Mayor Eisenberg -

I am writing to invite you to participate in a special event that will honour the service and sacrifice of local veterans and encourage them to share their experiences with local youth.

With support from the Province of Ontario, The Dominion Institute is organizing **8 Veteran Appreciation Days** in communities across Ontario during the summer of 2009. We are proposing that the City of Hamilton announce a day between May and August to be a Veteran Appreciation Day. An official proclamation ceremony would be held at the local cenotaph.

The Memory Project brings Canadian veterans from all conflicts and currently serving Canadian Forces personnel into the classrooms of primary and secondary schools to better explain Canada’s role in international affairs and help keep the memories of fallen soldiers alive. The Memory Project reaches out to some 15,000 Canadian students each year through informal classroom discussions and formal ceremonies.

The purpose of the Veteran Appreciation Day project is to honour local veterans and encourage inter-generational dialogue between Canada’s youth and Canada’s veterans. By sharing their stories of courage, determination and sacrifice, the Veteran Appreciation Day hopes to foster stronger ties between the selected communities and local veterans. We believe it is of utmost importance that Canada’s youth understand the supreme sacrifice associated with armed conflict and recognize the profound effect such a sacrifice has had on shaping our nation, its identity and our shared values.

The project, in its third year, has proved a resounding success, with many of last year’s participating towns and cities seeing high attendance and excellent media coverage. The Institute provides part of the organization and extends the word to veteran associations, community groups, first-responders, school-children etc. to develop an inclusive, family-oriented celebration of local heroism.

Thus, we would like to extend a warm invitation to yourself and the members of your organization and hope the City of Hamilton is this year’s inaugural Veteran Appreciation Day. Your presence will be greatly esteemed by not only local veterans but the community at large. We would like to know which dates you would be able to attend this event so that we may begin to coordinate with media, associations and other dignitaries.

With utmost sincerity

Taylor C. Noakes