

Poppyscotland grant funds State-of-the Art Veterans' Accommodation

Poppyscotland, the veterans' charity behind the Scottish Poppy Appeal, has donated £2 million and the land necessary to build Erskine's new veterans' residency in Anniesland, Glasgow. The naming ceremony took place today (Tuesday 12 February).

The donated land was the site of Poppyscotland's veterans' home, Flanders House, from 1954-2005, after which one of the new units has been named. The new, state-of-the-art home will now be run by charity Erskine, after they received the grant and land from Poppyscotland. In recognition of this, one of the new wings has been named 'Flanders House Unit'.

Each resident will benefit from private en-suite rooms, wide ranging social activities and outings as well as physiotherapy and enhanced medical care. The grounds have been landscaped to create a picturesque, relaxing atmosphere and the home itself has been designed to be as comfortable and homely as possible. Visitors and family are welcome at all times and specialist services are available to meet all of the needs of its ex-Service residents.

Chief Executive of Poppyscotland, Jim Panton hopes that the new home will demonstrate the often highly specialist needs of the ex-Service community and will lead the way forward for the care of Scottish veterans.

He said: "Scotland's veterans deserve the very best and it is wonderful to think that we have played a part in offering that to some of our ex-Service men and women.

"This is a very happy event but we must remember the other veterans and their dependants who are not adequately served when they leave the armed forces. I hope that one day far more of these people can benefit from a high-standard of care, like that offered here at Anniesland."

Colonel Martin Gibson, CEO of Erskine, said: "We are hugely grateful to Poppyscotland for this generous donation. Ourselves and the residents here are delighted with the end result that has been accomplished."

Betty Richie, wife of one of Anniesland's residents summed up how she felt about the new home. She said: "This place has given my husband something he hadn't had for years-a life."

Poppyscotland provides a variety of support services to the veterans' community, from funding advice on pension claims, to providing direct financial assistance and grants to individuals. Last year, the organisation gave a record-breaking £2.4 million to help veterans and their dependants in Scotland.