

Homage to the Veterans of Ville-Marie—Le Sud Ouest—Île-des-Soeurs

Courage is Quebecker and Québécois—

As generations of Montréalais prove:

Recall Georges Vanier, that Great War hero,

Who knew *Victory* needs soldiers who move,

Peerless into *Peril*. Think of Percival

Molson, who joined Vanier in the vanguard

Of First World War liberators, and fell—

Valiant in Europe, his example starred;

And remember Guy Drummond, who perished

At Ypres, marching fearless into *Strife*;

And salute now Leo Major, who cherished

Struggle—“Quebec’s Rambo”—with gun and knife,

Who fought to free Europe in World War II,

And later Korea; where came Joe Mell,

Whose heroics at home now continue,

Saving St. Anne’s Veterans Hospital.

Now light a candle for Jason Warren—

Montreal-born, died in Afghanistan—

One more name that we commit to heaven—

One more dauntless, deathless Canadian,

From Ville-Marie—Le Sud Ouest—Île-des-Soeurs—
Cradle of *Courage*: The Peace-forging Soldier.

And the Unknown Soldier? Perhaps he's born
Or lived in Montreal. No surprise that!
Our heroes are selfless, if bullet-torn,
Like John Francis Young, stretcher-bearer at
Drury-Arras, who bandaged his comrades
While machine-guns spat fire, and never quit
Caring. Such men inspire poets' ballads
And score the Vic Cross, its glittering fit,
Or are like Jean-Charles Forbes, that Renaissance
Knight, who faced foes in World War the Second,
And Korea, got be-medalled by France
And Holland, and then found that *Art* beckoned,
At Ville-Marie—Le Sud Ouest—Île-des-Soeurs—
Where *Freedom's* chevaliers we remember.

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Parliamentary Poet Laureate
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