



**For Immediate Release**  
**November 21, 2006 11:00 AM**

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## **PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY PASSES MOTION TO HOLD A STATE FUNERAL FOR THE LAST FIRST WORLD WAR VETERAN**

**Toronto, Ontario** – The House of Commons unanimously passed a motion today to hold a state funeral for the last veteran of the First World War. The passage of the motion brings to a successful conclusion the Dominion Institute's online petition asking the federal government to offer a full State Funeral to the family of the last Great War veteran. Since November 6 almost 100,000 Canadians have signed the online petition ([www.dominion.ca/statefuneral](http://www.dominion.ca/statefuneral)).

"We want to thank the tens of thousands of Canadians who signed our petition in support of a State Funeral," said Rudyard Griffiths, Executive Director of The Dominion Institute. Mr. Griffiths continues: "By passing a motion to offer a full state funeral today the Parliament of Canada will allow a grateful nation to pay proper tribute to our last Great War veteran on his passing and honour the over 600,000 Canadians he served with under arms from 1914-1918."

Currently, only three veterans of First World War remain – Lloyd Clemett (106 years of age), John Babcock (106 years of age) and Dwight Wilson (105 years of age). These three men constitute Canada's only living link to the sacrifices and triumphs of the more than half million Canadians who served in the First World War and the more than 60,000 who died between 1914 and 1918.

The motion for a state funeral was presented by the NDP through Veterans Affairs critic Peter Stoffer (Sackville – Eastern Shore).

"Ordinary Canadians across this country want to honour and remember the last of this Great Generation. Close to 90,000 Canadians have already signed the Dominion Institute's petition calling for a state funeral for the last Great War veteran. With the adoption of our motion today, Canadians can collectively celebrate the sacrifice of all WWI veterans," said NDP leader Jack Layton.

Recent surveys undertaken by the Dominion Institute reveal that Canadians' knowledge of the First World War is fading rapidly with barely a third of our fellow citizens can name the battle of Vimy Ridge as a key Canadian victory in the First World War. These same surveys indicate that three in four Canadians support offering a State Funeral to the last veteran of the First World War. See [www.dominion.ca/polling.htm](http://www.dominion.ca/polling.htm) for more information on the Institute's polling studies.

The Dominion Institute is making its call for a State Funeral on behalf of the veterans who volunteer with its Memory Project. The Memory Project Speakers' Bureau consists of 1,500 veteran volunteers who have visited with over 300,000 young people since 2001. The Institute conducted an informal survey of this group last month and found that fully 76% supported providing a State Funeral to the family of the Last Great War veteran resident in Canada.

For more information on the Institute's campaign for State Funeral visit: [www.dominion.ca](http://www.dominion.ca).

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