

Discours de S.A.R. la Princesse Astrid

Rede van H.K.H. Prinses Astrid

The Princess Astrid Speech

12 OCTOBER 2015

Merci beaucoup Madame la Présidente,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am so pleased by the presence in Brussels of Princess Anne, as we are gathering here to honor Edith Cavell, a great British patriot who worked and died in Belgium. Edith Cavell's name is familiar to Britons and Belgians alike.

As a war hero and a martyr, Ms Cavell deserves our admiration, our respect and our profound gratitude..

It is very moving to stand here, with you, in this building of the Belgian Senate, exactly at the very same spot where, 100 years ago, the trial took place. Miss Cavell stood bravely by her convictions. It was here that her death sentence was pronounced by the German court martial.

She was then a woman of about my age.

The name of Edith Cavell lives on in many ways. In Brussels, she has her statue, a street is named after her, and of course a hospital with the famous nurses' training school. In London, her statue stands in Trafalgar Square, in Paris' Tuileries there is a sculpture. A glacier is named after her in the American Rocky Mountains, and in Canada, there is a mountain with her name. A strange coincidence in my calendar makes me travel in next week to Canada, not far from Mount Cavell.

Her straightforward courage and her professional devotion are inspiring examples for today's and tomorrow's generations.

Belgium is grateful to her. The world is grateful to her.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to thank you all, for joining me and Princess Anne for today's ceremony, and for your support to make it possible. It is indeed very appropriate to commemorate Edith Cavell here in the Senate's hemicycle with a lasting eternal reference.

We have to keep her legacy alive for the next centennials to come.

We will never forget her. Thank you.