



To the Commanding Officers, Marines, and Support Staff of the Royal Dutch Marines,

On behalf of The Veteran Farmer Wellness Center, Canada, and the Veteran Farmer Canadian Nijmegen Team, I extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for the extraordinary kindness, generosity, and camaraderie you shared with our team during the 2026 Nijmegen Four Days Marches.

There is a unique bond among the men and women who have sworn an oath to serve their country. Regardless of the flag worn on our uniforms, the language we speak, or the nation we call home, military service creates a lifelong brotherhood and sisterhood founded on sacrifice, discipline, honour, and selfless service. During our time with the Royal Dutch Marines, we experienced that bond in its purest form.

From the moment we arrived, your Marines welcomed us not as visitors, but as fellow service members and friends. The warmth, respect, and professionalism shown by every member of your support team reminded us that the values we share transcend borders and unite us as one military family. We were truly humbled by the exceptional hospitality you extended to us and grateful for what can only be described as VIP treatment.

Your generosity in opening your rest facilities to our team each day was invaluable. After many kilometres of walking, having access to a place where our veterans could rest, recover, and prepare for the next stage of the march made an immeasurable difference. The refreshments, meals, and thoughtful gifts, including Royal Dutch Marines unit merchandise, reflected a level of kindness that exceeded every expectation. These acts of generosity were not simply appreciated—they became lasting memories that our team will treasure for the rest of our lives.

Meeting your Command Team was one of the defining moments of our visit. Their genuine welcome, humility, and sincere interest in our Canadian veterans made us feel honoured and respected. The professionalism displayed by your leadership reflects the finest traditions of the Royal Dutch Marines and serves as an example of military excellence.

We wish to offer special recognition to Michel Heezen, whose dedication and friendship exemplified the very best of the Royal Dutch Marines. Serving as our Dutch liaison, Michel represented your Corps with distinction, integrity, and unwavering professionalism. By proudly marching as a member of The Veteran Farmer Nijmegen Team, wearing our team uniform bearing the emblem of the Royal Dutch Marines, he became more than a liaison—he became one of our own.

Throughout the march, Michel shared his knowledge of Dutch history, culture, and traditions, enriching our experience far beyond the event itself. His guidance, friendship, and unwavering



support made him an indispensable member of our team and a remarkable ambassador for both the Royal Dutch Marines and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. We would be honoured to welcome Michel back as a member of our team should the opportunity arise in the future.

The friendships forged during these days are a powerful reminder that the bonds created through military service endure long after the uniform is hung up. They are built on mutual respect, shared sacrifice, and an understanding that only those who have served can truly know. Our time with the Royal Dutch Marines strengthened those bonds and reaffirmed that, although we come from different nations, we remain united as brothers and sisters in arms.

Please accept this letter as a formal expression of our deepest appreciation and highest respect. The kindness, generosity, and fellowship extended to our team created memories that will remain with us forever. Your hospitality was not simply an act of courtesy—it was a testament to the enduring spirit of military service and international friendship.

From one military family to another, thank you for welcoming us with open arms. We look forward to the day our paths cross again.

With our highest respect, sincere gratitude, and enduring friendship,

Respectfully,

Autumn Farmer
Chief Executive Officer
The Veteran Farmer Wellness Center
Canada