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Wild Rose

Wild Rose Report

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SACRIFICES, BRAVERY OF OUR SOLDIERS AND VETERANS CONTINUALLY INSPIRE

Canada's war veterans have always been the personification of bravery and selflessness. My own grandfather served in World War 2 and I see the strength of his character reflected in all of our military veterans' service, from both world wars to all conflicts since.

Whenever and wherever they have fought in defence of our freedoms, Canadian soldiers have always distinguished themselves and have many lessons to teach us about the true meaning of honour, integrity, sacrifice and patriotism. Every November 11th we outwardly express the appreciation that we have throughout the year for those who have placed themselves in harm's way to protect the values that Canadians hold dear.

We live in a time when Canadians are again being asked to put their lives on the line in our defence. Tragically, 158 members of the Canadian Forces have paid the ultimate price in Afghanistan and hundreds more have returned wounded and injured. All who have served in modern times are Canada's new veterans and join the respected ranks of those who went before them.

With each year, we lose more of our World War 2 veterans and the lessons of their experiences are also at risk of passing away. That is why I am a big booster of the Memory Project: an initiative of the Historica-Dominion Institute to record the memories of World War 2 veterans for future generations.

Last year I invited the Memory Project to our constituency. As a result dozens of veterans in Alberta have recorded their experiences for this invaluable national digital archive. I urge you to read these first-hand accounts of the valour and bravery these men and women displayed. It is inspiring to read about the wars from the perspective of the Canadians who fought in them, especially as we draw nearer to Remembrance Day. These stories are online at thememoryproject.com for people to learn from and enjoy.

On Remembrance Day, I urge all Canadians to take time to reflect and to say 'thank you' to all of those who have served, and continue to serve our great country for their bravery, their commitment and their sacrifice.