



Veterans' Week 2013: Show You Remember

Each year, Canadians of all ages commemorate Veterans' Week by attending events and ceremonies. On November 11, we come together as a nation. We honour and remember Canada's Veterans. We commemorate the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

This year we recognize 2013 as the *Year of the Korean War Veteran* to pay tribute to the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Amistice. In honour of this important milestone, events and ceremonies are being held during

Veterans' Week that recognize the tremendous contributions of:

- the more than 26,000 Canadians who served in the Korean War
- the 516 who lost their lives during the conflict
- the 7,000 Canadians who continued to serve in a tense theatre of operations after the signing of the Armistice until late 1955 (Canadian troops remained in South Korea until 1957)

Visit veterans.gc.ca to find more information about commemorative events planned for your community. Check the Calendar of Events section where you can view events by province and community.

Many ways to remember online

If you use a mobile device or tablet, you can download the *Veterans Matter* app and explore educational materials, interactive web features, interviews with Canadian Veterans and much more.

Are you a member of Facebook? Why not join the more than 625,000 friends on the *Canada Remembers* Facebook page and download the Facebook app. You can also follow us on Twitter and YouTube. Share your thoughts and offer personal tributes to Canada's Veterans. Find all these and even more ways to remember during Veterans' Week at: veterans.gc.ca/iremember.



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Minister's Message



By any measure, Canada is a truly great and fortunate nation. A nation such as ours, with such an enviable way of life, doesn't just happen. It is built, first and foremost, on the hard work and sacrifice of the generations that came before us.

Each year at this time, Canadians gather in communities across Canada to remember. We proudly honour and remember the service of those who have worn a uniform for Canada and those who wear it today—those who returned home to their families, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

This year, the Government of Canada declared 2013 to be the Year of the Korean War Veteran. This is to pay special tribute to the thousands of Canadians who served so valiantly during the Korean War. It is a small but important gesture of tribute to those brave Canadians—the thousands who served and, in particular, the 516 who gave their lives. I would like to thank Senator Yonah Martin, a long-time advocate of this special recognition, for her work in recognizing Canadian Korean War Veterans.

Decades before the start of the Korean War, Canada's reputation as a nation prepared to serve and uphold democracy, freedom and the rule of law was already well established. On the battlefields of Europe and around the world, thousands of young Canadians have fought for causes they believed in to their last breath.

The year 2014 begins a multi-year campaign to honour the centennial of the First World War. The "war to end all wars" unfortunately

did not bring lasting peace. All too soon Canadians were called upon to once again defend the values of peace and freedom against tyranny and fear.

In the Second World War, Canadians again proved their well-earned reputation as a force to be reckoned with on the field of battle. Today, the battles at Dieppe, Ortona and Normandy take a place in history with Vimy Ridge among our nation's most significant military engagements.

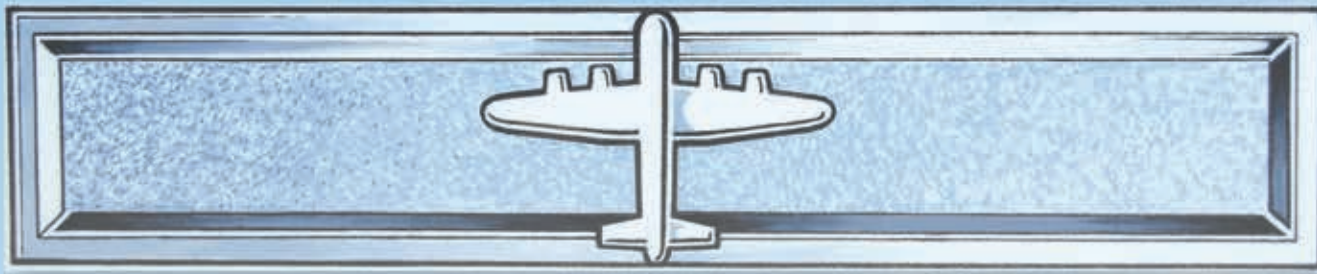
Canada's hard-won reputation for contributing to peace and security has been affirmed again and again all over the world—in Cyprus, the Balkans, Haiti, Afghanistan, and in other crucial places around the globe.

It is difficult to express in these few words the scope of what Canada's military has accomplished through the years. Canadians, though, continue to acknowledge the courage of the men and women who have served and defended our values. Such conflicts have tested our nation's resolve, and every time, Canada's service men and women have proven themselves. Citizens can take pride in the service and sacrifice of those who have served their nation and the world.

During Veterans' Week and all year long, we will remember them.

Hon. Julian Fantino, PC, MP

New Bar for Bomber Command Veterans



Second World War Veterans who served with Bomber Command or their next of kin can apply for a new honour. The Bomber Command Bar recognizes the contributions and bravery of those who served in the air campaign that played such an important role for the Allied victory in the Second World War.

This bar honours the Canadian airmen who fought for peace, freedom and democracy through their service in

Bomber Command, and in particular the approximately 10,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice. The bar can be attached to the ribbon of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal (CVSM). It was unveiled by the Government of Canada in April 2013.

All Canadian Veterans, regardless of rank, who were awarded the CVSM and served a minimum of one day with Bomber Command are eligible for the Bomber Command Bar. Family members of a

deceased Veteran who served in Bomber Command and received the CVSM may also apply to receive this bar.

How to make a request

Visit veterans.gc.ca to fill out and submit your application form. You can find the form by going to the website and searching for the “Canadians in Bomber Command” feature or by typing veterans.gc.ca/eng/collections/cmdp/bomber into your web browser. To get an application form by mail, call 1-866-522-2122.



The Memorial Ribbon Project

The death of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members is felt by Canadians across the country. But no one feels that loss more than family members and close friends.

The Memorial Ribbon has been created as a symbol of personal loss and sacrifice and was announced during Veterans' Week 2012. Up to five Memorial Ribbons can be issued to those who are close loved ones of a deceased CAF member and who are not already in receipt of a Memorial Cross.

Memorial Ribbons may be issued for any CAF member whose death is a result of a duty-related injury or illness sustained on or after October 1, 1947—the first date covered by the *Seventh Book of Remembrance*, which is dedicated to those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the Canadian Armed Forces.



The Memorial Ribbon is now part of what is known as the Memorial Package, which includes the Memorial Cross, the Memorial Scroll, the Memorial Bar, the Sacrifice Medal and the inscription of the deceased's name in the *Seventh Book of Remembrance*.

For more information on the Memorial Ribbon or to get an application form, please visit cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca and search for Directorate of Honours and Recognition. Then search for the Canadian Honours Chart that includes the Memorial Ribbon among the many CAF honours and awards. You can also contact the Memorial Ribbon project directly via e-mail at Ribbon.Ruban@forces.gc.ca or by calling 1-855-433-2976.

Journeys to Korea

As part of the Year of the Korean War Veteran, Veterans Affairs Canada participated in two important journeys to the Republic of Korea to remember the contributions of Canada and the United Nations (UN) in defending freedom and democracy. These excursions were undertaken to recognize the contributions of the UN forces and Canadians who fought for that nation's freedom more than 60 years ago.

April 22–27

Thirty-six Canadian Veterans travelled with then-Minister of Veterans Affairs Steven Blaney. They were on a five-day journey of remembrance to the Republic of Korea. Through a partnership between the Republic of Korea and Veterans Affairs Canada, the trip recognized the contributions of all Veterans who came to the aid of the people of South Korea more than 60 years ago. The South Korean government's Revisit Korea program also allows citizens to demonstrate first-hand their gratitude to the UN forces who fought for their freedom.

At a special reception, guests reminisced together over photos and heard stories of battles won and sacrifices made. For many of the Veterans this was the first time they had returned to the former battlegrounds where they had served. Special ceremonies of remembrance were held at the Canadian Korean War Memorial Garden in Naechon, near the site of the Battle of Kapyong; at the United Nations Memorial in Busan; and at the Republic of Korea War Memorial, where ANZAC Day was recognized in honour of Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought there. The journey also included visits to the Joint Security Area and two observation points.

"It was an honour to be a part of this journey back to the Republic of Korea with fellow Veterans from Canada," said Mr. Robert William MacDonald, Veteran of the Korean War. "It was an emotional visit, but I was truly pleased to see the tremendous progress of the country and its people."



July 25–30

In July, the Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs, was joined by Senator Yonah Martin as they led a delegation of Canadian Veterans on their return to the Republic of Korea to mark the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. The delegation participated in a range of commemorative events organized by both Canada and the Republic of Korea.

Events included a wreath-laying and traditional ash ceremony at the Seoul National Cemetery; the unveiling of a new Canadian monument at Korea's War Memorial dedicated to the Canadian military personnel who fought during the Korean War and to those who served after the Armistice between 1953 and 1957; a reception hosted by the Prime Minister of Korea; and the 60th anniversary commemoration of the Armistice Agreement held in Panmunjom.

A remembrance ceremony was also held at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, in Busan, to commemorate the 378 Canadian soldiers interred at the world's only UN memorial cemetery. The names of the 516 Canadian soldiers who died during the Korean War are written on the Wall of Remembrance at the cemetery.

Canada, as a member of the UN Armistice Commission, continues to help oversee compliance with the agreement. Of note, Canada is the only UN Sending State, aside from the United States, to have officers (there are five) embedded within the UN Command headquarters in Korea.



New Visitor Education Centre For Vimy

*To the valour of their countrymen in the Great War
and in memory of their sixty thousand dead
the people of Canada raise this monument*

Inscription on the Vimy Monument

The Battle of Vimy Ridge has great significance for Canadians. The valiant sacrifices and successful actions of the 100,000 young Canadians who fought there in April 1917 have a special place in our hearts and minds. The Canadian Corps gained control of this seven-kilometre ridge in Northern France, as part of the Battle of Arras during the First World War.

Remembering Canadians who gave their lives

Unveiled in 1936, the Canadian National Vimy Memorial stands as a tribute to the more than 650,000 Canadians who served during the First World War, particularly to those who gave their lives. Carved on the walls of the monument are the names of the 11,285 Canadian soldiers who were killed in France and whose final resting place was unknown.

Standing on the monument's wide stone terrace overlooking the broad fields and rolling hills of Northern France, one can see other places where Canadians fought and died. More than 7,000 Canadians are buried in 30 war cemeteries within a 20-kilometre radius of the memorial. Altogether, more

than 66,000 Canadians died fighting in the First World War.

The Memorial, designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1997, receives about 750,000 visitors annually. During its recent restoration, the original interpretive centre was closed and replaced by a temporary visitor centre which remains in use today. Construction of the new visitor centre is expected to be completed by the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 2017.

The Vimy Foundation

The Government of Canada and the Vimy Foundation are working together to establish a permanent visitor education centre. The Government of Canada has committed \$5 million, and the Vimy Foundation will raise the additional funds required through private donations by individuals and organizations.

The Vimy Foundation—**vimyfoundation.ca**—is a registered Canadian charity whose mission is to preserve and promote Canada's First World War legacy, specifically at Vimy Ridge.



The Great Wars: Canada’s Duty to Remember

In 2014, two important commemorative anniversaries will begin—the 100th anniversary of the onset of the First World War and the 75th anniversary of the onset of the Second World War. Over the next six years, Canadians will have many opportunities to come together to commemorate and honour those who gave so much to the cause of peace and freedom.

The mission

To express our nation’s gratitude and to honour Canada’s proud heritage in defending peace and freedom, the Government of Canada will lead events in Canada and internationally; partner with communities to host ceremonies and events; encourage Canadians to learn more about the contributions made by past and present members of their own communities; and find ways to simply say “thank you” to every Veteran they meet.

Veterans Affairs Canada will support commemorative ceremonies, offer classroom projects, and will reach out to Canadians through social media activities to underline these important anniversaries.

Defending freedom

Over the past century, Canadians made significant contributions to Allied efforts on the ground, at sea and in the air.

Our soldiers fought in many heroic struggles, from the historic battles of the

First World War such as those at the Somme, Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele, through the campaigns and battles of the Second World War such as the Dieppe Raid, the Italian Campaign, D-Day, and through to the liberation of the Netherlands.

Brave sailors—both the Merchant Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy—saw dangerous duty at sea. During the First World War, Canada’s small navy helped to defend both coasts from the German naval force. Canada’s significant and larger navy of the Second World War played a leading role in the ongoing Battle of the Atlantic. Controlling

the Atlantic allowed Canada and the United States to keep the vital flow of men and material moving to Europe throughout the war and in many ways was essential to the Allied victory.

Canadian airmen put their lives on the line, from the earliest days of fighter planes and aerial combat of the First World War, through to defending London from the German Blitz and serving with Bomber Command during the Second World War.

Remembering their sacrifices

Our nation’s enduring freedom has come at a great price. Of the more than 650,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who served during the First World War, more than 66,000 gave their lives and another 170,000 were wounded. In the Second World War, more than one million brave men and women served to fight against tyranny; more than 45,000 lost their lives and another 55,000 were wounded. Many Veterans who may not have suffered any physical injuries returned home from these wars deeply impacted by the loss and devastation they had witnessed and experienced.

We will remember them

All Canadians are urged to come together to honour those who have sacrificed to make our world a safer place. Mark this important time in our collective history and ensure the contributions made by our nation’s finest citizens are never forgotten.



An Emotional Return to Korea

Aimé Michaud had a very personal reason for returning to the Republic of Korea last April. Aimé was a warrant officer with the 1st Battalion of the Royal 22^e Régiment during the Korean War. He became close friends with Lance-Corporal Joseph Prieur, a fellow Quebecker who was a few years older than Aimé. The two became so close that they made a pact with each other. They promised that if one of them didn't make it back home, the other would share the details with the fallen man's family.

As fate would have it, Joseph was killed by a mortar explosion on Hill 226 in August 1952. Sadly, when Aimé returned to Canada, he was never able to track down Joseph's family. As Aimé told *The Canadian Press*, in an article carried in newspapers across the country, "I tried to contact his family, but at that time we had nothing electronic. I tried to have some help, but I failed."



Returning to South Korea—and the United Nations cemetery where Joseph is buried—was Mr. Michaud's way of trying to make amends. Aimé bought some white carnations on his way to the cemetery and then frantically searched for Joseph's grave. When he found his friend's final resting place, Aimé had tears in his eyes as he offered a simple but deeply emotional apology. "I'm sorry," he whispered, as he laid the flowers.

Certificate of Recognition

Canadian Veterans of the Korean War can now apply for a special certificate of recognition. To request a certificate, please call the Department or apply through the VAC website at veterans.gc.ca/Korea



Special Weekend for Korean War Veterans

In late June, Veterans Affairs Canada hosted a special weekend of activities in Ottawa as part of the Year of the Korean War Veteran. Veterans shared their stories with Canadians of all ages.

At the Canadian War Museum, the Korea 60 exhibit was unveiled on June 21. It brings to life the experiences of Canadians during the Korean War. Their stories, recollections and photos are preserved for generations to come.

"The photographs collected in this exhibit are like a window into our country's soul," said then-Minister of Veterans Affairs, Steven Blaney. "They express what mere words cannot. They help us to see that the Korean War was, and still is, much more than a chapter in our nation's history books."

Approximately 200 Veterans attended many other events and activities designed to honour them, which included:

- the launch of the photo exhibit at the Canadian War Museum;
- a ceremonial page turning of the *Korean War Book of Remembrance*;
- a reception hosted by the Governor General at Rideau Hall; and
- a national ceremony of remembrance at the National War Memorial.



How to Reach Us

Veterans Affairs Canada
Website: veterans.gc.ca
E-mail: information@vac-acc.gc.ca

Do you need information on services and benefits?

Note: When you call us, please have your VAC client number ready, if you have one.

Canada:

Phone: 1-866-522-2122 (English)

Phone: 1-866-522-2022 (French)

United States:

Phone: 1-888-996-2242

United Kingdom, Germany, France, or Belgium:

Phone: 00-800-996-22421

Any other country:

Phone: 613-996-2242

Do you need information on disability benefit decisions or how to request a review or an appeal?

Call the Bureau of Pensions Advocates (BPA) at: 1-877-228-2250

Do you need information on remembrance programming?

Phone: 1-866-522-2122 (English)

Phone: 1-866-522-2022 (French)

Phone: 1-800-465-7735 (Hearing Impaired)

Veterans Review and Appeal Board

PO Box 9900

Charlottetown PE C1A 8V7

Phone: 1-800-450-8006

Outside Canada:

Phone: 902-566-8751

Website: www.vrab-tacra.gc.ca

Funeral and Burial Information

Last Post Fund

Phone: 1-800-465-7113

Website: www.lastpostfund.ca

VAC Assistance Line

Confidential, professional counselling 24/7

Phone: 1-800-268-7708

Office of the Veterans Ombudsman

Mailing Address:

Veterans Ombudsman

PO Box 18 Stn B

Ottawa ON K1P 6C3

Phone: 1-877-330-4343

Outside Canada: 902-626-2919

Fax: 902-566-7582

Website: www.ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca

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Veterans' Week events and activities