



juno productions

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## Letter of Support for the Canadian Fallen Heroes Foundation

March 29 2016

We live in a small town in central BC called Wells. It has a population of around 250 people, and it also happens to be the home of Mark Norman, the founder of the *Canadian Fallen Heroes Foundation*. Before we met Mark, people would ask, “Have you ever seen Mark’s painting, *Fallen Hero*?” Those same people would ask Mark, “Have you ever seen *Jake’s Gift*?”

In August 2011, we presented a performance of our play, *Jake’s Gift*, at the Sunset Theatre in Wells. Mark came to see the show that night. The play tells the story of a Canadian WW2 veteran’s reluctant return to Juno Beach to find the grave of the brother who never came home. At its heart, it is about the importance of remembrance and personalizes the story behind one soldier’s grave.

After learning about Mark’s work with the *Canadian Fallen Heroes Foundation*, we soon realized we were kindred spirits. Following that performance in 2011, Mark presented us with a copy of the *Fallen Hero* print. The original painting was commissioned by Mark, as a fundraiser for the Foundation and was created by Artist, Steve Robertson. It is one of the most moving paintings we have ever seen, and in beautiful synchronicity, it perfectly depicts a scene from *Jake’s Gift*.

Mark asked us if we would donate copies of the *Fallen Hero* print for him and the Foundation to any Legions in the communities we toured *Jake’s Gift* to. Since the fall of 2011, we have presented the *Fallen Hero* print to dozens of Legions across Canada, and we’ve sold a few prints for the Foundation as well. We feel very honoured to be entrusted with this task, and to tell people about the important work the *Canadian Fallen Heroes Foundation* continues to do to ensure the memory of Canada’s thousands of Fallen Heroes. There is a Foundation whose work and mandate every Canadian would be proud to support.

I know we are.

Sincerely,

Julia Mackey • Playwright & Performer • *Jake’s Gift*  
Dirk Van Stralen • Director & Stage Manager • *Jake’s Gift*  
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