

Tributes

and understanding of my wife and daughters, I would never have been able to fight my battles and especially, I would have never been able to win them". We also wish to thank Pierrette, Sylvie and Nathalie for being so generous and letting us have Jean-Claude.

Many people will remember that for them, Jean-Claude Malépart made the difference. That is why thousands and thousands of Canadian men and women throughout the country now mourn, with his family and with us, the man who defended them so valiantly.

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, to begin with, I would like to offer again our most sincere condolences, on behalf of the Government of Canada and all members of the Conservative caucus, as well as personally, to the family of our colleague, the Hon. Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie, Jean-Claude Malépart.

Mr. Speaker, we all know already that his absence will be keenly felt by his colleagues in the House of Commons. Indeed, the passing of this accomplished parliamentarian will be felt far beyond this Chamber.

Throughout the time he spent here, as well as in the Quebec National Assembly, for he represented his riding in both legislatures, the Hon. Member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie never forgot the main reason he was in politics, which was to defend the interests of those who knew him so well. A hard worker, he very soon earned everyone's respect.

On both sides of the House, we very quickly noticed an exceptional Member of Parliament, one who said out loud that he did not want to be a minister, so that he could remain concerned with those who chose him. He made a point of personally looking after all matters that came before him in his riding.

He cooperated with everyone. The constituents of Laurier—Sainte-Marie are not the only ones in mourning. With his strong commitments and enthusiastic personality, he won the hearts of many Canadians. He had a deep sense of the dignity of the most humble in society and an authority that let him keep everything in perspective.

I am told that he fought the good fight right till the end. No one here can doubt it because he fought for his people until the last minute and his work was just that—fighting.

Mr. Speaker, he fought for his constituents in his riding and he fought for his province. He fought here in this House; he fought for his country. For that, I believe that we must respect and pay tribute to Jean-Claude Malépart for all the work he did over the years.

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): On behalf of my fellow members from the New Democratic Party, I would like to pay tribute to Jean-Claude Malépart. The career of that warm, exceptional member was marked by significant struggles. His steadfastness on the issue of senior citizens' pensions earned him the reputation of being the champion of social rights, just as his strenuous work on the *Comité de relance de l'Est de Montréal* helped address the economic situation of that underprivileged area. But in his constituency, surely the establishment of the *Centre d'information communautaire et de dépannage* will remain his most significant achievement. Even after he was elected in this place, he went on fighting passionately for the have-nots in our society and more specifically in his own area.

He also fought relentlessly on behalf of Quebecers, as well as for the recognition of their place in Canada.

[English]

Jean-Claude Malépart was an exceptional Quebecer and an exceptional Canadian. He worked day in and day out, for the poor, principally who needed a spokesperson at all times in his area, in his province, but indeed, for the poor all over Canada. He was an effective voice in this Chamber.

At the same time it was in his last speech in the House that he drew the attention of English Canada to the importance, at this point in our history, of recognizing the distinctiveness of the province of Quebec. He was a passionate Quebecer and a passionate Canadian and he wanted, to the end, to be able to see himself in these two categories.

We as members from all Parties of the House of Commons send our deepest sympathy to his wife and to his two daughters. We take no pleasure but a great deal of sadness in recognizing the passing of a man who