

Funeral service honouring World War Two veteran

Special to the News

A funeral service of life and thanksgiving in honour of John Herbert Wall was held at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville, followed by interment at Maple Grove Cemetery in Kanata.

Herb Wall, who died on Monday, Aug. 1, was born on July 9, 1921 on a farm at Hazeldean, one of the children of Sarah Bradley and John Wall.

He served six years overseas with the Canadian Army Postal Corps in World War Two, attaining the rank of Sergeant, after which he worked for the Post Office, serving as Postmaster at both RCAF Station Uplands and in Stirling, ON. He was also a long standing member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

He met his wife, the former Mary Hobbs, at a postwar “welcome home” reception and they were married for 62 years until her death in 2014.

In keeping with the family’s wishes, the funeral service included involvement of a Royal Canadian Legion colour party, a bagpiper and a bugler. Members from the Kanata and Stittsville Legion branches were both involved.

Legion poppies were distributed to everyone at the funeral service and the service began with the Royal Canadian Legion colour party being led to the casket at the front of the church by bagpiper Jordan McConnell. Bugler Sgt. Chris Gerdei played the Last Post and Lament and in a brief Legion service, members of the Colour Party, followed by veterans, Legion members, family members and others laid poppies in honour of Herb Wall at the front of the church.

After the colour party had been led away by the bagpiper, the funeral service itself saw Herb’s children Philip, Kevin and Joan reflect on their father’s life, describing him as a loving father who took them camping and fishing and was there for their Scout-



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A Royal Canadian Legion colour party participates in a Legion ceremony at the beginning of the funeral of World War Two veteran Herb Wall at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville.

ing and backyard hockey rink activities, among other things. They told how Herb was a fabulous host and was always the life of a party.

In his homily, the Very Rev. Peter Hall, Dean of the Cathedral in the Diocese of Niagara and a nephew of Herb Wall, described his uncle as a person of great faith and as “the kind of man who we will never forget.”

Herb Wall is survived by his children Philip (Sheila Gormley), Kevin and Joan (Keith Pelley), his grandchildren Christie, Brian, Katie, Jason, Shane and Hope and his new great grandson Oliver. He was the twin brother of Alice (Weldon) Johnston and brother of Percy (Dorothy), Mary (Charlie) Patterson, Allen (Eleanor), Chuck (Isabel), Lois (Clarence) Sample

and Jimmy (Shirley). He was the brother-in-law of Ebert (Audrey and Doreen) Hobbs, Harry (Edith) Hobbs, Bernice (Cliff) Simpson and Craig (Joyce) Hobbs.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate in memoriam donations to either the Alzheimer’s Society of Canada or to the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalous Association of Ontario.