

# Brian MASSE

M.P. Windsor West



WINDSOR WEST UPDATE

November 2016

**BRIAN MASSE—YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA**



“Without freedom there can be no ensuring peace and without peace no enduring freedom.”

*~King George VI at the dedication of the National War Memorial (Ottawa, May 21, 1939)*

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Dear Friends,

Remembrance Day is upon us again. Please find a special profile on the back page to honour and remember our veterans.

In the month of November there are several ways that we can pay special tribute. Wearing a poppy became a clear symbol of commemoration since the immediate aftermath of the WWI. It is a good way to show solidarity with our veterans and pride in our Canada.

Private reflection of silence for two minutes is also a common way of remembering on November 11th of every year. This opportunity for reflection allows us to think about family, our local heroes lost and returned, and those who serve today. Another way to remember is to visit the numerous memorials that have been erected in the city and county that are in many instances the only memory that we have of many soldiers.

I would like to send a special thank you to all veterans of Windsor. Please take the time to thank our veterans, and remember them and our lost heroes not only on Remembrance Day, but every day.

If you are able, I encourage everyone to attend this year's Remembrance Day ceremony held at the cenotaph in City Hall Square at 11:00 a.m., on November 11, 2016. All are welcome to come and see a very moving ceremony that shows our commitment to Windsor, Ontario and Canada. I hope to see you there.

*This November 11, 2016*

*Windsor City Hall Square Cenotaph*

*at 11:00 a.m.*

# REMEMBERING OUR HEROES

## *A Veteran's Voice Is a Legacy*

At 11am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back. The Germans called for an armistice in order to secure a peace settlement accepting the allied terms of unconditional surrender.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month attained a special significance in the post-war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. The allied nations chose this day and time for the commemoration of their war dead.

On the first anniversary of the armistice, 11 November 1919, the two minutes' silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony in London, England. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice "which stayed the world wide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of "Right and Freedom."

Veterans representing all theatres of conflict and peace-keeping missions gave so much and asked for so little in return and not enough can be said or done to remember and honour all who served their country. They did so, with an uncommon valor and battle skill that brought them the decorations they so richly deserved. Battles lost. Victories gained.

Not a day goes by that we are not saddened by the passing of a Veteran. With them goes another voice silenced ever more; closing another chapter of their memories of service. Hearing our Veterans speak brings home their real life experiences from the battlefields and foxholes, the trenches; from the air, on the seas, in hospitals and from the grave sites reminds us of the important roles that our Veterans played (and continue to play) to ensure that our freedom was worth the fight!

We honour and remember our Veterans who left home and families with a heart-felt passion to serve their country fighting across the war-torn battlefields of Europe. Although separated by language, culture and customs our Veterans of every background and branches of our Canadian Forces who embrace the tradition of remembrance in their own private way are united the world over with thoughts of the fallen.

Our Veterans have been recognized as *staunch* advocates for garnering respect for the fallen to ensure that society continues to be a part of an everyday learning experience by taking an active role in remembrance. Our Veterans appear at a number of memorial functions and dedications not just to be recognized for their years of military service but moreso to help educate the public that there is a price to pay for freedom.

Our Veterans support their Legions, visit the frail and elderly in nursing homes and hospitals; attend memorial services and pay their respects at funerals; they speak to students and preside at swearing in ceremonies for new Canadians speaking not what war took away but what it gave to Canada!

Wars touched the lives of Canadians of all ages, all races, and all social classes. Fathers, sons, daughters, wives, sisters, brothers, sweethearts were killed in action, were wounded, and many of those who returned had their lives forever changed.

In this season of remembrance, when we listen most intently for their voices, the Veterans of the Second World War are falling silent. Wherever you are, stand to honour and to acknowledge the courage and gallantry of all who served and carry in your hearts the memory of all who rest eternally on foreign soil. It is our duty to

remember - to charge upcoming generations to respect our Veterans; to listen to them speak, to share their bittersweet memories of service. Our Veterans are to be gratefully thanked time and time again for speaking on the history of their military service, for their courage and valour serving *on the front* of global conflicts but foremost, for their contributions and achievements made so that society could enjoy those basic freedoms today.

## *We Will Remember Them*

Appreciation to Andrea for this submission      Courtesy of **ANDREA GRIMES**



**Brian with Veteran  
Larry Costello**



**Brian with Veteran Bob Kelly**

