

Regimental Council The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) (RCAC)

Kirk W. Corkery, CStJ, CD, ICD.D Chair of the Regimental Council

Tony Trigiani
President and CEO
Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation
6 Vansco Road
Toronto, ON
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Dear Mr Trigiani,

On behalf of the Regimental Council of the Queen's York Rangers and our entire regimental family I would like to commend the Foundation on its aspirations and vision to ensure that those who have fallen on our country's behalf are never forgotten.

Our Regiment has been integral to the founding of Canada, having built Fort York, Yonge Street and Dundas Street in Toronto in the 1790s under the direction of the first Lt Governor, Lt Gen John Graves Simcoe, who had been a Commanding Officer of the Regiment during the American Revolutionary War. Last year we received five battle honours, four relating to our contributions during the War of 1812 and one relating to our recent efforts in Afghanistan. In summary our citizen-soldiers have helped shape Canada since its earliest beginnings right up to the present day. Unfortunately, not all have returned.

Soldiers and members of the military, more than any segment of the population, abhor war and its effects. We have seen it first-hand. Yet our members throughout time have placed their safety in jeopardy for the good of the whole. I can think of no better way to help ensure future peace than by remembering those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Remembering them does not glorify war but recognizes their efforts on our behalf and their services to the government of the day. As we have done in recent

times, it is appropriate to properly recognize the individual fallen soldier as his remains are returned from overseas; he has done his duty, regardless of whether we may agree, or not, with the mission on which he was sent. We should do no less as he has earned our honour and our thanks.

Your memorial in Cape Breton is a fitting tribute to their sacrifices. We see it as an appropriate tribute to the individuals who have fought for Canada and never returned home. It does not glorify war; it instead is an excellent reminder of why we all work to maintain peace.

Please accept our best wishes and gratitude for your efforts in this endeavour.

K.W. Corkery

Chair of the Regimental Council