

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM52.15	ACTION			Ward:All
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Toronto City Council Recognition of the D-Day Tribute Campaign - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly, recommends that:

1. City Council recognize the D-Day Tribute Campaign in their work to commemorate our fallen Soldiers during World War II by memorializing them with tribute markers in the grounds of Juno Beach Centre in Normandy France - One for every Canadian who died on D-Day; June 6 1944.
2. City of Toronto sponsor 22 markers presenting fallen soldiers from "Toronto" that have not yet been sponsored at the cost of \$11,000 (\$500 x 22 markers) to ensure that all fallen soldiers from Toronto are honoured.

Summary

This year we honour the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. No words can express all of our thoughts and gratitude to all the soldiers who lost and risked their lives that day and for their families who shared their loved ones with all Canadians. Last month the Juno Beach Centre Association organized a memorial project called Canada's D-Day Tribute Campaign, installing tribute markers in the grounds of the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, France, one for every Canadian who died on D-Day, June 6, 1944. This act was for all of us to pay further respect to those who paid the highest sacrifice.

The tribute markers made of Canadian maple, stand a metre tall, and are topped with a plaque indicating the soldier's name, regiment, and hometown as well as the sponsoring individual or organization. The Juno Beach Centre Association also plans to have Quick Response (QR) codes attached to each marker to link directly to a biography of the soldier produced by the Lest We Forget program. All Canadians should at one time in their lives visit Juno Beach to have a real appreciation for what occurred so many years ago and how the bravery of our soldiers came to win World War II.

Three hundred and fifty-nine Canadians were killed in action on D-Day. Of those killed, one

hundred and twenty-seven were from Ontario, and of those fifty were from Toronto, sixty-one from the present day Greater Toronto Area. Twenty-two markers representing fallen soldiers from "Toronto" have not yet been sponsored and I am requesting that the City of Toronto sponsor these heroes at a cost of \$11,000 (\$500 x 22 markers) to ensure that all are honoured.

Tribute markers will honour those who called Toronto home. The City of Toronto will be joining a number of cities who have sponsored markers for their fallen soldiers:

City of Kenora
City of Markham
County of Northern Lights, Alberta
The City of Brighton
The City of Fernie
The City of Kelowna
The City of Orillia
The City of Calgary
The City of Barrie
The City of Welland
The District of Summerland
The District of Vanderhoof, British Columbia
The Municipality of Colchester, Nova Scotia
The Municipality of Greenstone
The Municipality of Huron East (Seaforth)
The Regional Municipality of Shellbrook
The Town of Digby and the Province of Nova Scotia
The Town of Fort Erie
The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle
The Town of Huntsville
The Town of Saltcoats
The Town of Shelburne
The Town of St. Stephen
The Township of Springwater

These are in addition to the hundreds of Canadians from coast-to-coast who have committed to honouring our D-Day soldiers.

The City of Toronto's recognition of the Juno Beach Centre Association's work will help to tell their stories again and encourage Toronto residents to visit the site as well as honouring those who were our neighbours.

Further information may be viewed at <http://www.junobeach.org>, including an opportunity to view soldiers' profiles.

(Submitted to City Council on June 10 and 11, 2014 as MM52.15)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM52.15

List of Toronto Men Killed in Action, 6 June 1944 - Unsponsored

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-70230.pdf>)