

Two Minute Wave of Silence

11th Hour ~ 11th Day ~ 11th Month



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Remembrance, summons each generation to understand the finest of Canadian values - freedom, democracy, human dignity and caring for the greater good of mankind.

When the guns fell silent on the First World War battlefields and the Armistice was signed at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, this sacred moment in history was embraced as Armistice Day.

As Britain and its Commonwealth Dominions began planning Armistice Day services for the following year, an Australian journalist proposed in a letter, that a respectful silence to Remember the Fallen be included in the ceremonies. This letter, scribed by Edward George Honey, was published on May 8, 1919 in the London Evening News and brought to the attention of His Majesty King George V.

On November 8, 1919, His Majesty King George V proclaimed...
"...all locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead..."

Some historians believe that the tradition of the silence was in honour of the last soldier killed before the Armistice, Pte. George Price, a Canadian. Pte. Price was killed in action by the last shot of the Great War, two minutes before the guns fell silent. In Mons, France at the ornate Grand Place, a commemorative plaque honours the memory of Pte. George Price. He is buried at Saint Symphorien Cemetery in Mons.

This silent observance was incorporated into the first Armistice Day service held on November 11th, 1919 in Britain and the Commonwealth Dominions. Following the Second World War, Armistice Day was renamed as Remembrance Day to honour the Fallen from all wars, past, present and future.

Over time, the silent observance was not consistently observed by all countries. In the year 2000, The Royal Canadian Legion and other Commonwealth nations rallied together to revitalize the significance of the silence observance and called for an international "Two Minute Wave of Silence."

Join all Canadians in this Sacred Observance

Remember and Bear Witness

Lest We Forget


LEGION

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