

A wartime marriage

Rita Doyle and Len Raynor, pictured above with from Europe to take up married residence in friends in the military, blossomed into a wartime Georgetown. Len passed away in 1984, (Photo submarriage when Rita became Mrs. Raynor in a wed- mitted)

A friendship which began in Georgetown between ding ceremony held in Holland. The couple returned

Veterans to get needed boost

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OTTAWA - Just in time for Remembrance Day, the federal government is taking steps to help some of Canada's neediest

The Veterans Affairs Department has introduced a bill to satisfy long-standing complaints about the way veterans' accounts are administered. Bill C-87 will also establish a special fund for

needy vets and help the surviving war veterans.

Buy a poppy

John Narey of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 120 in Georgetown is one of the many Legion members who sell poppies to raise money to belp disabled veteraus. (Heråld photo)

spouses of others cope financial-

The biggest change will be in the way Ottawa treats some \$30 million held in about 3,200 veterans accounts. The government administers the accounts for 1,000 veterans who are unable to do it themselves.

In the past, no interest was paid on these holdings because the government felt it shouldn't be acting as a money manager or investor for veterans. But years of lobbying have convinced the department that these accounts should earn money.

Once the bill is passed, interest will be calculated and paid monthly. The change will cost about \$3.5 million annually.

"That's something we've been asking them to do for the last couple of years, so that's fine," says Larry Gray, director of the Royal Canadian Legion's service bureau.

A special trust fund for needy veterans also will be established. It will be funded with money from unclaimed veterans estates administered by the department.

Previously, when a veteran whose account was administered by the department died without heirs, the money went into the government's general revenue fund. In the future, such funds will be available for other vets.

"It's going to help a senior on a very low fixed income who has an emergency situation such as their house burning down," Gray says.

The amount of money involved is unknown because there is no time limit for heirs to come forward, says Del Carruthers, director of executive projects at Veterans Affairs.

Bill C-87 will also ensure that surviving spouses of all veterans who receive attendant care allowances are treated equally. The vets affected are those receiving under five per cent disability payments.

Existing legislation excludes the widow or widower of some 230 such vets from receiving the allowance for one year after the vet dies. That will be changed so all veterans are covered by the provision.

National memorial has English roots

Canada's national war memorial was conceived and executed in a garden in Kent, England. It was the product of seven brothers from Yorkshire who came from a farming family and had no formal art or sculpture training. It was the result of ten years of labour on their part.

In 1925, Vernon Marsh won the Canadian government competition for a design for a national war memorial. His design was one of seven finalists out of 122 entries in the international competition. After submitting a model, he was authorized to proceed with his work.

Vernon Marsh died in 1930, but the remaining six brothers and a sister, Elsie, carried on. In 1932 the memorial was finished. It was shown in Hyde Park and received wide acclaim. There were slight alterations made before the Canadian government took delivery of the memorial in June of 1937. For the trip to Canada, the massive stateliness of the memorial was broken into thirty-five wooden cases.

The memorial takes the form of a tall granite arch, atop of which stand huge bronze figures of Victory and Liberty. Marching through the arch are twenty-two figures representing all branches of the service of World War I. Upon the faces of these figures the eager expression of hope replaces the lines of strife and death. They leave behind an unlimbered cannon and all it stands for.

The memorial was unveiled by His Majesty King George VI in May, 1939, before a crowd of 100,000 people. A Remembrance ceremony has been held at the memorial since that time. Prior to 1939, Remembrance services were held on the lawn in front of the Parliament Buildings at a temporary cenotaph.



