

**SPEAKING NOTES
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SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

NAVY APPRECIATION DAY

**SENATE CHAMBER
NOVEMBER 25, 2014**

Honourable Senators and Members of the House of Commons,
Vice-Admiral Norman,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to Parliament and to the Senate Chamber. We are gathered here on Navy Appreciation Day to celebrate the outstanding work of the Royal Canadian Navy and to recognize the achievements of some of our finest sailors.

As you look about the Chamber, you will notice symbols of our nation and history. I wish to draw your attention to the eight large paintings which grace these walls, depicting scenes from the First World War. They are a constant reminder that the peace and security enjoyed by Canadians is owed to the achievements and sacrifices of our armed forces both past and present. One painting in particular portrays the Landing of the First Canadian Division at Saint Nazaire in 1915, and this includes a steamship in the background.

The significance of that ship is not merely aesthetic. Canada is historically and unmistakably a maritime nation. From its earliest days, the growth and prosperity of this country has depended upon the ready and able deployment of her ships. This, in turn, has always depended upon the skill and character of the men and women who command and crew these vessels.

Our national motto, “ad mare usque ad mare ; from sea to sea” comes from Psalm 72: “He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.” This maxim reminds us of the founding and enduring significance of the navy to our national history and identity. Our federal government proclamations, our currency, and our passports bear this phrase, and with good reason.

Canada has the longest coastline of any country in the world, we are bordered by three oceans, and we are home to the five Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River and countless waterways. We even made a sport out of walking on water. Together with the Navy League of Canada, the Coast Guard, and the explorers who first charted this land, our naval forces represent the essential character of Canadians as a seafaring people.

The coat of arms for my home province of New Brunswick, proudly displayed upon the Chamber door, emphasizes this naval history with its depiction of a sailing ship. As a native of Saint John, home to

Eastern Canada's largest port, I have always enjoyed the view of ships passing through, carrying and protecting the business of our nation.

It is fitting that we honour our naval heroes here today in this Chamber: it was here, in 1910, that the Naval Service Act created the Royal Canadian Navy. Soon after, our Navy played a crucial role in protecting supply lines during the First World War. Through the Second World War, the Cold War Years, and the Korean and Gulf Wars, our Navy men and women have valiantly defended the rights and freedoms which all Canadians hold dear.

From disaster relief efforts, civilian evacuations and peacekeeping missions, to combatting piracy off the east coast of Africa and securing Canadian sovereignty here at home, our Navy plays an indispensable role in Canada's present and future.

Returning to the Chamber, this is the place where the three elements which 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.

This Chamber is therefore a special place in Canada, one which celebrates and remembers those who have helped to ensure the continued existence of our nation. Numbered among them are the men

and women of the Royal Canadian Navy. They have served our nation with honour and with distinction. Navy Appreciation Day is a day on which to remember and to thank them.

Each year, six outstanding individuals are selected by the Navy for particular recognition, and we are honoured to have them with us here today. They represent the diverse capabilities and backgrounds of our Navy, as well as the unifying ideals and values which bind our armed forces together along with all Canadians. These certificates will be presented to this year's recipients today in recognition of their outstanding service to the Royal Canadian Navy and to the people of Canada.