

VALOUR

DND photo CG0318-049 by Master Corporal Dany Veillette



Group shot of the recipients at the 10 June presentation ceremony held at Rideau Hall.

Canada's three military valour decorations, namely, the Victoria Cross, the Star of Military Valour, and the Medal of Military Valour, were created by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, on 1 January 1993. All the decorations may be awarded posthumously.

The **Victoria Cross** is awarded for the most conspicuous bravery, a daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

The **Star of Military Valour** is awarded for distinguished or valiant service in the presence of the enemy.

The **Medal of Military Valour** is awarded for an act of valour or devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

Additionally, the **Mention in Dispatches** was created to recognize members of the Canadian Forces on active service and other individuals working with or in conjunction with the Canadian Forces for valiant conduct, devotion to duty, or other distinguished service. Recipients are entitled to wear a bronze oak leaf on the appropriate campaign or service medal ribbon. Like the military valour decorations, the Mention in Dispatches may be awarded posthumously.

On 10 June 2011, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief



Victoria Cross



Star of Military Valour



Medal of Military Valour

VALOUR

of Canada, awarded two **Stars of Military Valour** and six **Medals of Military Valour**, as well as 38 **Meritorious Service Decorations**, to members of the Canadian Forces and allied forces.

These members received their decorations during a ceremony held at Rideau Hall in the presence of the Chief of the Defence Staff. They were recognized for devotion and acts of valour in the presence of the enemy, and for military deeds performed in a highly professional manner. During the ceremony, Governor General Johnston said, in part:

It is with great pride and respect that I welcome you to Rideau Hall today.

This ceremony is an opportunity to recognize your outstanding dedication to the principles that make this country great. Your commitment to serving others and to the basic rights and freedoms we enjoy in Canada is truly an example to us all. Allow me to quote my predecessor, General Georges Vanier, who once said:

“The overpowering strength of a free people is the readiness voluntarily to defend not merely themselves, not only their allies, but the very democratic principles they cherish.”

When you enlisted in the Canadian Forces, each of you demonstrated that readiness. And today, each of you is here because you have lived up to your

ideals and served these principles in an extraordinary manner...

Canadians have a lengthy tradition of service and of sacrifice for our ideals. Ninety-seven years ago, at the outset of the First World War, Prime Minister Robert Borden spoke of the “... fortitude, the determination and the resourcefulness” that would carry our nation through that terrible conflict.

The same can be said of your qualities as members of the present-day Canadian Forces. As a result, you have helped us to navigate new challenges in the 21st Century...

Today, as you receive your decorations for military valour and meritorious service, your responsibility is made even greater. You must never underestimate the power of your example as role models, because you embody the depth of our commitment to the common good.

These decorations are a testament to your courage, ingenuity and quiet determination, which have led you to fulfill your duty in remarkable ways. And so it is with great pleasure that I thank you for your efforts on behalf of all Canadians.

Your example of service and devotion is an inspiration to us all.

Thank you.

MILITARY VALOUR DECORATIONS

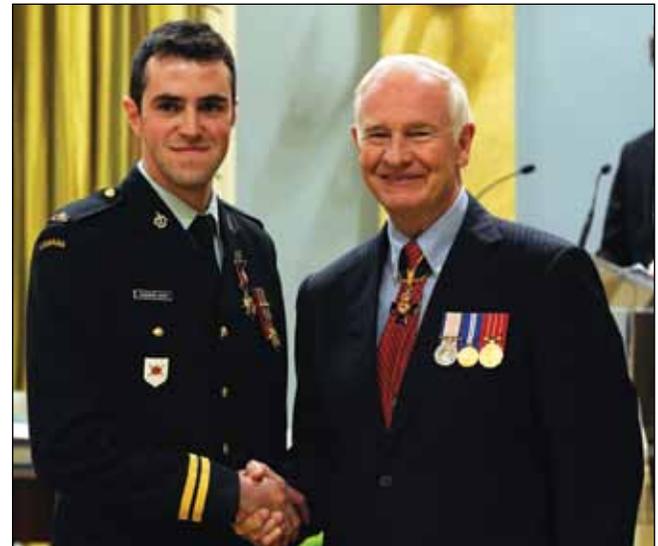
Star of Military Valour

Lieutenant Gabriel Chassé-Jean, SMV – Alma, Que
Master Warrant Officer Richard Stacey,
SMV, CD – Edmonton, Alta

Medal of Military Valour

Sergeant T. David Bérubé, MMV, CD –
Québec, Que
Master Corporal Simon R. Frigon, MMV –
Québec, Que
Master Corporal Jeremy Joseph James Leblanc,
MMV – Coalhurst, Alta
Sergeant Joseph Martin Stéphane Mercier,
MMV, CD – La Sarre, Que
Leading Seaman Pier-Vincent Michaud, MMV –
Trois-Rivières, Que
Sergeant Joseph Denis François Ranger,
MMV, CD – Vaudreuil, Que

CITATIONS



Lieutenant [now Captain] Chassé-Jean receives his Star of Military Valour from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston.

Lieutenant Gabriel Chassé-Jean, SMV
Star of Military Valour

From June 8 to 29, 2009, Lieutenant Chassé-Jean demonstrated valiant service under fire while leading his platoon to defeat the enemy in Afghanistan. Over an extended period, and amidst the chaos and confusion of combat, his fearless conduct in the engagement of a determined enemy, as well as his ability to keep his soldiers composed, were critical to multiple victories in a difficult theatre of operation. Whether leading a frontal assault, controlling the situation while trapped in dangerous positions, or directing supporting gunfire, he showed courage and inspirational leadership, which were the key to the success of multiple engagements.

DND photo GG0316-001 by Master Corporal Dany Veillette

VALOUR



The Governor General presents the Star of Military Valour to Master Warrant Officer Richard Stacey.

**Master Warrant Officer Richard Stacey, SMV, CD
Star of Military Valour**

On August 4, 2009, Master Warrant Officer Stacey's valour in the face of the enemy enabled his multinational combat team to fight through multiple ambushes by insurgents in Afghanistan. He led the complex recovery of multiple vehicles which had been disabled by improvised explosive devices, while under enemy fire from all sides. He sorted through the chaos and issued clear direction to Canadian, American and Afghan forces. Throughout eight hours of intense combat, his gallantry, perseverance and selfless dedication to his soldiers were critical to defeating a ferocious and determined enemy.

**Sergeant T. David Bérubé, MMV, CD
Medal of Military Valour**

From May 29 to June 29, 2009, Sergeant Bérubé repeatedly placed himself in exposed positions to coordinate fire support for his combat team during operations in Afghanistan. Often isolated and finding himself in dangerous positions, he fearlessly moved forward to gain a clear view of the battlefield and guide artillery and aviation assets onto their targets. His ability to simultaneously and accurately coordinate multiple gun batteries and attack helicopters, while under intense enemy fire, was a decisive factor in the engagements. His courage and outstanding soldiering ability were crucial to the defeat of the enemy.

**Master Corporal Simon R. Frigon, MMV
Medal of Military Valour**

As a section commander in Afghanistan, Master Corporal Frigon distinguished himself during two separate enemy engagements on May 7 and 20, 2009. In both instances his section was trapped and isolated during an ambush. Yet his unwavering composure and willingness to expose himself to enemy fire inspired his soldiers and instilled them with confidence. With little regard for his personal safety, he was able to precisely define the enemy location, defeat the initial attack and lead his section's fighting withdrawal. Master Corporal

Frigon's courageous front line leadership and tactical acumen were critical to repelling the enemy without taking casualties.

**Master Corporal Jeremy Joseph James Leblanc, MMV
Medal of Military Valour**

On October 14, 2006, Master Corporal Leblanc's section was occupying a position in Afghanistan when insurgents unleashed a devastating attack that resulted in several casualties, including the death of his section commander. Seamlessly assuming command, he rallied his section to return fire while personally tending to the wounded. Despite being injured himself and under constant fire, he continued to lead and inspire his section to keep fighting and hold its ground against a determined enemy. His selfless actions no doubt saved the lives of some of his fellow soldiers.

**Sergeant Joseph Martin Stéphane Mercier, MMV, CD
Medal of Military Valour**

From April 28 to August 15, 2009, Sergeant Mercier displayed courage in the aftermath of several ambushes and improvised explosive device attacks in Afghanistan. Willing to expose himself to heavy fire, he often moved fearlessly throughout the battlefield to identify enemy locations, provide clear direction to his soldiers and position himself to effectively engage the enemy. Throughout these intense battles, his front line leadership, tactical acumen and unwavering courage inspired confidence in his soldiers, kept them safe and enabled them to repeatedly defeat a determined enemy.

**Leading Seaman Pier-Vincent Michaud, MMV
Medal of Military Valour**

On May 29, 2009, Leading Seaman Michaud was a member of a joint Canadian-Afghan patrol that was ambushed by the enemy, leaving one Afghan soldier dead and severely wounding two others. Immediately engaged in an intense, close-quarter firefight, Leading Seaman Michaud directed the Afghan soldiers to seek cover and then moved 50 metres to the casualties' location, which provided a short 60-centimetre wall for cover. As bullets impacted all around his position, he calmly administered first aid to the casualties and personally brought them to the extraction zone, despite the unrelenting enemy attack. His courage and selfless actions undoubtedly saved the lives of the Afghan soldiers.

**Sergeant Joseph Denis François Ranger, MMV, CD
Medal of Military Valour**

On June 14, 2009, Sergeant Ranger was mentoring an Afghan reconnaissance company during an air-mobile operation when they were attacked by insurgents. With the company taking heavy mortar fire and suffering numerous casualties, Sergeant Ranger rallied his soldiers, established a position and returned heavy fire. As mortar bombs continued to fall, and with little regard for his personal safety, he single-handedly secured a casualty evacuation point. His leadership, fearless engagement of the enemy and ability to stay composed were critical to the defeat of the insurgents and the successful evacuation of casualties.