PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

*I am pleased to offer my warmest greetings to the Veterans of the Canadian Merchant Navy gathered to mark the 11th Merchant Navy Day of Remembrance at the National War Memorial.*

*The story of the Merchant Navy was little known for far too long. During the harrowing days and darkest nights of the First and Second World Wars, Merchant Seamen courageously served on naval convoys through perilous seas to support the military effort. The risks —targeted attacks by fierce enemy forces and exposure to the most extreme weather conditions— were tremendous, but this flow of troops, supplies and arms was crucial to Allied victory against tyranny.*

*Merchant Navy Remembrance Day offers an opportunity to share this remarkable time in Canada's history and to keep alive the memory of over 2,100 brave sailors who perished. I encourage all Canadians to honour these outstanding Veterans and to remember their valiant contributions to upholding our freedom and democracy.*

*On behalf of the Government of Canada, I commend the Veterans of Canada's Merchant Navy and offer my very best wishes for a memorable ceremony.*

*The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.*

*OTTAWA*
*2014*