



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Town of Gander hosts Remembrance Way Naming Ceremony

(Gander, NL – November 11, 2019)

A ceremony was held today to commemorate the official naming of a section of the Trans-Canada Highway as "Remembrance Way". Within this section of highway, east of Gander, lie two significant sites which reflect the tremendous sacrifice of preserving peace and freedom: the Silent Witness Memorial site, where 248 U.S. soldiers, along with 8 civilian crew, lost their lives in a 1985 plane crash while returning home for Christmas from a peacekeeping mission on the Sinai peninsula; and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, where 100 soldiers and airmen from Canada, Britain, and Australia who died in service in the Gander area during World War II, are laid to rest.

To honour all those who have sacrificed their lives in defence of peace and freedom, the Town of Gander requested and received approval, from the Department of Transportation and Works, to designate this stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway as "Remembrance Way".

During today's service, Mayor Farwell was joined by the Honourable John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services and MHA for Gander, on behalf of the Honourable Steve Crocker, Minister of Transportation and Works, to unveil a replica of the new highway sign.

Both representatives were given the opportunity to speak, along with LCol Lisa Baspaly-Hays, Wing Commander of 9 Wing Gander; Consul Andrea Wiktowy, US Consulate General – Halifax; Nelson Granter, President of the Royal Canadian Legion; and Robert Smith, Life Member of the 101st Airborne Association.

Mayor Farwell extended his appreciation to the Department of Transportation and Works for their undertaking and to Robert Smith, Life Member of the 101st Airborne Association, for his efforts in initiating the project.

Quotes:

"Gander has had a significant connection to military service throughout its history, including a prominent role in World War II, and there are two sites within our boundaries where the level of sacrifice of those who serve is clearly demonstrated and memorialized. The dedication of this stretch of highway, and the permanent signage marking it, will serve as a daily reminder of, and tribute to, those who died and those who are laid to rest at these two locations, as well as, the

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sacrifices made by those in military service around the world in the defence of freedom and peace. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Bob Smith in suggesting and promoting this initiative, and the support of M.H.A. John Haggie and Minister Crocker of the Dept. of Transportation and Works in approving our request and producing and placing the related signage. “

Mayor Farwell, Town of Gander

“As we have done with Peacekeepers Way, Veterans Memorial Highway, and Highway of Heroes, the Department of Transportation and Works welcomed the opportunity to honour those who served in the military. This section of highway will now recognize these important historical landmarks and military and aviation history of Gander for highway travellers.”

Honourable Steve Crocker

Minister of Transportation and Works

“Gander has always welcomed the world as a stopover for the thousands of men and women who served their countries in times of war and peace. We value their service. The naming of this historical stretch of highway is a fitting tribute and reminder of their heroic contribution for which we owe a debt of gratitude. I thank Sergeant (Retired) Robert J. Smith for his initiative and all who played a role in making this tribute possible.”

Honourable John Haggie

Minister of Health and Communities Services

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