

Table of Contents

<u>City dedicates street to fallen soldier</u>	1
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ILLUSTRATION:	Ruby Line in Mount Pearl was renamed Friday in honour of fallen soldier warrant officer Richard Nolan, who was serving with the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan when he was killed Sept. 3rd, 2006 while serving overseas. – Photo by Keith Gosse/The Telegram
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Morene Nolan described Friday's street-naming ceremony in Mount Pearl as the perfect way to remember her "boy."

"The ceremony was beautiful," she said, as she wiped away tears. "It was so touching. He will certainly be remembered. Rick grew up on the next street over, so he spent a lot of time here."

But the tears weren't only tears of sadness. The Nolan family were both proud and honoured to be commemorating the late Warrant Officer Richard Francis Nolan, who was killed in action in Afghanistan in September 2006.

Family and friends gathered on the parking lot of the Church of the Good Shepherd Friday for the ceremony to change the name of the Mount Pearl section of Ruby Line to Richard Nolan Drive.

In 2006, when the alignment of the street changed, the city initiated a contest to rename the street. They received 43 submissions, but one particular entry, by Tyler Somerton, caught their eye – to rename the street after the war hero.

Nolan grew up in Mount Pearl. He attended school at Mary Queen of the World and was involved in the community and air cadets.

In 1987, at the age of 19, he joined the Canadian Forces. Among his postings, he served in the Gulf War in 1990 and in Yugoslavia in 1992. He had his first posting to Afghanistan in 2003.

His sister Bernice Miller said Nolan's family is thankful the city of Mount Pearl is honouring her brother's memory.

"There is only one other thing that we would rather be doing today and that is helping Rick celebrate his birthday. Today, July 27, would have been Rick's 40th birthday," she said.

Miller described her deceased brother as adventurous, selfless and fully committed.

"If you look up the word hero in the dictionary, the definition would read: a person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life – Rick is a hero in every sense of the word," she said as she spoke to the crowd.

Mount Pearl Mayor Steve Kent said the ceremony showed who Nolan truly was and the difference he made in many lives.

Kent said the city has never held such a large street dedication.

"Today was a special day for the family, but it was also a special day for our community and we are very pleased to commemorate someone who was very active in our community growing up ... He had a real connection to our community and we are very proud to honour his contribution to not only our community, but to our country,"

Messages came from officers of the Royal Canadian Regiment and from Chief of Defence Staff General Rick Hillier, thanking the city for remembering Nolan and referring to him as a proud soldier and national treasure.

Morene Nolan said she hopes no other family has to lose a loved one in battle.

"I see people with children (serving) in Afghanistan here today. I hope they all come back safely and no one has to go through what we went through."

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