

SPEAKING NOTES
The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella
Speaker of the Senate

Navy Appreciation Day

Senate Chamber
November 15, 2011

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

Welcome to the Senate Chamber. It is a Chamber which contains symbols of our nation and our history, and as we mark Navy Appreciation Day I want to draw your attention particularly to the eight paintings which grace the walls of this place of sober second thought. They depict scenes from the First World War and are a constant reminder to those who gather here of the sacrifices and achievements of our armed forces in their effort to bring about peace.

In particular, note the painting of the Landing of the First Canadian Division at Saint Nazaire, 1915, which includes in the background a steamship. Ships have often played important roles in major actions, ranging from the mundane but critical element of transporting goods to delivering troops all the way up to combat. It is also worth remembering that the allied forces depended upon the merchant marines in World War II and the Royal Canadian Navy had a major role to play in protecting that lengthy supply line.

In more recent times, the men and women who serve our country so valiantly in the Navy have been called upon in a range of situations, from dealing with piracy off the east coast of Africa, to delivering desperately needed supplies to places damaged by natural disasters, to rescuing civilians and preventing arms from reaching their destination in Libya.

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.

It was in the Senate Chamber just over a century ago that the three constituent elements came together to give Royal Assent to the Naval Services Act, which created the Canadian Navy. Last year, we celebrated the Centennial of the Canadian Navy in this chamber with the dedication of the Navy Centennial Bell.

It is thus a special place in Canada, an appropriate place for a gathering such as this as we celebrate the work of the brave men and women of the Royal Canadian Navy. We have asked much of them and they have delivered. Navy Appreciation Day is a day on which to remember and to thank them for all that they do and have done in the service of our nation.

During the Navy's Centennial last year, the Navy League initiated an annual award for sailors whose conduct of their duties has been exceptional. Six individuals are selected by the Navy, two each from the Naval Reserve, the Pacific

Fleet, and the Atlantic Fleet. The 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.