

The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award



G rard Renaud

Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Qu bec

For G rard Renaud, service to the community and service to the military go hand in hand. As a long serving member of the Canadian forces, an ardent chronicler of military history and a volunteer, G rard has contributed to his community in many ways.



A veteran of the Second World War, G rard has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for fifty years. There he has worked hard for the rights and privileges of veterans, helping them to obtain the benefits owed to them, visiting them in long-term care facilities and even providing gift baskets for their families. G rard also founded an association to build low cost houses for veterans, served as president of the local Poppy Campaign, and coordinated the annual Remembrance Day parades over many years in his community. As a mark of his service, in 1995 he was nominated Legionnaire of the year in Quebec.

Among his many passions, G rard has a deep interest in history, particularly military history. In 1963, he was the force behind the establishment of a site inaugurated by the Right Honourable Georges Vanier, which commemorated the battle of Chateaugay at Allan's Corner. He helped to organize the 100th celebration of the founding of the city of Beauharnois and the 150th anniversary of the city of Ormstown and set up a photo display of all the history and military monuments in the region.

His major achievement was tracing thirty-five veterans from the region who had taken part in the liberation of the Netherlands in 1944 and 1945. G rard not only traced the veterans, but helped to organize a ceremony in their honour, including the medals they received from the Dutch government.

As part of the Memory Project, G rard recruited a team of ten speakers for a program of school visits commemorating the achievements of Second World War and Korean War veterans. G rard even took an interest in the local cemetery, organizing its cleanup and restoration, and helped to trace the ancestors of the Irish immigrants buried there.

In addition to his work with veterans, G rard has been an active member of the community, participating in various service clubs and acting as the coordinator of emergency measures for the city of Beauharnois.

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Anne Minh-thu Quach, Member of Parliament for Beauharnois-Salaberry

“Over 89 years, G rard has led a life marked by unflagging devotion to his country, other veterans, his community, his friends and his family,” says Anne Minh-thu Quach, Member of Parliament for Beauharnois-Salaberry. Royal Canadian Legion Vice President Jean-Louis Blais describes him as their ‘beacon’. His daughter, Sylvie Renaud, who nominated him for the Caring Canadian Award, simply calls him her inspiration, whose remarkable generosity towards his community makes him a worthy recipient of the Caring Canadian Award.



The Caring Canadian Award was presented to G rard Renaud on April 17, 2012, at Rideau Hall. Sgt Ronald Duchesne 2012   Rideau Hall