

A True Canadian Hero

Cpl. Anthony Boneca

1985 ~ 2006

WORDS OF THANKS

BONECA

On Monday, July 17th, 2006, a true Canadian Hero, Corporal Anthony Joseph Boneca, age 21, of Thunder Bay was laid to rest in Mountain View Cemetery after a Funeral Mass held in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

At this time, Antonio and Shirley Boneca and their extended family express their sincerest thanks to all who have offered condolences and in so many ways, have provided support, while at the same time honouring Anthony. We were overwhelmed by the attendance at the Visitation, the Funeral Mass, and the Graveside Service including all of the Military Personal, Law Enforcement Officers, Public Officials and the Legion Members from Thunder Bay and all across Canada. We were truly touched. Heartfelt thanks go out to The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment for their unbelievable support at this extremely difficult time. We have been guided by, and wish to thank Lieutenant Colonel Brent Faulkner, Padre Neil Otko, Padre Kerry McLaughlin, Capt David Ratz, Capt James Davis, Capt Tom Neil, Chief Warrant Officer George Romick, Lieutenant Amber Bineau, Warrant Officers, Rob Morris & Mark Singleton, Cpl Mark Fontaine and Cpl Patrick Seymour. Heartfelt thanks are extended to those who participated in the Repatriation Ceremony in Trenton; Her Excellency, The Governor General Michaëlle Jean, Minister of National Defence Mr. Gordon O'Connor, The Chief of the Defense Staff General Rick Hillier. Thanks also to MacKinnon & Bowes Ltd., (Toronto), The Ontario Provincial Police, The Metro Toronto City Police and Members of The Canadian Forces.

We acknowledge and thank the patience and understanding of Ryan Venn and the staff of Harbourview Funeral Centre who accommodated all the family requests with dignity and professionalism. Our eternal thanks to Father Gerry McDougall s.j. for officiating at the Funeral Mass. Your comforting message brought hope to all our family. We are greatly honoured that Father Gerry was accompanied by the Most Rev. Bishop F.J. Colli, D.D., Rev. Msgr. P.M. Stilla V.G., Rev. U. Rizzi C.S., Rev. Arockiam, Rev. Kowalchuk, Rev. Mr. C. Johnston and Mr. V. DeGagne – thank you to those who gave inspiring Words of Tribute at both the Prayers and the Mass, Clinton Drew, John Janiec, Megan DeCorte, MCpl Craig Loverin, Cpl Jon O'Connor, Christopher Valente, and thanks to the cousins who presented the Offeratory Gifts, as well as Jackie Perna, Soloist, Marie Walsh, Organist and the choirs of St. Peter's Church and St. Patrick's Cathedral. We would also like to thank all the others who assisted in this remarkable Service, too numerous to mention, but you did not go unnoticed. In particular, we would like to thank the members of The Lake Superior Scottish Regiment Pallbearer Party, for honouring Anthony, the Honourary Pallbearers, Piper Cpl Bill Peters, and the bugler MCpl Emily Kenny.

A sincere thank you to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Premier Dalton McGuinty for their condolences and also thank you to all of the family and friends, as well as those from across the country, and Portugal who sent cards, messages, Mass cards, flowers, baking and food. Your support and sympathy during this difficult time will always be remembered. Thanks are due to the Greyhound Bus Lines, the Da Vinci Centre, and to the community of Thunder Bay.

You have truly touched our hearts with your love and support.

Finally, the family wishes to especially thank and recognize Warrant Officer Shawn Peterson of The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry who accompanied Anthony on his journey home from Afghanistan. Shawn has returned to his military unit and our prayers are with him and all the other brave soldiers serving our country.

Shirley and Tony Boneca and Families

Saturday, August 5, 2006

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL