

# We honour all our veterans

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**W**hat do we do when we attend any funeral? We take the time to present ourselves, we show respect, in short, we do what we can.

When the broken bodies of six Canadian soldiers come home this week, we, Northumberland Publishers, are inviting Northumberland citizens to join us in showing respect, in doing what we can to demonstrate our appreciation for the sacrifice of these brave men, and their comrades-in-arms, who are doing all they can in a hostile environment halfway around the world.

No matter how we feel about the war in Afghanistan, or about war in general, the deaths of these soldiers has meaning, because their attitudes in life gave them meaning.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends," the bible says.

And, indeed, over the Easter weekend, as we honoured the memory of those brave Canadians who laid down their lives at Vimy Ridge, another generation of young people were voluntarily going into harm's way for a cause in which they believe.

Lieutenant-General Romeo Dallaire, special guest at the Speakers Series here in Northumberland only two short weeks ago, gave us a pattern to follow.

He said, when we send

troops into battle, we should give them the tools they need, support them financially and emotionally so they may finish the job we sent them there to do.

Gen. Dallaire pointed out that, yes, there are costs. These soldiers and their families have paid the highest possible cost.

"But, you don't run away because you get a bloody nose," General Dallaire added, noting casualties are a necessary and inevitable part of war.

If we believe, as he said, that "all humans are humans," and, as such, are entitled to what we call "human rights", then we honour the meaning of these deaths, honour the soldiers who cared enough to defend our ideals with their flesh and blood.

The families of these men deserve to know Canadians care, that we are present with them in their grief.

When those six bodies pass through Northumberland by motorcade on Highway 401, let us show those families, and the comrades of those men, that we suffer their loss and honour their sacrifice.

Just as we attend funerals of friends, neighbours, loved ones, let us be present as witnesses, as fellow Canadians, as believers in the ideal that all humans are human and that, as the poet John Donne said, "Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in Mankind."

