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ROYAL NEW WESTMINSTER REGIMENT THE BRITISH COLUMBIA REGIMENT

Unveiling of Monument

Statement by:

The Honourable Larry W. Campbell

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

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UNVEILING OF MONUMENT

Hon. Larry W. Campbell: Honourable senators, on Saturday I had the honour to attend a truly amazing event: 74 years ago on October 1, the Royal New Westminster Regiment and the British Columbia Regiment, Duke of Connaught's Own, known as the Dukes to those who belong to the regiment, were marching to war in Europe. They marched through New Westminster to board ships that would take them to Europe. Suddenly, a five-year-old boy rushed from the hand of his mother, reaching out to take his father's hand. His father, Rifleman Jack Bernard, was one of those leaving his family to fight for freedom in Europe. At that precise instant, *Province* photographer Claude Dettloff clicked his camera. The picture, entitled after the words spoken by the young son, would become iconic.

"Wait For Me, Daddy" is one of most poignant war pictures ever taken. Whitey Bernard was that son. He was front and centre on Saturday. The City of New Westminster commissioned a bronze sculpture to commemorate the event. With tremendous

support from all levels of government and the leadership of Mayor Wayne Wright and the New Westminster City Council, the sculpture was unveiled. It is a magnificent 2-D and 3-D bronze statue depicting the photograph. In addition, the federal government should be commended for issuing a stamp and a toonie commemorating the picture.

People from all walks of life attended and watched as the British Columbia Regiment and the Royal New Westminster Regiment marched through the streets of New Westminster with fixed bayonets. The granddaughter of the photographer and Whitey spoke about the impact this picture had on their lives.

To me, the picture represented the cruel fact that in war, families and especially children are often forgotten but deeply impacted. Whitey told us that he saw his dad once in the next five years. In the end, Rifleman Bernard returned home, but thousands did not. This memorial serves to remind us that freedom and democracy have a price. Further, it reminds us that, when called, Canadians do not shirk from the task.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.
