



The Royal Canadian Legion
National Headquarters

86 Aird Place
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GUIDANCE FOR COMMANDS AND BRANCHES ON THE PASSING OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The following guidance will help you plan any upcoming activities and events in the wake of the Queen's passing, and honour her service to Canada in a respectful manner.

ON NOTIFICATION OF PASSING

Commands and Branches will lower flags at Command buildings and Branches to half-mast and keep lowered until sunset on the day of the funeral; the funeral is anticipated to be held 10 days after the passing.

To respect the solemnity of her passing, and out of respect for her lifetime of service, including her military service during the Second World War, Branches are encouraged to either cancel any unrelated celebratory Legion events or activities (i.e. meat draws, Chase the Ace draws, etc.) for the duration of the 10-day period of mourning or, for those occasions where cancellation or postponement is not viable (i.e. Legion Week events), include recognition to The Queen in the schedule of activities (observe Two Minutes of Silence). Any Branch gatherings of a business nature (i.e. branch meetings) or rental activities at the Branch by non-Legion groups are exempt from the cancellation suggestion.

Once the funeral date is confirmed, the Legion will designate that day as a National Day of Mourning throughout the organization.

ON THE DAY OF THE FUNERAL

Conduct a wreath laying ceremony. The Order of Service follows and is based on our Remembrance ceremonies. A special wreath should be placed in her honour.

Pause for two Minutes of Silence at 11:00 am in each Command and Branch – a rolling Two Minutes of Silence.

Ensure "God Save the King" is played or sung. (Instrumental version: <https://nationalanthems.info/gb.mp3>)

All Legion members are encouraged to wear formal Legion dress (blazer, tie) on the National Day of Mourning (day of the funeral).



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ORDER OF SERVICE

The following is a suggestion for any Branch wanting to have a memorial event at their Cenotaph. The specific detail is left to Branches and is based on their capabilities and should be timed around the "Two Minutes of Silence" as for Remembrance Day ceremonies:

- Gathering of Legion Members, Legion Colours at a designated location
- Parade with Colours to the Cenotaph (if applicable)
- O Canada
- Last Post
- Silence – Two Minutes
- Lament
- Rouse
- The Act of Remembrance
- Prayers
- Placing of a wreath in memory of Her Majesty
- Remarks by the Branch President
- Benediction
- God Save the King
- Dispersal
- Individuals may place their Poppy or a wreath at the base of the Cenotaph

OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

A Poppy should be placed in the lower left corner of any framed official photographs of The Queen.

Any official photographs of The Queen on display in Commands and Branches will remain in place until the circulation of the official photograph of the King.

The Platinum Jubilee pin will be removed from Legion dress the day after the National Day of Mourning.

A commemorative pin will be developed (as with the pin developed for the End of an Era – passing of the last Canadian First World War Veteran). This pin will replace the Platinum Jubilee pin and will be worn for 96 days, one day for each year of her lifetime of service. The start date and end date for wear will be announced and standardized.