Billy Bishop Museum's 2026 Honouring Our Local Veterans

Captain William Joseph Moran
The Grey and Simcoe Foresters

Family Life

William Joseph "Bill" Moran was born on June 2, 1955, to Beatrice and Thomas Francis Moran. He spent his early years in Timmins, Ontario, where he attended elementary and high school. He joined the Cadets in grade 8. There was a legacy of military service in the Moran family, as his father served with the Algonquin Regiment, his great uncle served in the Second World War and his great-great uncle served in the First World War.

In 1973, Bill and his family moved to Owen Sound, where his interest in the military grew. Through his basic training, he gained many lifelong friends. Bill first met his wife Kerolyn (née Taylor) when she was a member of 167 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Cadets and who later joined the Foresters. They married in September of 1987 and have two children, Patrick Taylor and Jaclyn Rose.

After Bill's service overseas, he returned to his previous job with RBW Graphics, where he worked until 2020. In retirement, Bill enjoys spending time with family, friends, riding his motorcycle, and reading military history. He has an extensive collection of First World War cap badges.

Military Service

William Joseph Moran enlisted with the Grey and Simcoe Foresters in 1973, while completing a Summer Student Employment Program with the Foresters at the Owen Sound Armoury.

Bill participated in many training exercises, including at Camp Grayling, the home base of the Michigan Army National Guard. The Foresters trained there for many summers. They completed weapons training, setting up camp in unfamiliar conditions and resupplying under blackout conditions.

Decorations

- Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal
- United Nations Emergency Force Middle East (UNEFME)
- Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal
- Canadian Forces' Decoration and Bar

Military Service

In late 1974, the Department of National Defence put out a call for UN duty, the first time reserve forces were used for overseas duty. At 21, Bill signed up for a rotation in Egypt. In 1975, he began pre-deployment training at Petawawa in October for six weeks. This course brought him up to the Regular Force standards and prepared him for cultural and environmental challenges of serving in the Middle East.

In November, 1975, Bill deployed to Egypt with the 73rd Canadian Service Battalion as part of the United Nation Emergency Force II. He was initially stationed in Alexandria as a driver, moving cargo from the ports and preparing it to be shipped to Ismailia. He was subsequently transferred to the UN Headquarters in Ismailia, where he served as the Transport NCO Dispatcher in the Logistics Branch. As a transportation supervisor for logistics, his daily tasks included driving, checking vehicle availability, allocating transport, and scheduling maintenance. He often drove for Colonel William J. Yost (later promoted to Brigadier-General).

After returning to Canada, Bill earned his Officer's Commission after attending a Basic Officer Training Course at the Regional Cadet Instructor School at CFB Borden, as a 40 year old in a class of much younger recruits. He devoted much time as an officer with the Cadet Instructor Cadre, working with two different cadet groups: the 167 Air Marshal Bishop, VC, Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron and the 42nd Grey and Simcoe Foresters Canadian Army Cadets. He took pride in watching cadets develop their skills, especially those who eventually earned their pilot's license or enlisted with the Canadian Armed Forces.

He retired from the CAF in January 2007.

One of the proudest moments of Bill's career was successfully completing the Basic Officer Course at CFB Borden, as his father had served as a Captain in the CAF. Both his parents attended the graduation ceremony. He made lifelong friendships through his service and still meets regularly with Grey and Simcoe Forester comrades. Two notable characters who shaped his service were Master Warrant Officer Robert Alexander and Sergeant Mike Cottenden.

He fondly recalls the May 1978 Presentation of the Regimental Colours and Princess Anne's visit to Owen Sound in 1979. Bill is incredibly proud of the Reserve Force and those Foresters who volunteer to serve abroad, including his son Patrick who deployed to Afghanistan. He noted, "I think the most important lesson that I learned during my time in the service was that I could achieve just about anything if I put my mind and maximum effort to it."