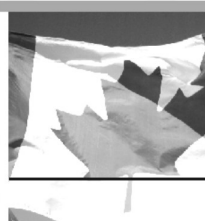


Brian MASSE

M.P. Windsor West



WINDSOR WEST UPDATE

November 2009



Dear Friends,

Veterans' Week, November 5 to 11, is a time for all Canadians to honour the selfless dedication of those who have served in times of war, military conflict and peace. We also honour those who continue to serve our country around the world. These men and women are upholding a noble Canadian tradition by taking an active role in bringing stability and peace to parts of the world that have seen turmoil and upheaval.

During Veterans' Week 2009, Canadians from coast to coast to coast will show pride and gratitude for our Veterans as events and activities take place across the country in their honour. All Canadians, especially youth, are urged to take an active role in remembrance. There are many ways to get involved. Talk to a Veteran. Visit our cenotaph. Read a book on our Veterans' great sacrifices and achievements. **Attend the Remembrance Day ceremony in Windsor and bring a family member, friend or neighbour.**

When Canadians participate in commemorative events, we take up the torch of remembrance. As a result, we can rest assured that future generations will continue to commemorate those who helped shape Canada as a nation.

Yours truly,

Right: Brian Masse M.P. remembers at the Windsor cenotaph.



Teachers and parents, did you know that there are educational resources available to help you and your children learn about and remember Canada's role in the world?

There are postcards to send to our soldiers in Afghanistan, interactive games, recipes, and more! You can download information online at: www.vac.gc.ca or call my constituency office at (519) 255-1631 and we will get this information to you at your request.

Lest we forget.

You're invited!
Join our local veterans to remember at Windsor City Hall Square Cenotaph this Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

Masse.b@parl.gc.ca

www.brianmasse.ca

REMEMBERING OUR LOCAL HEROES

VERNA M. (IRISH) KAVANAUGH

Canadian Women's Army Corps.—Driver W—1405

Ms. Kavanaugh enlisted in the C.W.A.C. in 1942 at 21 years of age after watching a Precision Drill Squad of C.W.A.C.s, she signed up immediately that day.

POSTINGS

1st London, ON in civvies waiting for uniforms, etc.
2nd Kitchener, ON for basic training – also (D & M) Driver & Mechanics course
3rd Kemptville, ON as a driver
4th Brockville, ON as Hut Corporal
5th Kingston, ON – Artillery Park, as a driver
6th Kitchener, ON, for medical shots overseas
7th Aldershot, England, as a driver
8th Farnborough, England, as an ambulance driver, ferrying wounded personnel from planes, ships, and trains returning from Europe to hospitals in England. This was a very rewarding job for Ms. Kavanaugh as she had lost a young brother, 19 years of age in a battle in Germany.

Ms. Kavanaugh cared for Peanut Peewee, the canine mascot at the C.W.A.C. Centre in Kemptville, ON. The girls would take care of him, and as they moved onto further duties elsewhere, Peewee stayed on and was taken care of by the next group, with one girl responsible for him. He was a faithful friend to all.

Ms. Kavanaugh returned to Canada in 1946 and discharged the same year, “older and much wiser”.



Women in the Air

In the Second World War, Canadian women were not allowed become pilots in the Royal Canadian Air Force. However, many Canadian women did fly as part of the Royal Air Force during WWII as part of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA).

The ATA's motto, *Aetheris Avidi, Eager for the Air*, aptly describes this legion of trailblazers who were willing to leave the safety and security of their homes and countries to volunteer to help the RAF and its allies achieve victory over the skies of Europe.

The ATA was established in 1939 to transport mail and supplies for the British military, however, it soon expanded to include transporting warplanes, over 300,000 in all. All together, 1,300 men and 166 women served with the ATA, including a handful of Canadians.

Pauline Gower (pictured left) set up the first all-female air taxi service. By the start of WWII she was an acclaimed aviator and flying instructor and was invited to set up the women's section of the ATA.

