



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Each year, on November 11, Canadians pause at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month to remember the great sacrifices that were made for them and for their country by Canada's war Veterans. This moment in time taken to honour and respect our men and women who have served in uniform for Canada is of great importance.

Traditionally, I have celebrated Remembrance Day in the same fashion for the vast majority of the time I have spent as the Member of Parliament for Edmonton East. On nearly every Remembrance Day dating back to 1997, I find myself on most often bitter cold early winter days paying tribute on the grounds in front of the Beverly Cenotaph. The only year I was not in attendance at the Beverly Cenotaph's Remembrance Day Ceremony was in 1998 when I was asked to be the representative from the Official Opposition party at the Parliament Hill ceremony.

It is always an honour and a privilege to take part in the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Beverly Cenotaph. This Cenotaph has a special place in the hearts of not only many Edmontonians, but many Canadians from right across the country. The Beverly Cenotaph is the oldest war memorial in Alberta, and one of the earliest in Canada. Originally erected in 1920, this cenotaph was built as a reminder of the members of the Beverly community that were lost in the Great War.



Peter is honoured to be asked to give special greetings to those assembled at the Beverly Cenotaph each year.

Since 1920, names and plaques have been added on to the Beverly Cenotaph, commemorating those citizens who perished in the Second World War as well as the Korean War.

What started out as a modest turn out of Beverly citizens on Remembrance Day in 1920 has morphed into one of Edmonton's largest Remembrance Day gatherings.

This past Remembrance Day, over 1,500 citizens from across Edmonton came out to



pay their respects to Canada's War Veterans. The largest, of course, is indoors for warmth, away from the elements in the University of Alberta Butterdome, where regularly some 5,000 gather.

This year, I also had the privilege of being invited to a Remembrance Day Ceremony that was being held by the Kingsway Legion, which had recently opened a new location within the riding of Edmonton East. At this inaugural ceremony, the Kingsway Legion was rededicating their cenotaph at their new location.

Although I truly wish I could have been two people to have been able to be in attendance at both of these Remembrance Day Ceremonies, I was only able to attend one. As I had a prior commitment to attend the Remembrance Day Ceremony held at the Beverly Cenotaph, my wife, Lorraine, did an admirable job as my representative at the Kingsway Legion's Remembrance Day Ceremony.

The common denominator of these ceremonies, and of all Remembrance Day Ceremonies around Canada, is the respect and thanks we send to our Canadian Veterans and troops for their bravery and sacrifices.

This highlights the vast importance of taking the time on Remembrance Day to participate

in one of the countless ceremonies that take part across Canada. It affirms the pride and thanks we have for our troops and all they have accomplished to ensure Canada is a land of freedom and equality.

Below is the text in full which Lorraine and I delivered at the Beverly and Kingsway Legion Remembrance Day Ceremonies:

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Of the many assembled for Remembrance Day, dozens of community groups such as the Knights of Columbus, place wreaths of remembrance on the Beverly Cenotaph.

*Clergy, Veterans, Military, Cadets, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls.*

*The Beverly Cenotaph, the oldest Cenotaph in Alberta, and the new Kingsway Legion Cenotaph, stand as a testimonial to our need to memorialize the supreme war effort and human toll of our veterans and war dead; a place to gather for*

*personal reflection and to show respect for those who have served our country and those who have fallen.*

*In my parliamentary role, I have been honoured to have travelled with Veterans back to former battlefields and war graves throughout Europe and Korea. I am deeply moved by their moments of reflective grief for their comrades they left behind so far from home, so long ago. When they pause at the headstone of a lost friend, in remorse*





*they exclaim, "There by the grace of God go I, but, why, why wasn't it me?"*

*One significant difference to previous wars is that today our fallen are returned.*

*Over 100,000 who fell in wars past did not, with the sole exception borne to Ottawa aboard an Air Force plane that I was on with some 200 others, in May 2000.*

*To a man, to a woman on board, the mission was of the utmost importance. We were returning to Canada, to Ottawa, the precious remains, in the hold, of an Unknown Soldier, to rest forever at the National War Memorial.*

*The flight from Vimy Ridge to Ottawa was somber – reflective.*

*Today I can only imagine the sense of great respect and privilege of being present*

*as Captain, crew and fellow soldiers, in pensive thought with their fallen comrade on board, as they wing their way on the long journey from Afghanistan to Base Trenton and home, slipping through space and time far above the clouds at 30,000 feet.*

***Where never Lark nor eagle flew and, while with silent lifting mind, I've trod the high untrespassed sanctity of space, put out my hand and touched the face of God. – To quote a line from High Flight, in a***

*manner never imagined by its author.*

*A new monument was dedicated just yesterday in Bain Park, in the pathway of Base Trenton's runway. This repatriation memorial commemorates the journey home taken by nearly 160 to date. From the aircraft ramp ceremony, past Bain Park, the procession slips somberly by and under bridges of the 401 Highway, the Highway of Heroes,*

*where thousands have gathered upon the overpasses to give final respects. They are firemen, police, housewives, men, women, and children – all mostly strangers – waiting hours, waving flags and giving silent prayer in the passing of the procession to Toronto, preparing for their final journey to towns and villages across our great land.*



This year the Beverly Cenotaph saw an early winter with cold and snow but still hosted some 1,500, young and old, who came out in remembrance.

*Today, we too have gathered here at this, Alberta's oldest Cenotaph, in Beverly, that represents so much to us all, to give our greatest respect to:*

*Those that serve or have served*

*To the families of who all share in the duty of service and who grieve lost members and friends*

*To those who are suffering lifelong injuries to body and soul*

*To those who have fallen*

*The words from "In Flanders Fields" are carved on the walls of the House of Commons and are enduring as is the threat of future war.*

***"If ye break faith with us who died, we shall not sleep"***

*We must never forget.*



**UPDATE:** Peter and wife Lorraine commend the organizers of both the Beverly as well as the Kingsway Legion Remembrance Day Ceremonies, as they were both a fitting tribute to the Canadian men and women who have fought, and perished, to preserve Canada's rights and freedoms.

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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** Did you partake in a Remembrance Day ceremony this year?

Yes

No

**Question #2** Do you feel enough is being done to honour the men and women who serve in uniform for Canada?

Yes

No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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