

Submission to the Nelson Star  
Tuesday April 26, 2022

## **Canadian Memorial Cross Awarded Posthumously to Local Navy Man**

A recent birthday celebration at the Hume Hotel in Nelson took a surprising turn for Mrs. Jean Broster when she was honored to become the recipient of the Military Memorial Cross. Her husband, Master Warrant Officer Arnold "Art" Broster, CD\*(Ret'd) who served in the Royal Canadian Navy for 25 years, was posthumously awarded the Cross under the direction of Queen Elizabeth in memory for those that died in service to the country of Canada. It is engraved on the reverse with his name, rank and Canadian Armed Forces ID number. MWO Broster served in Korea and on many RCN ships and it was determined that his death could be directly related to exposure to asbestos aboard those ships.

The Memorial Cross, also called the Silver Cross, was created in March 1919, after WW1, and unlike campaign medals; it is awarded to the loved ones of the fallen. The Cross may be worn by its recipients on any occasion that they deem appropriate. In the last century, the Memorial Cross has established itself as the symbol of Canada's recognition of the sacrifices endured by the families. It is the Cross awarded to the "Silver Cross mother" on Remembrance Day in Ottawa each year.

"He would have been so surprised" said Jean. "We as a family could not be more proud. It is difficult to be part of a military family, even without conflict and Korea was a scary time for all of us as Canadians and the world, but he went and did his duty to Canada. He loved serving, and he loved being a sailor."

This is not the first Canadian Memorial Cross awarded to the Broster family. It was also awarded to Mary Ellen Billsborough, Art's grandmother after her husband Robert Billsborough's death in 1937. He was twice shot by a sniper during WW1 and died as a result of his wounds years later.

The Memorial Ribbon was also presented to family members, daughters Linda Kurtz of Foam Lake Sask and Cathy Robinson of Nelson BC. Grandchildren Ms. Sharleen Stewart-Kurtz of Foam Lake Sask and Maj. Tyler Peitzsche, CD of North Bay On., also received the Ribbon. It was launched in November 2012 and is a memento of personal loss and sacrifice for those not receiving the medal. It is a purple ribbon with a silver pin depicting the Memorial Cross. The ribbon is intended for the closest loved ones of our fallen, usually children.

The Broster family accepts this rare honor with gratitude and appreciation of their loved ones service to Canada.

"Let those who come after see to it that their name be not forgotten."