

Don Valardo
March 19, 2010

Mr. Michael Savage (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, many great people are called unique, but few actually are.

Don Valardo was unique. He was a great man, big in every sense, and a Canadian patriot. He passed away on Tuesday.

Don was from Saint John, but he made Dartmouth his home. He was the quintessential self-made man who started as a brewery worker, became the youngest-ever president of the brewery workers union, and then entered business, eventually owning a number of licensed establishments and rental properties. He served two terms as alderman in Dartmouth and was involved in innumerable community activities. He was a longtime chair of the Dartmouth Sportsplex and a proud Kiwanian. He received many awards and honours.

However, for all of his success, the essence of Don was his family. His wife of 56 years, the other Dawn, was his partner in every sense. She smoothed his edges; she made him stronger. His children, Debra, Patti, Nancy and Tony, were his life and along with his grandchildren they will honour and keep alive the life and legend of Don Valardo.

He was one of the very best. May he rest in peace.