

SPEAKING NOTES
THE HONOURABLE NOËL A. KINSELLA
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

NAVY APPRECIATION DAY

SENATE CHAMBER
OCTOBER 30, 2012

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

Welcome to Parliament and to the Senate Chamber, where we are gathered today to celebrate Navy Appreciation Day. The Upper Chamber has long been a place where the accomplishments and sacrifices of our Canadian forces have received particular attention. It is here that Remembrance Week commences.

As you look about the Chamber, you will note that there are eight large paintings prominently on display depicting scenes from the First World War. They are a constant reminder to all who come to this place that peace is not something to be taken for granted and that it may come at a heavy cost.

Naval forces then and now protect the supply lines, help transport troops and materiel, and also have an enormous combat capability. One of the paintings above depicts the Landing of the First Canadian Division at Saint Nazaire, 1915, and includes a steamship in the background.

The navy played a significant role then, and our allied forces depended upon both the Royal Canadian Navy and the merchant marine in World War II as they created and protected a lengthy supply line that was crucial to the war effort.

Naval forces these days continue to serve valiantly around the world. They are called upon to assist with peaceful efforts in terms of disaster relief, but also take an active role in a range of conflict situations. These include blockades and stopping piracy on the high seas.

Turning back to the present, we are in the Chamber where the three elements which together constitute the Parliament of Canada, namely the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons, come together. Occasions such as the Speech from the Throne, formal Royal Assent to bills which have been passed by both Chambers, and the installation of a Governor General require that all be present in one place.

This is 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.

The Navy League created an annual award for sailors whose conduct of their duties has been exceptional. Six individuals are selected each year by the Navy for special recognition, two each from the Naval Reserve, the Pacific Fleet, and the Atlantic Fleet. These certificates will be presented today in recognition of outstanding service to the Royal Canadian Navy and to the people of Canada.