



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P4

Mr. and Mrs. Peter and Gabrielle Brüggén  
Friedhofstraße 15  
Bergheim-Oberauesem 50129  
GERMANY

OCT 13 2023

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Brüggén:

It was recently brought to my attention by Mr. Philip May that, for a number of years, you have honoured an Allied air crew with a commemorative plaque on the outside of your house in Oberaussem, Germany.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I commend you for the great respect you have shown for the crew members of a Halifax aircraft belonging to the Royal Canadian Air Force's 432 Squadron that fought in the skies over Germany during the Second World War and crashed in the yard of your family home on February 21, 1945: Flying Officer Edwin Frederick Patzer; Sergeant Christopher Ignatius Grant; Pilot Officer Wells Gibb Mendenhall; Flying Officer George Borden Henson; Flying Officer Alexander Humphrey May; Flight Sergeant Joseph William Burke McIntosh; and Pilot Officer Frank Shannon Daley. Your initiative to pay tribute to these courageous aviators—three of whom lost their lives in the crash—with a memorial marking the site is a wonderful testament to our common humanity and our shared sense of connection with those who fought in that truly global conflict.

The Second World War in Europe took a terrible toll not only on members of the armed forces but also on the civilian population. We must never forget the tragedy of war and the immense sacrifices made by those who left their loved ones behind to fight for peace and freedom for all. Memorials like the plaque your family so thoughtfully installed on your home are touching examples of the post-war reconciliation between our two nations and the bonds of friendship we continue to enjoy today.

It is my understanding that you visited Canada this summer. While I regret that I was unable to present these commemorative items to you in person, I am enclosing packets of poppy seeds and Canada Remembers pins as tokens of my appreciation for your efforts to help keep the torch of remembrance burning brightly.

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Canada 

These special pins incorporate two highly recognizable emblems—the maple leaf and the poppy—and were created to honour Canadian Veterans and their many contributions in times of war, armed conflict and peace.

In closing, please accept my very best wishes. I hope that you enjoyed your time in Canada and that you can visit us again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ginette Petitpas Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "G" and "T".

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, PC, MP

Enclosures

c.c.: Ms. Viviane Lapointe, MP for Sudbury