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THE DEATH OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL VANIER

Canada mourns this week the passing of its Governor General, His Excellency Georges P. Vanier, who died of a heart attack on March 5 at Government House in Ottawa.

General Vanier, Canada's second native-born Governor General (the first having been his predecessor in office, the Right Honourable Vincent Massey) was appointed in September 1959 at the age of 71. Because of his habit of travelling tirelessly from one end of the country to the other, the late Governor General became perhaps one of the best-known of Canada's viceroys.

Georges Philias Vanier was born in Montreal in 1888, of French-Canadian and Irish descent. In 1921 he married Pauline Archer, the daughter of the late Mr. Justice Charles Archer. General Vanier is survived by Madame Vanier, a daughter and four sons.

MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC CAREER

The late Governor General was aide-de-camp to two former Governors-General of Canada, Lord Byng (from 1921 to 1922) and Lord Willingdon (from 1926-1928). At the outbreak of the First World War, he helped organize the 22nd Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, which was later renamed the Royal 22nd Regiment and became familiarly known as the "Van Doos". Having lost a leg in action, he was awarded the Military Cross with Bar and was made a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honour.

Between the two world wars, Mr. Vanier combined a military with a diplomatic career, and served on many international bodies.

In 1939, Mr. Vanier was appointed Canada's first Minister to France. After the Second World War, he

returned to Paris with the rank of ambassador. He retired from the diplomatic service in 1953.

As the Governor General, General Vanier was the commander-in-chief of the Canadian forces.

TRIBUTE BY THE PRIME MINISTER

In a tribute to the late Governor General, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson said:

"We mourn today, deeply and sincerely, the loss of our Governor General.

"In its 100 years, Canada has had no more devoted and courageous a servant than General Georges Philias Vanier. His whole life is the shining record of that service. He never failed any test of duty, in peace or war. He was indeed the "good and faithful servant".

"General Vanier was a descendant of one of Canada's first French settlers. His pride in ancestry was exceeded only by his love of the Canada of today and his passionate belief in its unity and its destiny. He was in truth a man for all Canada.

"Tomorrow, the representatives of the people of Canada in Parliament assembled will pay tribute to a great patriot and a fine Christian gentleman; who embodied in his own person and in his own life and character all that is best in our country and all that we hope for it.

"We think also today of Madame Vanier and her family.

"Madame Vanier was a perfect partner for our Governor General and her graciousness and kindness and goodness made her loved by everyone who knew or met her.

"We send to her and the members of her family our deepest sympathy."