

# Foundation for the Adoption of Wargraves CWGC Venray War Cemetery

*We'll keep their names and memories alive.*



## Stichting Adoptiegraven CWGC Venray War Cemetery

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## WELCOME WORD

Dear adopter,

This is the third newsletter of the Foundation for the Adoption of Wargraves CWGC Venray War Cemetery. This newsletter is entirely dedicated to the passing of our founder and co-board member Piet Snellen. For the first time, this newsletter is also available in English.

Sincerely,

Board  
Stichting Adoptiegraven CWGC Venray War Cemetery

## IN MEMORIAM

With pain in our hearts we have to inform you that our friend, co-board member and above all founder of our foundation, Piet Snellen, has passed away on monday the 26th of january 2021.



## PROGRESS OF THE FOUNDATION

Despite the fact that with the death of Piet we lost the pivot of our foundation, there is no doubt about the continued existence of our beautiful foundation.

As a board we are more than ever motivated to continue and to develop our foundation further.

We will return to this topic in our next newsletter.

Piet was seriously ill and despite the fact that he knew that he would not recover, he continued to fight. As a real Sevenummer (inhabitant of the village of Sevenum), he said that he would continue to fight as a “wearse eazel” (stubborn donkey). And so he did up to the last minute. .

Piet has meant a lot to the commemoration of the allied soldiers. He was not only involved in our foundation, but he was also vice-chairman of the 4 and 5 May committee Sevenum. In addition, Piet played an important role in the realization of the John Shiells monument in Sevenum and the Stirling monument in Kronenberg. Piet did hours of research, was able to retrieve important historical information and maintained valuable contacts with the relatives of fallen soldiers.

On Piet's initiative, an enthusiastic team is working on realizing a monument on Allied aircraft that was shot down in the Mariaveen between Evertsoord and Helenaveen. It was his great wish to be able to witness the unveiling of this monument.

Despite the fact that Piet can no longer be physically present, we are convinced that he will attend the unveiling of this monument from above, together with the men he wanted to commemorate.

As a foundation with Piet we lose a very warm and nice person who ensured connection. We will continue to dedicate ourselves to this beautiful foundation with Piet's drive.

Piet, the next sentence also applies to you “Lest we forget”.

## **FUNERAL PIET**

Piet's funeral took place on Friday, January 29, 2021. Because of the Corona measures the funeral was forced to take place in an intimate circle.

When Piet was carried out from his house, four pipers accompanied him musically with the Scottish bagpipe sounds he loved so much. After this, the funeral procession set course for the John Shiells monument in Sevenum. The municipality of Horst aan de Maas not only gave permission for a hedge of honor, they also provided the muddy and unpaved road surface with a new layer of gravel.



About 80 family members, friends, acquaintances and adopters had lined up along the Saardijk. With the Scottish flag at the monument at half-mast and the pipers marching ahead of the hearse, the funeral procession passed the guard of honor. An impressive moment and a beautiful tribute to Piet.



## THANK YOU

As the board of the Foundation for the Adoption of Wargraves CWGC Venray War Cemetery we are deeply impressed by the many heartwarming and beautiful responses that we have received from adopters. Thank you for that!

## FLOWERS

On behalf of the board and adopters we had some nice flowers delivered to Piet's next of kin, shortly before the funeral

After this, the funeral ceremony continued in the village of Blerick, which ceremony could be attended by everyone via the livestream.

In addition to the Municipality of Horst aan de Maas, a special word of thanks to Mr. Steenmetz, Mr. Janssen, Mrs. Verberne, Tuincentrum Groenzo, the committee 4 and 5 May Sevenum and the pipers for their help and cooperation.