



Statement

Susan Kadis, M.P., Thornhill

Thursday, February 15, 2007

Mr. Speaker,

With great pride I rise to mark the National Flag Day of Canada. Chosen by Parliament in the time of Lester B. Pearson, today is the forty-second anniversary of the first hoist of the maple-leaf emblem over the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill.

This moment in our rise from colony to nation is one in which all Canadians take pride. Around the world, the maple-leaf is a symbol of justice and hope, because Canada is a new nation, an immigrant nation, where peoples of all national origins have united in a peaceful and tolerant society.

For our soldiers killed in action, the ultimate symbol of respect is to half-mast our national flag. On this Flag Day, when we have cause to reflect on a year of sacrifice, I call on the Conservative government to reverse its disturbing decision to cease this practice.

To honour all fallen Canadian soldiers, this government must obey the dictates of decency and honour, and order the flag half-masted whenever one of our own is killed in action.