

Ulster Unionist Party

<http://www.uup.org/newsrooms/latest-news/general/service-bears-testimony-to-the-heroism-of-our-armed-forces.php>

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Service bears testimony to the heroism of our armed forces



As a service of thanksgiving was held to honour the thousands of soldiers who served in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party Sir Reg Empey has paid tribute to them:

Sir Reg said, "Today's commemoration in St. Paul's Cathedral is a solemn reminder of the service and sacrifice of thousands of men and women in the Army during our Troubles. During some the darkest hours of our recent past, men and women in the uniform of Her Majesty's forces, placed themselves in harm's way in order to protect and defend society against the forces of terror and violence. The fact that 763 military personnel paid the supreme sacrifice, and that more than 6,000 were injured, bears testimony to the heroism and courage displayed by the armed forces during the Troubles.

"The relative peace enjoyed by Northern Ireland today has been purchased at a heavy price. Today's service in St. Paul's is an opportunity for a grateful nation to express its thanks to those who donned the uniform of Her Majesty's forces and served in Northern Ireland, knowing the immense risk and threat to life.

"In the years to come, Northern Ireland will - I trust - continue to progress, with peace and reconciliation being strengthened. But we cannot forget that the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces - in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary - secured peace for all of us".