



On May 31, 2012, motorcyclists from five countries participating in the Ride to Remember on Parliament Hill rode on to the site of the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial in Trenton, Ontario, to pay tribute to Canada's Fallen Heroes. Member of Parliament Peter Goldring was asked to give the keynote address at both ceremonies. Below are his reflections.

When I was first approached by Howard Galganov of the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance to become involved in the annual Ride to Remember I wanted to ensure that the trip to Canada would be a meaningful experience for the bikers.

The Ride to Remember (R2R) was started in 2005 as an annual event in which Jewish motorcyclists in the United States would ride to remember those murdered in the Holocaust, and to raise awareness for Holocaust education. The 2012 Ride to Remember was the first to take place outside the United States.

In addition to planning a ceremony on Parliament Hill where those on the ride and the public could join in pledging "Never Again" to the Holocaust and world genocide, I thought it would be appropriate, since many of those riding would be military veterans, to plan an event at Canadian Forces Base Trenton as the riders would be in that area on their route to Toronto. Bain Park, where the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial is to be constructed is next to CFB Trenton and was an ideal location.



Mr. Goldring addresses the assembly of veterans, Christian and Jewish clergy, international representatives, and troops in Trenton, Ontario at the site of the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial.

While discussing this planned ride with Chief Warrant Officer Sandor Gyuk, he informed me of the Heroes Highway Ride that was also being planned by Lou Devuono, that runs from CFB Trenton to Toronto to pay tribute to Canada's soldiers. I passed on his name and number to Howard Galganov and when Lou was contacted he immediately said he and his riders wanted to get involved in both events. Lou led a contingent to Ottawa to take part



in the “Never Again” Holocaust remembrance ceremony held there on the morning of May 31 and I drove his Heroes Highway van onto the Hill. Louthen led all the bikes through Ottawa to the highway and on to Trenton.

The Trenton ceremony was similar in format to the one in Ottawa, with prayers and speakers. The difference was the focus. As a former member of the Royal Canadian Air Force I could not help but be moved by the gathering in the park. In the morning we had remembered the millions who died in the horror of the Holocaust and pledged “Never Again.” In the afternoon we remembered the 158 Canadians who have died in the Afghanistan conflict to date, a reminder that death is not only a statistic, each person who dies is an individual, each life has meaning, especially to the family and friends of those who died.

The Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial will be a beautiful, permanent memorial honoring the Canadian men and women who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom in the war in Afghanistan. Bain Park is located on the beautiful Bay of Quinte near to CFB Trenton, Canada’s largest Air Force base, which is the beginning of our fallen soldiers’

journey along the Highway of Heroes, from Trenton to Toronto. Thousands of Canadians line the many overpasses over Highway 401 to pay tribute to those killed in action and witness the motorcades on their way to Toronto.

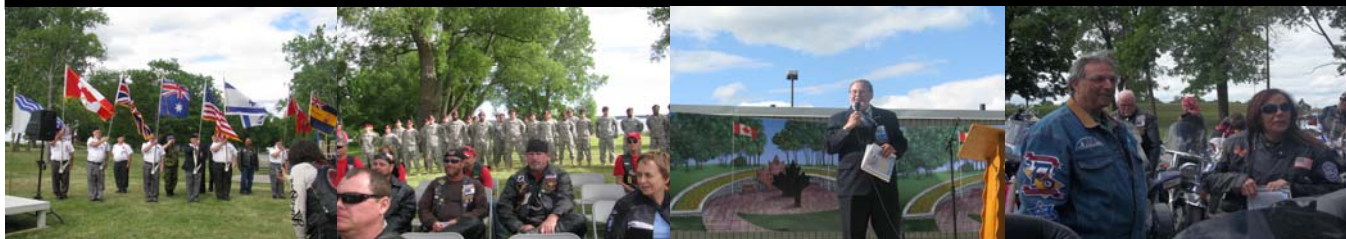
The Memorial’s design was selected from many entries. Construction of the project is not a government initiative but the work of individuals, companies and organizations from across Canada who want to honour and recognize the loss of sons, daughters, husbands, wives, fathers and mothers who paid the ultimate sacrifice serving Canada, working to bring freedom to the people of Afghanistan. Funded mostly by small, probate donations, the Memorial’s final cost will be \$1.5

million. The Royal Canadian Mint has shown its support by allocating some of the proceeds from the sale of its Highway of Heroes coin to the Memorial.

The Memorial site in Bain Park will be approached by a walkway from a dedicated parking area off Highway 2 on the east side of Trenton at RCAF Road alongside the base. The Monument itself will be located in a quiet and reflective low walled area which will contain two large granite maple leaves. A



Mp Peter Goldring stands with Mayor John Williams of Quinte West, whose support helped to make R2R such a great success at Bain Park.



red granite maple leaf will be inscribed with the Canadian Forces emblem and Provincial shields. The other maple leaf will be black granite showing a family's loss: a solitary soldier etched in black granite and contains the names of those who have died in the conflict.

The Memorial site is designed to encourage reflection and contemplation. There will be two granite benches within the Memorial's circular form to provide seating for those who come to reflect and enjoy the peace and beauty of the site and park.

As well as the monuments, flags and walkways, the Memorial will be professionally landscaped with shrubbery, plants, flowers and trees. It will also be lighted and maintained year round.

Following is the text of my speech given at Bain Park on May 31, 2012:

Soon a beautiful memorial will be erected in this park. I'm reminded of another memorial, one that my office raised funds to erect.

For those of you who have visited Ortona, Italy, you may have seen life-sized sculpture (monument) entitled "The Price of Peace" in a plaza near where 17 members of the Loyal Edmonton Regiment died in a mined house.

I have a massive 60 lb miniature of this beautiful sculpture and displayed it in Parliament with the artist present.

The sculpture is of two Canadian soldiers – no weapons – full uniform detail – one lying dead and the other bent over him in great grief.

Now the story:

Last November I had to cancel my direct flight from Ottawa to Edmonton due to a vote and left instead the next morning through Toronto, transferring planes.

I had brought a replica of the "Price of Peace" sculpture for a special Remembrance Day ceremony and speech at Queen Elizabeth High school connected with several other schools across Can-

ada.

But this sculpture would not be alone in the hold of the plane.

The remains of a Master Corporal was boarded as well. This beautiful portrayal entitled "The Price of Peace" unplanned and unorchestrated was boarded in Toronto accompanying, giving spiritual comfort to the Master Corporal in the hold of Flight 177, his final flight, returning home to his family



Mr. Goldring greets the American Troops assembled at the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial in Bain Park showing their respect.

in Edmonton.

This is reality. This is life and death – for our country, for our beliefs, for our freedoms – the true Price of Peace.

The importance of this message is simple. Memorials such as the one planned here at the foot of the runway bringing the fallen home – on the roadway route that the procession will pass to the Highway of Heroes is significant to the military and to the public,

Undoubtedly, this memorial will be treated with reverence every bit as much as that Memorial to Canada’s soldiers in Ortona, Italy where the citizens of Ortona lay flowers daily

in gratitude for Canada’s “Price of Peace”, bringing about victory in Europe.

Of significance to the riders from five countries there also were in attendance some 50 United States Army regulars from Tennessee who were at CFB Trenton for training. It was my pleasure to personally thank each and every one of them for their attendance.

UPDATE: For more information about the Afghanistan Repatriation Memorial go to: www.afghanistanmemorial.ca

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This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.



Your Opinion Matters...

Question #1 Do you think it was significant for Christian, Jewish (and other) bikers to come together for this purpose?


Yes No

Question #2 Do you think the Memorial is more meaningful because the money for it comes from individuals and not from the government?

Yes No

Comments: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 Postal Code: _____
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