



Remembrance Sunday, 8th November 2020

This Sunday we commemorate and honour those who have served and sacrificed, this year will be quieter than usual with the service at the cenotaph sadly but necessarily now being a closed ceremony.

At Patron we were looking forward to hosting a late lunch for a the contingent of Royal Marine veterans after their march past the cenotaph. Sadly, this is not to be, and these most distinguished, elderly gentlemen will now join with us in remembering fallen heroes by pausing for the customary two minute silence in their own homes or on their doorsteps.

Whilst we all struggle with the limitations on our lives imposed fighting our invisible enemy; COVID 19, it is important we remember the impact of the pandemic on those who continue to bear the physical and mental scars of combat, whose conditions are exacerbated by continuing lockdowns and the ability of charities to support them.

The Patron Armed Forces Initiative supports current or retired members of the British Armed Forces who continue to defend freedom and our way of life, and who are facing difficulties as a result of their service. Much of the work of this initiative is implemented through our partnership with *RMA – The Royal Marines Charity*. The Royal Marines are world famous as the UK's elite amphibious force but over the years, the Corps has suffered deaths and injuries hugely disproportionate to its size in the British Armed Forces.

RMA – The Royal Marines Charity's almost complete reliance on major events and community fundraising, meaning no significant income generation since March, is having a catastrophic impact. The impact of COVID 19 means **they are facing a £1.5 million a funding shortfall**; the Charity will be unable to operate through next year and critical support not being delivered to heroes who have committed their lives to service to our country.

Patron is working massively hard to help, most recently hosting a series of online, interactive briefing bringing together a select group of business and community leaders with elite British military commanders to discuss our current security landscape in the context of significantly increased volatility in global affairs; and taking the opportunity to raise wide awareness amongst business leaders of impact of COVID 19 on the veteran community and the fundraising crisis being faced by the charity supporting them.

Finally, we leave you with this powerful message set to the fantastic music of The Bands of HM Royal Marines which is part of the charity's "Lifting the Lid" campaign established recently to reach out to Royal Marines and their families struggling with mental health.

Sound of Silence:

<https://youtu.be/P16QFZjBfC0>