

**GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
Ottawa District 2**

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D.D.G.M.'s Monthly Message

Brethren, my message this month of November is one of appreciation, remorse, and hope.

Over the course of the last 91 years our world has been engaged in a never ending series of hostilities, the two greatest in which our country was involved being World War 1 and World War 2 and now Afghanistan.

It is a message of appreciation to all the men and women of our armed services who over those 91 years have stepped upon the shores of foreign countries intent on insuring that freedom was not compromised and that the peoples of the world were not usurped by dictators of the most unscrupulous kind. And these warriors, brethren, were and are young and vulnerable, carrying into battle an unimaginable fear of what might be. Put yourself into their minds and imagine how you would feel facing such a fear. We thank those who have gone before in the names of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, nurses, doctors, merchant marine, and all those who supported the effort of the last two Great Wars. We also thank those of the military who are now inserted in the hostilities in Afghanistan and other countries of the world where protection of humanity is the cause to which they are dedicated. And we must not forget those who remain behind on the home front in the names of the extended families who keep the fires burning and anxiously awaiting their safe return. We thank all of them.

And it is a message of remorse for the 116,000 Canadians who perished in the serving of our country. As Canadians have done for the past 91 years, we pay tribute to the sacrifice made by generations of Canadian military personnel for the protection of our fundamental values and the values of those peoples of the world who continue towards efforts to instill democracy into their cultures. But numbers alone can not adequately chronicle this nation's sacrifice. For each of the fallen had a family and friends whose lives were enriched by their love and diminished by their loss. Each added to the life of a city suburb or country town. Each worked before enlistment, as a teacher, a farmer, a labourer, a nurse, a doctor, a clerk, or one of countless other occupations which add to the prosperity and the richness of a nation.

And it is a message of hope. Hope that the efforts of all those who have served our cause of freedom have not done so in vain. Hope that we are steadily persevering towards that ultimate goal of seeing peace in the world where no parent has to grieve the loss of a son or daughter at the hands of an enemy. Hope that the dictators of the world will ultimately fade into oblivion while the oppressed, exploited and demoralized will strengthen and come forward with their models of equal opportunity for all of mankind.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J.L.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.W.Bro. Jack Ledger
District Deputy Grand Master
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