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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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**'Proud Canadian' took on new meaning**

I WAS very aware of the passing of Cpl. Anthony Boneca. I read all of the newspaper articles and watched all of the television coverage. A sad story indeed. But on Monday morning, Anthony Boneca's life touched me in a way that I never suspected.

I work in the construction industry and my job that morning happened to be at the Victoriaville parkade, across from St. Patrick's Cathedral. Police were directing traffic. The parkade was filling quickly. People were filing into the church.

When the funeral procession arrived I removed my hard hat and found myself choking back tears as the flag-draped coffin was carried into the church at shoulder height. The term "proud Canadian" suddenly had taken on a new meaning to me.

Speakers were set up outside the church to accommodate the overflow crowd, which I became a part of on my lunch break.

Others who happened along stopped and paid respect, many of them teary eyed. Two young boys walked up beside me in shorts and T-shirts with their ball caps off and clutched close to their hearts.

It was an emotional experience as the casket was led out of the church and through a small army of saluting colleagues. The bagpipes and drums were a fitting tribute to their fallen Lake Superior Scottish Regiment brother.

Anthony Boneca became my hero that day. May he rest in peace.

**Dan Collins**  
THUNDER BAY