

MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK UPDATE

Comrades

I trust that all of you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and that all of your travels were safe over the festive holiday season.

You will recall that I gave an updated report in regards to our Military Service Recognition Book program at our P.E.C. meeting in November. Since this program is an important program for Ontario Command, our Provincial President felt that it was important that I continue to keep you updated on our programs progress. So you will find an updated report of the total submissions received to date from each District. As you will note, at the end of 2013 a total of 107 submissions had been received.

We are now in our fourth month since our program was kicked off during Legion Week in September. However, at that time, Branches had other things on their minds, particularly their annual Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Day observances. So our first three months of submissions being received has been a bit on the slow side.

If we were to continue at our current pace, it would mean that we should receive just over 500 submissions for our first book by our cut-off date of May 31st. This would then translate into approximately 170 pages of submission and 170 pages of advertising, or a 340 page book. This would be quite a bit short of our anticipated 500 pages for our first Military Service Recognition book.

So we still have a lot of work to do in having our Branches send in submissions for our Veterans and we are asking for your support and involvement in soliciting our Branches for our much needed submissions. With a full concentrated effort put forth during the next few months by our Branches, I am sure that we can reach our anticipated goal or surpass it.

Although some Branches have participated to date, there are more that have not. And this is not really fair to Veterans living within our Command. What is even more disappointing is some of the problems that our coordinator Carolyn McCaul and her assistant Mary Ann Goheen have encountered with some of the submissions and photos that have been received to date. They are as follows:

- Permission and contact information required on the submission form has been missing.
- Submission forms have been filled out by hand and the handwriting is not legible.
- Submitted photos are unsuitable for print in our book.

The above problems would of course not exist if the Branches were all involved in our program and assisting our Veterans with the completion of the submission application forms. So again, we ask for your support in your communications with your Zone Commanders and Branches in this regard.

We have also found through information received from District PRO's and Zone Commanders that many members being contacted at Branches are not even aware of our initiative. They have found that in many cases, the Branch Secretary's are not passing on the information about our program. So Comrades, it would appear that we still have a lot of work to do in order to make our program successful. We are also finding that some Branches feel that the submissions are only to be from our traditional Veterans. This is the farthest from the truth. Submissions are to be from ALL Veterans, not just a chosen few.

Comrades, we are asking for your assistance in doing what you can in getting all of our Branches involved and assisting our Veterans with the preparation of submissions for our book. Also in promoting our program within our Branches and communities. This can be accomplished through word of mouth, Branch Newsletter items, local media and social media.

Branches are now in a bit of a lull with our busy Fall schedule now completed. Hopefully, they will now turn their attention to our Military Service Recognition Book program so that our report at the end of January will show significant gains in the number of submissions received.

Yours in Comradeship,

Ron Goebel
Chairman
Military Service Recognition Book Program

MILITARY SERVICE RECOGNITION BOOK SUBMISSIONS

<u>District</u>	<u>Sept/Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>
A	5	1						
B	2	1						
C	25		1					
D								
E		19	15					
F	3		11					
G	12	1	9					
H			2					
K								
Totals	47	22	38					
Grand Total	47	69	107					