

Tom Eagle

June 6, 1932 to September 29, 2009



Tom passed away on September 29, 2009 in Yellowknife, after a short illness.

Tom is lovingly remembered by his wife Muriel, his daughters Bertha of Edmonton, Eleanor (Robert) of Lucca, Italy and Margaret (Terry) of Peace River; his sons Brian and Raymond of Yellowknife. Tom is also remembered by his brothers James (Cecilia) and Gilbert and sister, Rita and numerous family members from across Canada. Tom is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Born in Manitoba, Tom was asked by the Department of National Defence to come to Yellowknife in 1971. His military task was to establish cadet units throughout the north. After 25 years with the military, Tom retired with the rank of Sergeant in 1975.

Tom loved Yellowknife and the north – the people, communities, his work and many volunteer activities. He was a warrior, advocating for First Nations' and Aboriginal peoples since 1963. For example, Tom helped establish the Manitoba Metis Federation, the National Indian Brotherhood, the Native Council of Canada, Kinew Housing Corporation in Winnipeg, and Friendship Centres in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Providence, Rankin Inlet and Fort Rae. He realized his goal of a new Tree of Peace Friendship Centre facility in Yellowknife.

Tom was especially proud of his military career. He became an active member in the Royal Canadian Legion, and enthusiastically participated in commemorative ceremonies. In 2008, he gave prayers at the National Remembrance Day ceremonies in Ottawa in his native language, Ojibway. Tom was instrumental in changing 49th street in Yellowknife to "Veterans Memorial Drive" and constructing a Veterans Monument in Yellowknife. He was invited to participate in the 2005 Aboriginal Spiritual Journey at Vimy Ridge.

In 2007, Tom was awarded the Veterans Affairs Commendation and appointed a Life Time Member of The Cadet League of Canada. Other awards and recognition include a citation from the Government of Canada for Citizenship for his contribution towards community work, The Queen's Jubilee Medal and The Canadian Forces Decoration. Tom became the first Citizenship Judge for the Northwest Territories in 1990, appointed by the Privy Council of the Federal Government. He was the only person to ever hold such an office in the Northwest Territories.

Tom will be remembered for his story telling and sense of humour. He never refused to help someone in need, always ready to lend a helping hand. Tom especially loved meeting people to learn their story. Through his travels, his work, his volunteerism and family, Tom forged many long lasting friendships.

Prayer services to be held on Friday, October 2, 2009, 7:00 – 9:00 PM at St. Patrick's Parish. Funeral service will be held at St. Patrick's High School on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at 2:30 pm, followed by interment at Lakeview Cemetery and reception at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre.



***Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear.***

