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THE LATE WILLIAM MOSS LANDYMORE, OBE

Statement by:

The Honourable Bill Rompkey

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

THE SENATE

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Hon. Bill Rompkey: Honourable senators, I rise to pay tribute to a great Canadian to whom we are all indebted for both his valiant defence of our country and his valiant defence and steadfast support of our navy. Rear-Admiral William Moss Landymore, crossed the bar in Halifax on Thursday, November 27, 2008, at the age of 92.

Admiral Landymore enrolled at the Royal Military College in Kingston in 1934 and entered the Royal Canadian Navy in 1936. He distinguished himself in both war and peace, serving in 13 ships of the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II. Additionally, he trained the gunnery crews of seven allied ships at Scapa Flow. He survived the sinking of HMCS *Fraser* and HMCS *Margaree*. He saw active service in Palestine, the North Atlantic, the Pacific, and was awarded a Mention-In-Dispatches on the Murmansk Convoys. During the Korean War, Admiral Landymore commanded HMCS *Iroquois* on two tours, was awarded a second mention in dispatches, was appointed Canadian Commander Destroyers Far East and awarded the Order of the British Empire. Following the war, he commanded HMCS *Bonaventure*, our last aircraft carrier. He also served as Flag Officer Pacific Coast and Flag Officer Atlantic Coast.

However, it was his final act of service that earned him a place of honour as one of Canada's greatest naval heroes. A staunch opponent of unification, Admiral Landymore refused to sacrifice his principles to save his career. He foresaw the many problems unification would bring for the navy and to the morale of his

sailors and he fought with a true "Heart of Oak" to serve his navy and keep true to the motto of the RMC: "Truth, Duty, Valour."

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History has vindicated Admiral Landymore. Many of the initiatives that ended the Royal Canadian Navy have since been reversed and, today, we once again have a navy we can be proud of and depend upon. However, his legacy extends far beyond the navy of today.

Admiral Landymore established a tradition of principled leadership and uncompromising care for the welfare of subordinates that has since spread through generations of future military leaders. Without his great example of courage and conviction we would not generate leaders like General Rick Hillier; leaders who tell truth to power and who are unwilling to compromise on the welfare of the men and women who protect and defend this country.

After he was shamefully removed as head of our navy, Admiral Landymore continued to give to our country. Serving on the Board of the Grace Hospital in Halifax, he was awarded the Salvation Army Cross of the Order of Distinguished Auxiliary Service. His work to promote health care, education and care for those with special needs brought many accolades that he never sought but so clearly deserved.

Honourable senators, I am honoured to pay tribute to a great sailor and a great Canadian, Admiral William Moss Landymore.
