

**SPEAKING NOTES
THE HONOURABLE NOEL A. KINSELLA
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE
FOR DECEASED PARLIAMENTARIANS**

**OTTAWA
JUNE 9, 2014**

Speaker Scheer,
Usher of the Black Rod,
Fellow and former Parliamentarians,
Distinguished guests,
Friends and family:

Good morning and welcome to the Senate Chamber. We gather here today to remember and honour the lives and service of the Parliamentarians we have lost.

The setting for this occasion is significant and deliberate. It is in this Chamber that the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons convene when all three branches of Parliament are formally called to meet. From Royal Assent to the Speech from the Throne to Remembrance Day ceremonies, these are occasions that link the faces and stories of Parliament across generations, and which connect Canadians across time and place.

It is therefore fitting that we come together in this Chamber to honour those who dedicated their lives to faithfully representing and advancing the welfare of all Canadians.

These Parliamentarians worked diligently and tirelessly to serve their communities and their country. Their contributions reached far beyond the walls of Parliament and lasted long after their official tenures on the Hill.

Many of those remembered today continued their public service through the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, an organization that promotes democracy both in Canada and around the world.

The Association recognizes the immense value of knowledge and experience that comes from a parliamentary career, and it works to bring those skills and insights to continually improving democratic, electoral and parliamentary processes in places near and far.

The work of the Association, and the lives of these former Parliamentarians, show that what we do in one time and place is never a single event. Our voices travel far, and echo even after we are gone.

Each of these 22 lives is woven into our own, in countless ways both seen and unseen. They endure with us, through us, and beyond us. When we mourn their absence, we are reminded of our own brief presence and what we are capable to make of it. We remember that they lived and believed and gave, so that we might build on what they achieved and thereby reach even greater heights in democracy, dignity, and a better life for all.

We deeply miss the wisdom, integrity and devotion of these public servants, these friends, these family members. But this occasion is also a time for celebration and gratitude. Through our reflections, readings and music today, we join our voices in celebrating all that they have accomplished, and we thank them for their guiding example and the spirit of inspiration that leads us onward.

Thank you.