



Fundraising Dinner with Prime Minister Stephen Harper

On May 30, a fundraising dinner with Prime Minister Stephen Harper was held in Toronto for the Canadian Memorial to the Victims of Communism. Approximately 500 people gathered to raise funds for the memorial and to hear the Prime Minister speak. Robert Herjavec of *Dragon's Den* fame was the emcee for the evening.

In his speech, the Prime Minister spoke of the horrors of Communism, Canada's role in welcoming refugees from Communism, and of Canada's strong stance against Communism:

During the 20th century, communism's poisonous ideology and ruthless practice slowly bled into countries all around the world, on almost every continent.

The result was nothing short of catastrophic.

More than one hundred million souls were lost, an almost incomprehensible number...

... In Canada, we feel this pain so acutely because nearly one quarter of all Canadians were either held captive by communism's chains or are the sons and daughters of those who were.

Indeed, throughout the 20th century, Canada became a haven for those fleeing communist governments, as Robert described to us, and a new home to those who wanted to live in freedom...

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

Tribute to Liberty's Newsletter is published four times a year. If you would like to add an email address to our subscriber list please email info@tributetoliberty.ca.

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www.tributetoliberty.ca



Story continued inside...

...Freedom, for everyone, is at the heart of what it means to be Canadian.

Canadians have a long history of guarding our freedoms at home.

And we have an equally proud history of defending freedom abroad...

...Now those of us who have lived long enough will know that evil comes in many forms and seems to reinvent itself time and again.

But whatever it calls itself - Nazism, Marxist-Leninism, today, terrorism - they all have one thing in common: the destruction, the end, of human liberty.

My fear is this: as we move further into the 21st century, Canadians, especially new generations, will forget or will not be taught the lessons hard learned and the victories hard earned over the last 100 years.

That they will fall even further in love with ease and convenience.

And that they will not understand that their rights and their advantages, their peace and their security, were won by people willing to live and die for what is good and right.

That they will not appreciate how precious and rare our way of life here in Canada today truly is.

And that they will not recognize these grave threats when they re-appear.

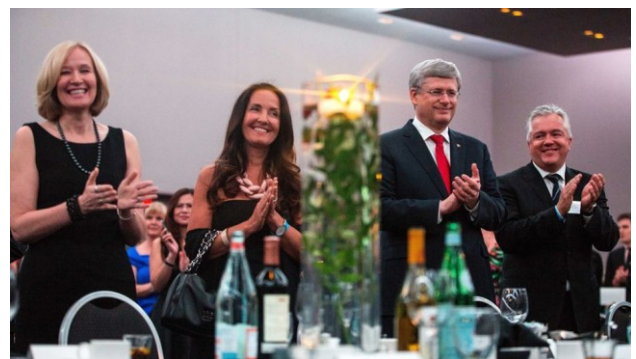
What history has taught us is one clear thing: that the political ideologies that promise utopia lead to the opposite, hell on earth.

That's why Canada needs this monument, and why we are so grateful to the work of Tribute of Liberty that reminds us of the names and the stories of those lost to one of the deadliest ideological plagues ever spread, to communism.

This monument is part of marking our path as a nation, and, thus, helping to ensure that we do not lose our way.

Tribute to Liberty is grateful for the support of the Prime Minister through his attendance at the event, and for the support of all who attended.

The full text of the Prime Minister's speech is available at: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/05/30/statement-prime-minister-canada-toronto-0> and a video of the speech is available at: http://www.conservative.ca/?page_id=4680



Design Competition Launched!

On April 1, the design competition for the Canadian Memorial to the Victims of Communism was launched.

The announcement was made by Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages Shelly Glover and Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism Jason Kenney in Ottawa.

Teams of professional artists, architects, landscape architects and other urban design professionals were invited to submit their credentials and examples of previous work for the first stage of a two-phase competition.

The first phase, already completed, evaluated qualifications and shortlisted six teams. The second phase, inviting finalists to develop concepts, is expected to wrap up in late August 2014, with a winner being announced at that time.

A Jury of Experts composed of renowned design professionals, stakeholders and content specialists has been assembled for the competition:

Shirley Blumberg, architect

David Frum, author

Maria Gabankova, artist

Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair, Tribute to Liberty

Michael J. Lewis, art and architecture historian

Phuong T.V. Ngo, lawyer

Peter F. Smith, landscape architect

The monument, to be unveiled in late summer 2015, will be prominently located on Confederation Boulevard in Ottawa, between the Library and Archives Canada building and the Supreme Court of Canada.

Tribute to Liberty Welcomes New Board Member

In March, Tribute to Liberty announced the appointment of a new board member, Byong Gil Suh (Ron Suh). Mr. Suh is the President and CEO of Bisco Dental Products, and is a recognized business leader within the Korean-Canadian community. He was part of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Canadian delegation that visited South Korea in March 2014 to sign a free trade agreement between the two countries. Mr. Suh is also the Chairman of The National Unification Advisory Council, Vancouver

Chapter, a Korean government organization that advises the President of South Korea.

"I am honoured to join the Board of Directors of Tribute to Liberty and help build a Memorial to the Victims of Communism here in Canada," said Mr. Suh.

"It is important that democratic countries like Canada remember and educate Canadians about the crimes of Communism throughout the world. I personally witnessed the atrocities committed by the Communist regime in North Korea against South Koreans—violations of freedom and dignity that continue to this day."

Mr. Suh looks forward to engaging his community in support of the Memorial.

History Unhidden *My Mother's Story*

My mother, Nguyen Thi Xuan Uyen, was born into a feudatory family. Her father was a high functionary officer and served as a judge under the Nguyen Dynasty at Huê citadel, the former capital of Vietnam. My mother was the only one in her family of six sisters who was determined to pursue higher education. She accepted and adapted to the influence of the new and modern French culture and education system. From Huê citadel, she went to Saigon where she got her nursing and midwife degree with the French Red Cross. She became one of the first Personnel Auxiliaire Féminin, and then Social Assistant Officer under the first republic regime of the south of Vietnam.



Early in the 1960s, my mother transferred and joined the Women's Armed Force Corps (WAFC) and served in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. These women in uniform have been forgotten for their role in the Vietnam war.

In 1973, after the U.S. decided to withdraw from Vietnam, my mother officially retired from the WAFC. However, she continued to work at the General Hospital in Danang city until April 29, 1975, when the Communists invaded the south of Vietnam.



Under Communist order, my mother was forced to present herself to the local Communist authorities. She was then sent to a re-education camp for 11 months even though she had retired from the army in 1973. Our house was confiscated. My mother and two of her children (myself and my sister) finally had to move back to Huê city where she found temporary shelter for us with her elderly mother.

In the summer of 1977, we and thousands of others were forced to go to the so-called "new economic zone" far away from Huê city, in the deep jungle and highland area of Daklak province. This was a massive campaign of the Vietnamese Communists (VC) to cleanse all people that had been considered as "adversary" to them, and the VC once again confiscated all property from their victims. At this point my mother could not even work as a farmer. She was weak and sick, both spiritually and physically. Only my sister was old enough to work. I was too young to help with anything!

Life in the new economic zone was terrible. We lacked all basic necessities for a normal life—no clean water, no food, no medicine, no clothes, no blankets, no mosquito nets. My mother had to sell all her personal belongings, including her jewelry that she had kept and hidden for years. We lived in fear and hopelessness. We suffered from malnutrition, and people were sick with malaria, typhoid fever and scarlet fever. Many people died. It was a hell.

My mother used her nursing and midwife skills to help deliver many babies in the village that we lived. She did not get paid for it because everyone was poor! As a gesture to pay her for her services, people offered

her vegetables, rice, and chickens that they had raised themselves. Many of those babies are now in their thirties. That was in Phu Xuan village, Krong buk district, Dakalk province.

In 1981, while I was in high school, we were reconnected with my father who had just been released from the re-education camp in the north of Vietnam. He returned to his hometown in Can Tho city near Mekong delta, where his elderly mother was waiting for him. When my mother learned that he was alive she told me to escape and join my father in order to find a way to flee the country. Getting out of the country in these times was not easy—almost impossible if you did not have gold or enough resources.

In April 1982, I escaped. I went to Cambodia by a small boat, and from Phnom Penh I went by train to the north of Cambodia, and in the final leg of the journey, I walked through the field of mines along the border of Cambodia and Thailand. There I was captured by the resistance guerillas of the Khmer Rouge. However, later on I was rescued by the International Red Cross and reached the refugee camp near the Thailand border. I was in the refugee camp for nearly 7 years before being accepted to resettle in Canada.

While I was enroute to Canada and to freedom, my mother died in the new economic zone. I did not know this terrible news until a few years later because my family did not want me to know out of fear that if I knew I would return to Vietnam.

From the day the Communists took over my country we all become victims. Communism is the cruelest thing that I have seen in the world. It is a man-made disaster to humanity.

I am so grateful to be here in Canada—to live in a safe place where there is freedom and democracy. These are precious gifts. These gifts are not granted automatically at all times everywhere, but must be fought for and built up. We must continue to protect and promote freedom and democracy for everyone. The Canadian Memorial to the Victims of Communism makes me feel that my mother is with us. Our family's story is alive with this monument and will be transmitted to my children and the generations to come.

Submitted by Peter Chuong

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.



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

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