



### Local Disabled Veterans Fall Silent for Remembrance Day

Disabled veterans at The Royal Star & Garter Homes paid their respects to the fallen at several Remembrance events held over the weekend. Remembrance Day is an especially poignant time of the year for residents. As veterans themselves, or partners to those who served, an opportunity to honour the bravery of all service personnel and reflect on the lives sacrificed in conflict is hugely important.

On Armistice Day, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, four residents accompanied by staff and volunteers attended a special Western Front Association service at The Cenotaph, Whitehall, and in the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks. Surbiton resident Bill laid The Royal Star & Garter Homes wreath in front of hundreds of fellow veterans and supporters.



*In London for the Western Front Association Service at the Cenotaph*

A Remembrance service was held at St Matthew's Church, Surbiton for residents who didn't attend the Cenotaph Service. Residents were invited to sing hymns and join together in prayer. After the service, the Royal British Legion Midshires Band performed a moving set.



*Resident, John, laying a wreath at the Solihull Service*

At the Solihull Home, a Remembrance Service was held, with over 100 residents gathering alongside staff and volunteers to sing hymns and join together in prayer. Also in attendance was the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Solihull, Mike Robinson, and his wife Mrs Jenny Robinson.

As part of the Service, resident Joan recited a moving and befitting passage from the Bible. After the two-minute silence, residents were invited to lay

wreaths in tribute to all those who have made sacrifices in conflict. The Royal Artillery Association provided a Standard Bearer while local musician Mr Peter Tonks played the Last Post and The Reveille on bugle. After the moving service, everyone was invited to attend a quiet time for reflection at the Homes' café.



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**The Royal Star  
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Gordon Craig, Director of Fundraising, attended the Solihull Home memorial service. Gordon commented, *“It was a privilege and an honour to carry out the act of remembrance at the Solihull Home Remembrance Service amongst our residents, some of whom are veterans of the Second World War, to remember the bravery and commitment of our nation’s servicemen and women, both past and present.”*

On Remembrance Sunday, four Surbiton residents accompanied by staff and volunteers attended the Remembrance Sunday Cenotaph Service and Parade in Whitehall. All took part in the march past in the presence of the Charity’s Patron, Her Majesty the Queen and the Charity’s President, Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra.

Other residents attended the Surbiton service held at the Surbiton memorial. After the two-minute silence, resident Stephen, a 30 year-old Army veteran who was seriously injured while serving in Iraq, laid the wreath whilst the local community watched on. Solihull residents attended a Remembrance Service held at St Alphege’s Church, Solihull.

Pauline Shaw, Director of Care, attended the Surbiton Memorial service. Pauline commented, *“It was an honour to attend this year’s Remembrance Day Service alongside our residents. The Service was a moving reminder of how much our Servicemen and women, both past and present, sacrificed to keep our nation safe. Seeing so many people from the local community come together for such an important cause was very moving, and was testament to how much we truly value our military.”*

**Ends**

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**About The Royal Star & Garter Homes:**



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**The Royal Star  
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**The Charity provides award-winning care for veterans and their partners who live with disability or dementia.**

The Royal Star & Garter Homes is a charity founded in 1916 to care for the severely injured young men returning from the battlegrounds of the First World War. Today we provide specialist care to the whole military family in our friendly, state-of-the-art Homes. Disabled ex-Servicemen and women, and their spouses, can all benefit from our pioneering approach to nursing, dementia and therapeutic care.

We are in the process of building new Homes around the country to provide specialist nursing care for disabled ex-Service people in the best modern surroundings, including dementia care facilities to address this growing need. The Charity has award-winning Homes in Solihull, West Midlands, and Surbiton, Surrey, which also enables the Charity to offer interim care for young disabled Service personnel. Following the successes of the first two Homes, a third Home in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, is being built, with a planned opening in 2018.

We are proud to have enjoyed Royal patronage since our foundation, including that of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from 1953 to the present day.

The Charity celebrated its centenary in 2016: providing specialist care for disabled veterans since 1916.

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