

first contingent. As an instance of this effort, reference was made to the history of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry which, as everyone is aware, was a famous regiment that served in the wars fought by Canada.

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The activities of the association in World War II are of recent memory. Added to the numbers of those who served in the army and navy from the outbreak of hostilities to the eventual collapse of Germany and Japan was the very large contingent which fought in the RCAF. By act of Parliament passed in 1946, the name of the association was changed to the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada.

Veterans of the Korean conflict and those who served in the special forces in peace-keeping missions have added to the membership of the association. There are now 40,000 members across Canada and there are units in most major and minor communities throughout the country. One in which I have the honour to be a member is Unit 283.

I would like to say a little about Unit 283 in my home constituency of Winnipeg-Assiniboine. I am very proud to have been a member of this unit for the past 17 years. Its president, Joe Henderson, and his executive have done a great deal of invaluable work in co-ordinating the units activities on behalf of the community. Also, the manager of the club, Bob Delaney, and his staff have done an excellent job over the years. The club is lucky to have them.

The ladies' auxiliariy also provides valuable services. They have dinners for senior citizens at the club. They provide Christmas hampers for needy people and give donations to high school groups. The ladies' auxiliariy president, Mrs. Anne George, should be heartily commended for her co-ordinating work.

The army, navy and air force veterans also make regular visits to Deer Lodge hospital, one of the few veterans' hospitals left, to give candies and cigarettes to the residents. We are also proud to have the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Association national president, Stan Stillwell, as a member of Unit 283.

It would take me more time than is available to a member in a debate of this sort to list all the unit's activities, but here are just a few examples. This coming Monday, May 24, Victoria Day, will see Unit 283 participating in Manitoba's annual Buffalo Barbecue and parade. Each year the unit enters a band which invariably adds to the parade's habitual success.

Here are other examples of the work of some of the unit's community work. Local 283 has financially assisted the following organizations: students attending citizenship courses; the Lions telethon; the Deer Lodge Hospital day care patients; the Manitoba Lung Association; St. Amant Society; the shut-in fund on CJOB Radio; the variety club which raises funds for crippled children; the Girl Guides; the Timmy dance committee at Portage la Prairie; the Oddfellows; the Navy League; and the Manitoba Heart Foundation, to name a few.

Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans

Another program the army, navy and air force veterans are actively involved in is the citizenship training program which is designed to assist the youth of Canada to accept the challenge of leadership and acquaint them with responsibility and to gain a valid concept of the operations, goals, ideals and functions of the government.

Another is the leadership training program at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario in which youths sponsored by the army, navy and air force veterans are taught to be the patriots and leaders of tomorrow. They are taught through the method of learning by doing.

The association belongs to the National Council of Veterans' Associations of Canada which is comprised of most of the leading veterans' associations and which makes representations to the government on behalf of all veterans. This group makes these representations even on behalf of those groups which do not belong to the association, such as the National Prisoners of War, the War Amputees, the Hong Kong veterans, the Jewish veterans of Canada and the Dieppe veterans.

The Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Association can be proud of its membership in the National Council of Veterans' Associations. Just recently, for example, the national council presented an excellent submission to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. Among the many recommendations made in the submissions, three are of special note and importance to all Canadian veterans. First, the council expressed concern that there was an inequity in the way in which pension increases do not reflect the principle of parity with the average wage of five unskilled categories of public servants or the increase in the consumer price index, whichever is greater, and that this principle is not entrenched in the Pension Act.

Second, the council proposed that the phasing in of WVA-CWA rate increases for single recipients under the age of 65 be abandoned and that the benefits be increased immediately to the proposed income support level identified in Bill C-40.

Third, but not the last of their recommendations, the National Veterans' Council felt that a complete review should be carried out of the eligibility requirements currently in place which veterans must meet in order to take advantage of the aging veterans' programs.

These are just a few examples of what this group presents to the government each year. The many groups including the army, navy and air force veterans which make up the National Council are responsible for persuading the government to introduce much of the legislation it does. As a team, the National Veterans' Association, together with the Conservative party, have pressured governmental action, such as Bills C-40, C-82 and C-79. We are hoping for even bigger and better things in the future. I correspond with thousands of veterans each year and can safely say they appreciate the work being done on their behalf by the veterans' associations and other advocates.

Internationally the association is also a member of the World Veterans' Federation, which consists of veterans'