



TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY News

Commemorating the Victims of Communism

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Memorial Included in Speech from the Throne

The 2013 Speech from the Throne, delivered by Governor General David Johnston on October 16th, included a statement about the Memorial to Victims of Communism.

In Section 3, *Putting Canada First*, under the heading “2017: Anniversary of Confederation,” the Memorial was listed as part of the efforts to recognize the 150th anniversary of Confederation:

“Canada’s Confederation is worth celebrating. As we approach our historic 150th anniversary in 2017, our Government will join with Canadians in honouring this momentous milestone by...Building a Memorial to the Victims of Communism, to remember the millions who suffered under tyranny...”

Tribute to Liberty is grateful for the Government of Canada’s support for the Canadian Memorial to Victims of Communism.

Tribute to Liberty Participates in Democratization in China Conference

On October 19th Tribute to Liberty board member Alide Forstmanis addressed participants of the 6th International Conference on Global Support for Democratization in China and Asia. The conference theme was “Together We Lead the Change.” There were approximately 150 delegates and participants from 20 countries.



Mrs. Forstmanis talked about Tribute to Liberty and the Memorial to Victims of Communism to be built in Ottawa. In her speech, Mrs. Forstmanis discussed the project’s background, the need for donations and community support, and the memorial’s purpose and meaning—to commemorate the victim’s suffering, and to educate the public about the evil’s of Communism.

Following Mrs. Forstmanis’ speech, session moderator Michael Craig, China coordinator for Amnesty International Canada, initiated the following motion: “We move, as participants in the conference ‘Together We Lead the Change’ that we support the building of A Memorial to

Tribute to Liberty is a Canadian organization whose mission is to establish a memorial to the victims of Communism in the National Capital Region.

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Tribute to Liberty
P.O. Box 84558
2336 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario M6S 4Z7
info@tributetoliberty.ca
www.tributetoliberty.ca

Victims of Communism, which is being spearheaded by Tribute-to-Liberty.” The motion was unanimously supported. Tribute to Liberty thanks all conference delegates for their support.



David Kilgour Hosts Fundraiser for Tribute to Liberty

On October 23rd, former MP David Kilgour hosted a fundraising evening in his home for Tribute to Liberty. Tribute to Liberty Chair Ludwik Klimkowski attended the event.

“I would like to express my appreciation of everyone's efforts in organizing our fundraising event in Ottawa... My special thanks goes to Laura and David Kilgour for hosting us at their home, and to Senator Hai Ngo, Hon. Minister Jason Kenney, and Hon. Wladyslaw Lizon for their participation and support,” says Mr. Klimkowski.



Stephen Harper Discusses Memorial at Canadian Ukrainian Congress Event

On November 9th at the 24th Congress of Ukrainian Canadians, Prime Minister Stephen Harper was interviewed on stage by Jurij Klufas. The two discussed a number of issues of interest to Ukrainian Canadians, including the Memorial to Victims of Communism. The following are the remarks made by the Prime Minister about Communism and the need for the Memorial:

STEPHEN HARPER: Well, we've tried as a government to really put a lot more emphasis on freedom and democracy, human rights and the rule of law and obviously values in our foreign policy, but also to improve Canadians' understanding of those things in our own society.

And I think, if I can talk personally here, I think one of the things that really troubles me is that when we look at the two great evils of the 20th century, Fascism and Communism, there has been a full reckoning in terms of western civilization of the terrible nature and terrible events of Fascism.

But unfortunately in some circles, there is still a tendency to try and downplay the terrible awful things, the tens of millions of people who died because of Communist ideology and Communist dictatorship.



And I don't think anybody in Canadian political life, anybody who values the kind of freedom and democracy that we have come to love and cherish and understand in this country, anybody in leadership positions should ever, ever downplay the terrible things that Communism and Communist dictatorships have done. It's important they are recognized and that we come to terms with them and that we make a vow that certainly in Canadian foreign policy we will never turn a blind eye to those things again.

JURIJ KLUFAS: So in light of that narrative, maybe you could explain a little bit to us about the victims of Communism monument that you're spearheading for placement in Ottawa in a very, very prominent position.

STEPHEN HARPER: Yes, this has been, you know, we're here on November the 9th, which as many of you know is

actually something that should have a much greater prominence. I know we held an event several years in Ottawa to make the 20th anniversary. It was 2009, the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and that's what today is, the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which really was the beginning of the end of Soviet Communism as we know it. And of course ultimately part and parcel of Ukraine finally gaining its freedom, I'm proud to say, under a previous conservative government, the first democratic country in the world to recognize the independence of Ukraine was the government of Canada.

And, you know, given that history and given that there are so many people in Canada who have family and personal backgrounds from Communist countries that understand the true terror that that was and has been for so many people I think it's important as we recognize the Holocaust and recognize other events that we build this into the Canadian narrative.

So the government has been very supportive of Tribute to Liberty and the building of the monument and I am personally very committed to it as well.

Novel about Stalinist Terror Translated into English



Wave of Terror, translated from Ukrainian into English in 2007, is a novel by Theodore Odrach. Mr. Odrach, who escaped Communism and came to Canada in 1953, living in Toronto until his death in 1964, wrote several novels and collections of short stories, all in Ukrainian.

“This remarkable book is a microcosm of Soviet history, and Odrach provides a first-hand account of events during the Stalinist era that newsreels never covered. It has special value as a sensitive and realistic portrait of the times, while capturing the internal drama of the characters with psychological concision. Odrach creates a powerful and moving picture, and manages to show what life was really like under the brutal dictatorship of Stalin, and brings cataclysmic events of history to a human scale.”

Pathway to Liberty Continues to Grow—Raising Funds for the Memorial and Telling Victim’s Stories

In October 2009, Tribute to Liberty launched the *Pathway to Liberty* fundraising campaign. The idea of the unique buy-a-brick campaign was to raise funds for the memorial and also to give donors the opportunity to tell stories about their experiences of Communism and make dedications to

loved ones killed under Communism. The *Pathway* is a virtual pathway that exists on Tribute to Liberty’s website.

In the 4 years that the campaign has been underway, many stories and dedications have been collected. The *Pathway* has become a tapestry of victim’s stories and emotions and as one scrolls down the page and reads, one begins to understand the terror and pain that Communism has caused for individuals and families. The *Pathway* also shows the breadth of Communism’s terror—there are dedications from those of Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Hungarian, Latvian, Polish, Cuban, Slovakian, Estonian, Chinese, Croatian, Vietnamese, German, Czech, and Romanian descent, as well as others. The majority of the stories come from Canadians, which further makes the *Pathway* unique.

A sample of *Pathway* stories...

Donated by The Bayrachny Family

In memory of our relatives, including the grandfather we never knew, who perished at the hands of Stalin, imprisoned, tortured, shot to death or sent to Siberia to perish without any further word of their fate. In memory of the children, our unbeknown five aunts and uncles, who starved to death during the Holodomor. In memory of our grandparents who endured the suffering and torment but instilled in their surviving children pride in their Ukrainian heritage. They are the ones who sought a better life in North America and because of them, we are all blessed.

Donated by Maribel Palacios Martinez

To my family and especially to my husband Pedro Benito, who spent 5 years in Cuban prisons, enduring torture, hunger and physical abuse, for the crime of opposing the Castro brothers' communist dictatorship.

Donated by Tamara Cernauteanu

In memory of my father, Anton Cernauteanu, and my uncle, Vladimir Cernauteanu, both priests, arrested in Bessarabaia by Soviet soldiers in 1940. No one in my family ever heard from them and even at this time we do not know what happened to them: where they were detained, when and how they died, or if they were ever buried.

Donated by Karlis Amandus Vasarajs

In memory of my krustevs (godfather), Amandus Andersons, who was captured in Kurzeme in 1945 and last heard of from the KGB's foul and infamous prison, Lubjanka, in Moscow, and was never to be seen again.

Please visit the Pathway at www.tributetoliberty.ca to read more stories about the victims of Communism, and please consider making a donation to help build the memorial. See the last page of this newsletter for more information about donating or donate online at www.tributetoliberty.ca.

Tell Your Story...

And help build the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa.

A donation of \$200 buys a brick for the virtual Pathway to Liberty that leads to the Memorial.

Each brick can be donated with a story of a victim of Communism, a message or a dedication. Donate today at: tributetoliberty.ca.

For more information about Tribute to Liberty and the Memorial to Victims of Communism, visit tributetoliberty.ca.



Mail-in Contribution Form

**Don't forget to enclose your story,
message or dedication!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Donation Amount: \$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$200 _____ Other _____ **I wish to remain anonymous:** _____

Please make cheque payable to Tribute to Liberty and mail to:
Tribute to Liberty, P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M6S 4Z7

Tribute to Liberty is a registered charity. Charitable Number: 814999660RR0001