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THE HONOURABLE YOINE GOLDSTEIN

Inquiry—Debate Adjourned

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Thursday, May 7, 2009

THE SENATE

Thursday, May 7, 2009

[*Translation*]

THE HONOURABLE YOINE GOLDSTEIN

INQUIRY—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) rose pursuant to notice of May 5, 2009:

That she will call the attention of the Senate for the purposes of paying tribute to the Honourable Yoine Goldstein in recognition of his outstanding career as a member of the Senate of Canada and for his many contributions and service to Canadians.

She said: Honourable senators, dear Senator Goldstein, I would like to pay tribute today to the priceless contribution you have made to the Senate, to committee work, to Canadians and to our lives.

• (1650)

Your commitment to promoting and defending human rights is highly commendable. Your determination to see projects through to completion, including your many bills, is exemplary and inspiring.

You carried a heavy workload on three committees, in addition to your responsibilities as a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Prevention of Genocide and other Crimes against Humanity and the Canada-Israel Friendship Group.

You did not take your responsibilities as a senator lightly. You faced them head-on, rolled up your sleeves and did not stop working for four years.

I am certain that you have not finished championing the cause of human rights and that you will continue protecting the most vulnerable members of society. Your generosity and your dedication to improving the society in which we live make you an outstanding agent of social change.

I especially want to underscore your contribution to the Tolerance Foundation in Quebec, which inspired the Tolerance Caravan against racism and discrimination in Alberta. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for travelling to Brooks in southern Alberta two years ago to replace me as honorary chair, and for braving the terrible winter cold. I am honoured to continue your work to put an end to intolerance and to make people aware of racism and discrimination.

Senator Goldstein, you are without a doubt a man of peace and a great man. You have left your mark on the Canadian Senate, and you have touched every one of us with your diplomacy, your humility, your humour and your generosity.

Here, your great heart beat in time with the battles you waged for human rights, for linguistic minorities and for justice. The walls of this chamber will continue to resound with the beating of your heart during the parliamentary work and the question periods in which you took part with such gusto.

I hope that your heart will keep on beating long and hard in time with the fights you continue to fight and the memories of your life.

[*English*]

To you and Elaine, I offer my very best wishes.