

the Canadian Government there, I would request the indulgence of the House to make a short statement on the meaning and importance of Remembrance Day which is coming up, as we all know, on November 11. I will, of course, be representing the veterans of the country at that Remembrance Day service at eleven o'clock on November 11 here in Ottawa.

• (1530)

On November 11, we will once again have the sacred opportunity to pay silent tribute to the more than 110,000 Canadian men and women who died in the two world wars and in Korea.

Nearly 48,000 of those who died are buried in France, and this year we were reminded twice of the great respect such men and women won for Canada in the battles in that country.

The seventieth anniversary of the capture of Vimy Ridge recalled that triumphant Easter Monday when the brightest and the best of a pioneering generation showed what our young nation could achieve. Those of us who had the privilege to accompany some of those First World War veterans back to Vimy last April were in the presence of nation builders in every sense of the word.

Then, in August, Canadians commemorated the youth of another generation lost in World War II. Dieppe saw all three of our services in battle together for the first time. In spite of this terrible mission, the fact remains that the Canadians involved at Dieppe could not have done more.

Nearly 4,500 Canadians had their hopes and dreams extinguished at Vimy and Dieppe. Thousands more were wounded or taken prisoner, and yet more thousands back home had to learn to cope without a parent, spouse, bread-winner, or other loved one.

For Veterans Affairs every day is Remembrance Day as we help the spouses and dependants of those who did not make it home from the horrors of war.

To me, Mr. Speaker, no words could better express the horror of war and the hope that we will never experience it again than Lt. Col. John McCrae's poem entitled "In Flanders Fields". He wrote the following immortal words:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.
 We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.
 Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high,

Statement by Minister

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders fields.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull—Aylmer): Mr. Speaker, speaking on behalf of the Official Opposition, it is an honour and a privilege to add a few words to the speech by the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Hees).

Today, I would like to draw the attention of all Members of this House and all Canadians to the very meaning of Remembrance Day, the day on which we honour those brave men and women who served Canada during two world wars and the Korean War.

Mr. Speaker, in his speech the Minister stressed the importance of the anniversaries of Vimy and Dieppe, and he recalled our contribution in the Korean War. Canada earned its reputation as a nation at Vimy. It experienced the tragic bloodshed at Dieppe and showed its courage to the world. It finally obtained the recognition it deserved at Kapyong, in Korea.

It is only fitting that this House and all Canadians across this great country of ours stop for a few moments to meditate, to be thankful and to pay tribute to those young Canadians who gave their lives in defence of the freedom we enjoy today.

[*English*]

While remembering those who died, let us not forget those Canadians who returned home full of anticipation and hope, eager to forge a renewed life in an atmosphere of freedom and peace. Included in these returnees were those who suffered life-long handicaps and disabilities. We should never forget the heavy price that these veterans paid for freedom.

I wish to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the role of the veterans' associations such as the Royal Canadian Legion, the War Amputations of Canada, the National Council of Veterans' Associations, and the Army, Navy, and Air Force veterans in Canada. All of those groups are genuinely concerned with the plight of Canadian veterans. I salute them for their continuing efforts in promoting the cause of our veterans.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, 22 years ago, Pope Paul VI addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations, beseeching those present to pay attention to those memorable words he spoke: "No more war—never again!"

Mr. Speaker, it has been 42 years since the end of World War II. We must remain forever mindful of the words of Pope Paul VI, if we are to maintain peace in this world for present and future generations of Canadians.

On Wednesday, November 11, Canadians from all walks of life will stop a few moments to remember those of our fellow