



AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Suresnes American Cemetery

17 Sep 2018

Dear Roger and the Members of NAIL,

It has been almost two months since my family and I left the Netherlands and arrived here in Paris. I must say that we are settling in well and we have been well received. Nadine has our house feeling almost like a home again and my children are once again studying hard in school. While we are indeed happy to be back in Nadine's home country of France, nothing can take away from the sometimes overwhelming feelings that we have for Limburg, the Netherlands and our Dutch friends.

For eight years we have had the honor to live, work and experience simple happiness while at the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial. As for work, the cemetery staff and the Margraten community accomplished quite a lot during this time. From making much needed repairs to existing cemetery structures and elements of the monument, removing and overgrown forest and returning the cemetery to its original beauty, hosting the first ever movie première in a cemetery, establishing the Faces of Margraten tribute to honor the soldiers we all care so much about, reaching once again a 100% grave adoption rate, and preparing to break ground on a long overdue Cemetery Visitor's Center. I can honestly say that there was never a dull moment. None of this however could have been accomplished without you. The Dutch people who love the cemetery so much and who work so hard to ensure its continued success. The Dutch people who join private organizations such as NAIL, the Grave Adoption Foundation, the Faces of Margraten Foundation, and many more. The Dutch people who bring their families, friends and children to the cemetery to honor our soldiers and ensure that their deeds will never be forgotten. Your support not only made my job easy, but it has taught me the true meaning of commemoration and what it means to be truly grateful. As it is stated on the wall of the memorial, you have given our soldiers the grandest of all sepulchers, "a home in the minds of men." Thank you.

Outside of the cemetery we were equally welcomed and accepted into your community. Nadine and I have met some of our closest friends while in Limburg, the kind of friends that we are sure will last a lifetime. Caroline and Jonah spent many of their most impressionable years in the communities of Margraten and Maastricht. For them, they will always look back and consider the Netherlands their home. The place where they grew up and where they met their childhood friends with whom they had many adventures. Just as I look back at me childhood in California and Nadine looks back to her home in France, they will forever look back at the Netherlands with warm memories and happy nostalgia. Caroline is happy to be studying in Nijmegen and Jonah is already talking about doing the same.

We are indeed fortunate to have had this wonderful chapter in our lives and we look forward to visiting often the place that we have come to love so much.

We wish you all nothing but happiness and continued success.

Very Sincerely,

Keith, Nadine, Caroline and Jonah