

A LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF CANADA

Peter Harder, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered a eulogy for Canadian diplomat Glyn Berry that highlighted Mr. Berry's career, the demands of the foreign service and Canada's commitment in Afghanistan. Mr. Berry was tragically killed and three Canadian soldiers wounded in a terrorist attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan, on January 15, 2006. Mr. Berry joined the foreign service in 1977 and was posted to Norway, Washington, Cuba, London, Pakistan and Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Last summer, he was named Political Director of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (see *CWV Issue 27, Autumn 2005*). Mr. Harder was among those who paid tribute to Mr. Berry at a funeral with full military honours in London, England, on January 26. Mr. Berry was buried in his native Wales; he leaves his wife Valerie and sons Gareth and Rhys. The following excerpts Mr. Harder's remarks.



photo: EAC

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Peter Harder

The foreign service constitutes an extended family. In the course of a foreign service career, we work together and live together. Our children grow up together as we grow older together. Today, Canada's foreign service is serving in more and more dangerous places, and Glyn Berry's death reminds us that the obligations of family demand we do everything in our power to keep each other safe.

Glyn had a distinguished career, but it did not follow the normal trajectory. For most of us, the time of greatest adventure comes at the beginning of our professional lives. Then, over the years, we settle into a more comfortable pattern. As our careers advance, our memories of youthful excitement grow ever-more vivid. Younger colleagues look at us with a mixture of sympathy and amusement.

Not so with Glyn. Although he enjoyed all his assignments, it was really in his later postings that Glyn came into his own, when he discovered a subject equal to his great passion. We have a whole new lexicon to describe what we mean: fragile states; failing states; war-shattered societies trying to rebuild themselves.

Glyn saw the people behind the labels, the faces behind the slogans.

On taking up his posting in Pakistan in 1999, Glyn described a country of tremendous potential, but also one with far too much suffering brought about by weak governance and endless conflict. During those years, he also reported on Afghanistan, in the throes of Taliban misrule; the vast Afghan refugee population in Pakistan was a constant reminder of the human consequences of such ideologically driven folly.

After Pakistan, Glyn moved to our United Nations Mission in New York, where he chaired the working group of the UN peacekeeping committee. Glyn was instrumental in spreading the idea that, in today's world, the principal challenge is not peacekeeping, it is peacebuilding, the painstaking task of helping war-torn countries rebuild

their economies and strengthen vital state institutions such as the courts and police forces. It is complex and difficult work, and we cannot succeed unless we have people on the ground who can deliver the goods.



photo: courtesy of the Berry family

Canadian diplomat Glyn Berry in 2005 in New York while posted to Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. He chaired the working group of the UN peacekeeping committee.