



On Sunday, June 14 members of Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton honored Rev. Craig Cribar for his 30 years of service in the ministry. Glen Findlay (left), presented Marlene Cribar and Rev. Cribar (second from right) with dinner and theatre tickets. Anne Moore (right) helped with the presentation. Photo submitted

Parliament Hill report

Garth Turner, MP
Halton-Peel

A lot of people have been trying to get in contact with me to talk about our soldiers in Sarajevo.

Some people call to condemn our Canadian peacekeepers for being there in the former Yugoslavia. They say the government should never have allowed our soldiers to enter a dangerous war zone. But others call to say they're proud of the job being done, and to urge more Canadian troops to be sent.

I don't have a sense of what the majority of people believe but this is where I stand.

I'm tremendously proud of the professionalism and bravery of the Canadian troops. It was touching to see the response last week when they delivered food and water to villagers cut off by war for the last three months. The soldiers were showered with flowers and praise from people who were shedding tears of gratitude. To these victims of war, the blue U.N. helmets and red maple leaf shoulder flash were the symbols of freedom and com-

passion.

I'm impressed by General Mackenzie Lewis, the Canadian who is in charge of the forces in Sarajevo. He is performing one of the most difficult military missions in the whole world right now. — and doing it with guts. The general is literally standing right in the middle deadly conflict. He has already been kidnapped at least once. The local government-run Bosnia radio station is condemning his troops as friends of the other side. But he soldiers on.

I'm proud of the sergeant from Quebec — Mario Forest — who crawled through sniper fire, over the bodies of two dead civilians, to reach two wounded women. One of them, shot in the stomach, was dragged by Forest to the safety of the Canadian armored vehicle.

Finally, I am proud that the world selected Canadians to go to Sarajevo, open up the airport, and then lead as international relief operation which is trying to save lives of 200,000 starving and terrorized people. This is what Canadian soldiers do — they stand up to danger, selflessly help others, fight when fired on, accept their mission and refuse to quit just because they might be wounded or killed.

A young fighter of ours lost his foot the other day, after stepping on a land mine plated by one side or the other in the bitter Bosnian — Serbian killfest. And I'm sure more Canadians will come under ; perhaps be wounded. But I am sure that every man and woman there knows that and yet would see that as no reason for retreat.

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So, no, I do not agree with those who would pull the Canadians out and let the killing go on. Just as during the Gulf War, we have obligations to fulfil. We want to see the United Nations work, so that regional disputes don't turn into wars and so that aggressive societies are shown they won't be allowed to dominate others by force.

The time for debate is past. Now is the time to show our troops that we support them, wish them well, and are proud of all they are accomplishing. Canadian troops can make peace, and they can keep it. Soldiers — French and English, from city and country — are bringing hope to Bosnia and pride to Canada.

I'm sending a message of thanks and encouragement to our peacekeepers. If you would like to add your voice, then please do one of two things:

*Send me your note or letter or post card and I will get it to the troops. The address: Garth Turner, MP, 27 Main St., S., Georgetown L7G 3G2, or;

*Drop by my office to sign a "Thank-you" card, which will be sent to Gen. Lewis and his troops.

Let's join people from around the world who would appreciate Canadian courage.

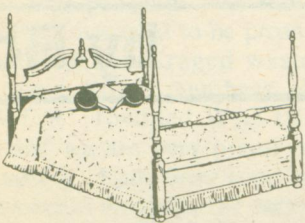
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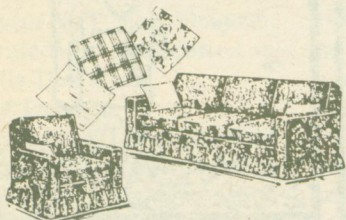
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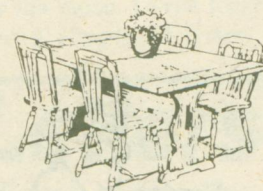


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