

Brant, David

Native peacekeeper honoured 20 years later

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By Derek Baldwin
THE INTELLIGENCER

TYENDINAGA TERRITORY — More than 20 years after serving in Cyprus as a Canadian-United Nations peacekeeper, retired Master Cpl. David Brant was honoured Tuesday for preserving freedom.

At a ceremony at the Mohawk Community Centre, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Chief R. Donald Maracle presented Brant with the Canadian Peacekeeping Medal on behalf of the Department of National Defence.

Before the presentation, Maracle made a brief address to thank Brant for his contribution to Canada's security in an ever-changing world.

"Today we live in a world that is very troubled and we wonder how long peace will last. We are also aware of the great cost of peace," said Maracle, who praised Brant for his service, noting that he had carried on a tradition long held by the Tyendinaga Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte who have fought alongside the Crown in every major war since the original conquest of Canada.



INTELLIGENCER PHOTO BY DEREK BALDWIN

Mohawk Chief R. Donald Maracle presented retired Master Cpl. David Brant with a Canadian Peacekeeping Medal.

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Tyendinaga Mohawks, in fact, have fought "as allies of the Crown for the past three centuries," said Maracle.

"In almost every family of the aboriginal nation, they have someone who has served in the Armed Forces. We remember freedom and the price that cost the lives of many of our people," said Maracle.

After a minute's silence to remember the fallen native soldiers, the Mohawk Singers treated the gathering to a native hymn.

Rev. Cheryl Watson delivered a brief

prayer and asked that all veterans be remembered.

"We acknowledge the magnitude of their sacrifice and we give thanks," said Watson.

After the ceremony, Brant said he was extremely proud to receive the peacekeeping medal in his home community.

"I was very honoured to get this medal from the chief. It has been a long time coming from the federal government. After 22 years, the government finally came along and said, 'thank you,'" said Brant.

Brant completed his basic training in

Petawawa after enrolling in the Canadian Army Signal Corps in 1961 and two years later joined the Canadian Provost Corps (Military Police, MPs).

His military policing career saw Brant assigned to various posts including: Soest Germany in 1967; CFB Trenton in 1971; CFB Valcartier in 1974; CFB Edmonton in 1975; CFB Kingston in 1977; Cypress in 1980 and for his final postings he was transferred to Kingston, Ottawa and then back to Trenton.

Brant retired in 1986 with 25 years of military service.

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