon. Lieutenant Commissioner.

In April 1990, NSW Girls Group formed a new Wing covering the Central Coast and northern area of NSW. The new Wing was named Ilma Nicholson Wing in her honour and she accepted the invitation to become the Wing Patron.

- 5.0 The Australia Day Honours List of 2002 conferred the award of the Order of Australia Medal upon Mrs. Nicholson "For service to the welfare of veterans and their families through the NSW Division of the RAAF Association and the Ex-Servicewomen's Association and to young women through the NSW Girls Group of the Australian Air League.

In July 2008, the Australian Air League awarded Mrs. Nicholson with Life Membership in recognition of her strong support of the Members of NSW Girls Group and Ilma Nicholson Wing through her roles as Group Patron and Ilma Nicholson Patron.

Ilma instituted and sponsored the New South Wales Girls' Group Annual Quite Achiever of the Year Award, personally setting the selection criteria.

- 6.0 Failing health saw Ilma take up residence at the Frank Whiddon Masonic Nursing Home at Glenfield in Sydney and was kept abreast of the activities and achievements of NSW Girls Group and her Wing.

With the merging of NSW Girls Group and NSW Boys Group, the former Central Coast Wing changed its name to "Ilma Nicholson Wing" to perpetuate Ilma's iconic name.

- 7.0 Ilma was looking forward to her 100th birthday next year. However that was not to be. Sadly, Ilma passed away peacefully in Campbelltown Hospital on Wednesday 27 November.

Ilma will forever be remembered for her "never-say-die" attitude and positive re-enforcement of the League's aims and goals together with her unwavering support for the Officers and Cadets of NSW Girls Group and the Australian Air League.

Vale, Ilma Nicholson, a dedicated Member and true friend of the Australian Air League

"A Vinculo Terrae "

8.0 Funeral Arrangements.

8.1 The AAL will not be required to participate in the service and are requested to attend the service as "Ilma's friends".

The family has also requested that AAL members **do not wear uniform.**

8.2 The funeral service will be conducted as hereunder:

Date: Wednesday 4th December 2019

Time: 1000 hrs

Location: North Chapel

Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Camden Valley Way, Leppington

Wake: Ingleburn RSL Club,

70 Chester Rd, Ingleburn NSW 2565


9.0 Period of Mourning – refer Australian Air League Manual Section 10 Paragraph 32

9.1 All Units and members of the Australian Air League Inc. are to observe a PERIOD OF MOURNING of four (4) weeks to commence at 0001 hours on Wednesday 4th December 2019 and concluding at midnight on Tuesday 31st December 2019.

9.2 During the period of mourning the following conditions, contained in the Australian Air League Inc. manual, Section 10, Paragraph 32, will apply:

- Officers, Trainee Officers and Warrant Officers will wear a band of black ribbon, 38mm wide, on the left sleeve, located halfway between the shoulder and elbow.
- Two lengths of black ribbon, 24mm wide and one-metre-long, will be fixed to the top of all Flag Pikes

Issued for and on behalf of the
Council of the Australian Air League Inc.



Chief Comr. Ian Rickards, OAM., LM., DSA and Bar., MSA
Chief Commissioner