

SPEAKING NOTES

**The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate**

**On the occasion of the Annual Memorial Service
for Deceased Parliamentarians**

**Ottawa
June 7, 2010**

Speaker Milliken,
Fellow and former Parliamentarians,
Distinguished guests,
Friends and family:

Welcome to the Senate Chamber. This is the Chamber in which the three elements that together constitute the Parliament of Canada, namely the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons, come together when the presence of all three is required. These occasions include the Speech from the Throne, formal Royal Assent to bills which have been passed by both Chambers, and the installation of a Governor General.

It is thus a special place in Canada, an appropriate place for a gathering such as this to recognize and honour those Parliamentarians we have lost this past year. Their contributions to public life, to Canadians, extended beyond the end of their official tenures on Parliament Hill. Many of the Parliamentarians we honour today continued their service to the public through the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, an organization that promotes democracy not only in Canada, but all over the world. Among them is one who left the Senate only to continue to serve Canada as the 25th Governor-General of Canada: The Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc.

While their hard work, dedication and commitment to noble ideals will be sorely missed, today is not a day of sadness. We rejoice in the knowledge that their lives were well lived, that their accomplishments were many, that their service to the nation was beyond reproach.

Let us honour our missing colleagues by celebrating their extraordinary hard work and dedication to their country. Let us remember how they gave selflessly of their time and their energy. Let us remember how their enduring commitment to their community and family made a difference in our lives, and in the lives of everyone that their work touched.

In this sense, perhaps today is not only a day of celebration, but also of renewal. In order to truly honour the Parliamentarians we have lost, we ought to let their memory hearten us, to give us strength and courage and to inspire us to confront the challenges that still lie ahead.

In closing, on behalf of all Senators, we thank you, our missing colleagues, for their sacrifices they made to our country and in the furtherance of democracy here in Canada and around the world.