



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

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OPINION

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALL WHO HAVE FOUGHT TO DEFEND FREEDOM

OUR VETERANS' SACRIFICE MUST NEVER BE FORGOTTEN, WRITES MICHAEL CHONG

An enormous price has been paid for our freedom and democracy. Since Confederation in 1867, over 110,000 Canadians servicemen and women have died in wars and conflicts abroad.

This Nov. 11 marks 103 years since Armistice was signed, which led to the end of the First World War. During that war, 650,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders served in uniform (Newfoundland was not yet part of Canada). More than 66,000 died. More than 172,000 were



MICHAEL CHONG
Column

physically wounded.

Since that war, the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces have served in many conflicts and peacekeeping missions, paying a high price in lives lost and wounded.

One recalls Sir Winston Churchill's exhortation, "Never was so much owed by so many to so few."

From the Second World War, to Canada's peacekeeping missions, to the war in

Afghanistan, Canada's military has risen on countless occasions to defend freedom, democracy and the rule of law.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the Remembrance Day poppy, a unique symbol of remembrance for service members no longer with us. It is also a symbol of solidarity with living veterans and active service members.

Remembrance Day events took place across Wellington-Halton Hills. A special thanks to the volunteers of the local Royal Canadian Legion branches that make these events possible.

Every year, the legion runs hundreds of cenotaph ceremonies that take place across Canada, including the national ceremony at the Na-

tional War Memorial in Ottawa.

Our local legion branches — in Georgetown, Acton, Elora, Guelph, Fergus and Erin — welcome new members and volunteers to ensure that the memory of Canada's veterans remains alive.

Like all Canadians, my family and I owe a debt of gratitude to Canadian soldiers who gave their lives for our country.

My father and his family were defended by Canadian soldiers during the Battle of Hong Kong in December 1941. My mother and her family were liberated by Canadian soldiers in the Netherlands in May 1945.

We will never forget the sacrifice these Canadians made for our freedom. We will remember them.

Michael Chong is the MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, and the shadow minister of foreign affairs for the Official Opposition. He can be reached at michael.chong.a3@parl.gc.ca.



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