

contributed to this place and to what it should be all about—passion, intelligence, commitment to the well-being of the people he represented. No one at his time in this House has done it better.

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie, Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart, is no more. He died with dignity and courage, as we always knew him. To his wife Pierrette, his daughters Nathalie and Sylvie, all members of his family, especially his sisters, and indeed his close friend Georges Boudreau, we extend our deepest sympathies.

The Leader of the Opposition, on behalf of the Liberal Party of Canada, paid him a very eloquent tribute. I would like simply, and in all humility, as a Member of Parliament from Quebec, to testify to the great place Jean-Claude Malépart always had on the Quebec political scene, although Jean-Claude viewed himself as an ordinary citizen. But in many respects he was an extraordinary citizen whose involvement in social matters was of tremendous service to thousands of his fellow citizens, and whose fiery speeches in the House of Commons influenced governments, both Liberal and Conservative, to better care for the needy in our society.

I knew him in the early 70's when I was minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and he applied to my department for a grant for his *Centre d'information communautaire et de dépannage*. This was of course before he got into politics. I was immediately conquered by the man and his work. Needless to say he got his grant, and of course he deserved it because his claims never were of a personal nature. They were always for the defenseless and the needy

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Respect for others and their dignity was important to him. All his life he found ways to help people in need without humiliating them, without embarrassing them. He therefore leaves, not only in Quebec but across Canada, admirers who will miss him and remain very grateful to him.

In Parliament, his departure certainly will leave a very great void. We very much will miss that friend, that colleague we all loved and admired, irrespective of

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political allegiance, because Jean-Claude was much more than a party member, he was above all a true defender of great and beautiful causes. On his hospital bed he had this to say about himself: "I never lived for Jean-Claude Malépart because I needed reasons to live."

Till the end he gave us examples of his relentlessness, courage, abnegation and dedication. We will miss him deeply for a very long time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, as a private member of the party opposite, I would like to say a few words on the occasion of the death of Jean-Claude Malépart, a noble-hearted man who had the courage of his convictions.

I was very saddened by the death of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie, Jean-Claude Malépart, with whom I had the honour to travel for a week just two years ago.

His illness took us by surprise. A kind and brave man, Jean-Claude Malépart had the respect of french-speaking Members of Parliament in Ottawa for his ideas and his courage. He said out loud what many thought privately. And, despite our political differences, he was one of the members I felt closest to. It almost seems as if I have lost an ally in the House of Commons. He fought his battles and I fought mine.

I had supported him in his battle against deindexation of old age security pensions, he had endorsed my anti-scab bill and my battle to champion the cause of the french fact in Quebec. We also shared the same faith in Quebec society, its values and its people.

The GST and the Meech Lake Accord were his last great battles. He may have lost his fight against cancer but he won the respect of each and everyone.

In Jean-Claude Malépart, Quebecers have lost one of their most ardent champions. I wish to offer my sincere condolences to his wife and his two daughters.

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the death of a colleague, of a friend, of a fellow parliamentarian who had and will always have a special place in our hearts.

Over the years the House has been the public forum of gifted speakers, discriminate intellectuals and elected members possessed of unmistakable leadership qualities.