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OTTAWA  CITIZEN

Let last Great War vets live in peace

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Re: Honour them all, Jan. 8.

Media reports regarding holding a state funeral for the last veteran of the First World War have been speculative and unhelpful. Not all of the families have ruled out accepting the offer of a state funeral for their loved ones, nor has the federal government indicated that it has ruled out a state funeral as a means to commemorate all those who served under arms from 1914 to 1918.

The Canadian media, and now increasingly the international media, needs to take a time out on this important issue. The main proposition of the Dominion Institute's petition for a state funeral, a petition signed by more than 90,000 Canadians and passed as a unanimous motion by Parliament in November, still stands. At the appropriate time the prime minister of Canada will offer, on behalf of a grateful nation, the family of the last Great War veteran resident in Canada a full state funeral. On their own, and in private, this family and their loved ones will decide whether they wish to accept this offer. Let's all respect the privacy of the families of the last Great War veterans in their twilight years and let events run their course.

Jeremy Diamond, Toronto

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