

he ran through Rogers Pass in the Rocky Mountains. We have watched him run across the cold Prairies during a very tough winter. We watched as Mary Beth Dolan greeted him in Winnipeg. We watched as he ran through ice and rain in Atlantic Canada and Quebec. Canadians have been watching Steve Fonyo, praying for him, and thanking him ever since he dipped his leg into the cold Atlantic Ocean more than a year ago.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I have twice had the honour of thanking Steve Fonyo personally: the first time when he visited the National Capital last August, and the second time in Kelowna, British Columbia, not long ago.

Today, Canadians want to express, to him and his family, their admiration for his determination, courage and perseverance.

Canada is a big country, and its climate can be cold and rigorous. But it also has a wealth of beauty and warmth. Steve Fonyo, by doing what he did, has demonstrated all the generosity, sincerity and courage of which Canadian men and women are capable.

[English]

Today, as Steve Fonyo stands at kilometre zero of the Trans-Canada Highway and pours that vial of water from the Atlantic Ocean into the Pacific Ocean, we would all like to share with him and his family the enormous pride that he must feel having completed such an epic journey.

In his "Journey for Lives" he has created a hope for thousands across Canada who suffer with cancer, hoping that some day there will be a cure. Steve Fonyo said:

I have run in the cold and I have run on ice. I have run in the rain. I have run in the sunshine. But mostly, I have run on hope.

Steve, on behalf of my own proud constituents in Vancouver Quadra, on behalf of all our colleagues in the House of Commons, and on behalf of all your fellow Canadians, I say that you have given people hope, hope for a cure for cancer, hope in themselves, hope for the young and old who suffer, hope for a country. Thank you once again, Steve. Congratulations.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), and all other Members of the House to mark a courageous young man's completion of a monumental 8,000 kilometre voyage, Steve Fonyo's "Journey for Lives". We are paying tribute this afternoon to a very special young man. Although Steven himself may say, as he did, "So big deal", we know differently. We know that Steve's determination to fight cancer has affected Canadians profoundly. He has won a place in our hearts and in the collective imagination of all Canadians.

Tribute to Steve Fonyo

[Translation]

The brave struggle, five years ago, of another young man, Terry Fox, to help find a cure for cancer, inspired Steve Fonyo to do something that would bring hope to other young men and women afflicted with this terrible disease. Steve Fonyo decided that he could and would take up the challenge.

[English]

In Steve's own words, "I just want to say that I hope because of this run there is going to be a cure for cancer. I don't want any kid—I don't want anybody—to go through what I did."

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Steve's dedication to this cause was tested over the last 14 months as Canadians all across our land have seen. Like the classic hero of antiquity, he set out on a journey, was confronted by nature and the foibles of personality, but he did not falter or fail. He overcame. Indeed, he triumphed.

Steve's arrival at his destination today, mile zero on the Trans-Canada Highway, while a personal triumph for Steve is an inspiration for all Canadians. His journey has revealed what the indomitable human spirit can actually achieve.

Steve refused to quit. He refused to quit because he did not want to let down the children struggling with cancer, to put it as bluntly and frankly as that. He wanted to show them that fighting can make a difference.

Despite almost constant pain and a gruelling 25 kilometre a day schedule, Steve persevered. With stubborn determination he became our coast-to-coast hero, weaving a common thread of optimism across our country.

[Translation]

His run across the country will remain a symbol of endurance for all Canadian men and women. His initiative has fired the dedication of thousands of volunteers of the Canadian Cancer Society who yearly go from door to door to canvass for donations. During his trip, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society increased 25 per cent. The money is to be given to the Lung Research Association in Kelowna and will also be spent on research, education and various services for cancer patients across the country.

[English]

Steve Fonyo can indeed go his own way today in the full knowledge that he has made an outstanding contribution. We all wish him well in realizing his wish at this point for plenty of sleep and a chance to learn to fly a helicopter.

I would like to say to Steve, having shown us all what it means for the human spirit to fly, he should be able to master a helicopter on one clear day.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!