

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

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

**OTTAWA
JUNE 10, 2013**

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

Welcome to the Senate Chamber. It is here that the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons formally come together when the presence of all three constituent elements of Parliament are required at one time and in one place. From the Speech from the Throne to Royal Assent to Remembrance Day ceremonies, this is a place for solemn and important occasions.

It is therefore a significant 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 and to our country extended beyond their official tenures on Parliament Hill. Many of the former Parliamentarians we honour today continued their service to the public through the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians, an organization that promotes democracy both in Canada and around the world.

Individual parliamentarians come to this place with a wide range of skills and they work diligently for the efficacy of Parliament and the betterment of Canada and the world.

While their hard work, devotion and commitment to noble ideals will be dearly missed, today is not a day of sadness. We rejoice in the many accomplishments of our notable colleagues. We recall their endless dedication, boundless energy, and immeasurable service to Canada.

Let us remember that their enduring commitment to their community and family made a difference in our lives, that their selfless devotion helped improve not just our own society, but that of the world.

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

On behalf of all gathered here today, we thank you, our missing colleagues, for the sacrifices you have made to this country and in the furtherance of peace and justice in our land and throughout the world.