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## We should save our future generations from terrorism - Secretary Defence

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Nalanda College, Colombo, paid tribute to old-Nalandians who had laid their lives during the past three decades in the battle against terrorism, at a War Hero commemoration event held at the College auditorium yesterday (August 02). The event was organized by the Old Boys Association of the Nalanda College.

This was the 8th War Hero commemoration organized at the College since 2002, in tribute for past Naladians both military and Police. Addressing a large gathering the Chief Guest, Secretary Defence Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, paid gratitude for 41 Naladians for their sacrifices made to save mother Lanka. Awards of Honor were also handed over for disabled Nalandians in tribute for the active service rendered. "On 02nd of August 2002, when the Nalanda Old Boys Association first took into organizing a war hero commemoration, all hopes of defeating terrorism militarily were blown away from this country. Both people and leaders of this nation were skeptic of defeating the LTTE, yet Nalanda College against all odds led the way organizing religious events and commemorations for those at the forefront", said Secretary Defence. The students, teachers and the Old Boys Association of Nalanda College should be commended for such initiative, he said. "41 war heroes from Nalanda have sacrificed their lives. This alma-mater has gifted mother Lanka with great sons in every profession. These heroes are not only serving in the military and police but also serving the mother Lanka and the entire world in the betterment of mankind", he further said. "For thirty years national leaders and governments of this country failed to end the scourge of LTTE terrorism, and President Mahinda Rajapaksa led this country to this ultimate feat and what more he is also a product of Nalanda", Secretary Defence said. "Today Nalanda has produced many gallant men for both the services and Police, including 92 Army Officers, 52 naval officers, 49 Air Force officers and 60 Police personnel. Over 25,000 brave men had laid their lives during the past three decades, while 5,000 were permanently disabled. Meanwhile, 6,000 military personnel have laid their lives since the launch of the humanitarian operations, while 20,000 sustained injuries, Secretary Defence said. "We should teach our youth and our children to love this country and make every effort to preserve the glory won by the valiant efforts of our gallant men and women. We should also save our future generations from terrorism", he further asserted. Chief incumbent of the Kotte Nagavihara, Ven. Maduluwawe Sobitha, Chief of Defence Staff General Sarath Fonseka, the tri-services Commanders and many distinguished guests were present at the occasion. Courtesy: defence.lk