

OPERATION VETERAN PROGRAM

Honouring Veterans at the Canadian War Museum

The Canadian War Museum is tasked with a single overriding objective: to help all Canadians understand our country's military history in its personal, national and international dimensions. We are the only museum in the country that tells the complete linear military history of Canada. We do this through gripping, award-winning exhibitions and programs that go beyond weapons and technology to reveal the role of the military through human stories. As **Canada's national museum of military history**, we play a critical, leading role as a national centre for historical research and education while engaging visitors on-site, online and in communities in Canada and around the world. The War Museum's galleries highlight the ways in which past events have shaped Canada and Canadians, the brutal realities of organized human conflict and the importance of remembrance and understanding.

Operation Veteran: The Story

Operation Veteran was co-founded in 2009 by Dr. Paul Kavanagh, in association with the Canadian War Museum, following a poignant encounter involving a Second World War veteran in the Museum's Café.

From their place in the cafeteria line, Paul and his son watched as a dignified, elderly veteran in a crisp uniform made his way to the cash. "His pride in his service was clear," Paul recalls, but as the veteran reached the cash his proud demeanour faded away. Recognizing the problem, Paul motioned discreetly that he would take care of it: the veteran was waved through, never realizing that a stranger had paid for his meal. "He didn't have enough to pay," Paul later explained. "He was upset, and I felt I had to do something. So, I paid for his meal." The idea of Operation Veteran took shape that day.



Since 2009, Operation Veteran has provided complimentary meals to all Canadian veterans who visit the War Museum, helping to pay tribute — in a small way — to the men and women who have served our nation. Each day, meal vouchers valued at \$11 are made available for use at the cafeteria. To date, **more than 18,000 complimentary meals have been provided!**

Operation Veteran is supported through donations from individuals, schools, foundations and companies throughout Canada. Thanks to the initiative begun by Dr. Kavanagh and his family, and wholeheartedly supported by the Museum and so many Canadians, veterans visiting the Canadian War Museum no longer pay for their meals.

They Served Us, Now Let's Serve Them

By supporting Operation Veteran, you help us honour veterans, raise awareness of their sacrifices and preserve Canada's military history. Each complimentary meal served is a reminder that our veterans are revered, and their sacrifices remembered. We invite you to make a donation today.

"This gesture makes me feel recognized.
It's much appreciated."

A Canadian veteran who received a complimentary lunch at the Museum's cafeteria through the Operation Veteran program.

Choose to Make a Donation to Operation Veteran

Online

If you wish to make a donation online, you can do so with your credit card at warmuseum.ca/support/.

By phone

Please call us at 1-800-256-6031 or 819-776-8639.

By mail

Development Branch
Canadian War Museum
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Ottawa ON K1A 0M8

For more information about the program, please contact:

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The Canadian War Museum is administered by the Canadian Museum of History, a federal Crown corporation established by the *Museums Act*. The corporation is a qualified donee under the *Income Tax Act*, eligible to issue official donation receipts.