



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

31 August 2022

Honorary Appointment - General Division - August 2022 (5)

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following appointment:

HONORARY MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION

Mr Alexander Johannes HUG, The Hague, the Netherlands
For significant service to Australian authorities following the
crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine.

By His Excellency's command

Paul Singer MVO

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

APPOINTED AN HONORARY MEMBER (AM)
IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Mr Alexander Johannes HUG, The Hague, the Netherlands

For significant service to Australian authorities following the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine.

Mr Alexander Hug, as the former Principal Deputy Chief Monitor of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine attached to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), provided invaluable assistance to Australian authorities following the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine which led to 298 deaths, including 38 Australians.

Within hours of the tragedy unfolding, Mr Hug had displayed great courage and compassion by deploying to the MH17 crash site with a small team of OSCE monitors. On many other occasions over the months required to recover human remains, their belongings and debris of the plane from the crash site, Mr Hug assisted the international recovery mission at considerable personal risk, including by being under direct fire.

Throughout this period Mr Hug's negotiation and diplomatic skills with armed formations in non-government-controlled areas were vital in ensuring that the international recovery mission was able to gain access to the MH17 crash site. At all times he offered his utmost cooperation to Australian Government officials. Indeed, his advice on the security situation in eastern Ukraine was critical to the success of the international recovery mission.

Mr Alexander Hug is worthy of formal national recognition with an appointment as an Honorary Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to Australian authorities following the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine.