

Fellow citizens:

Is there a more iconic image in all of western civilization than the attached photograph of our Marines raising Old Glory on Iwo Jima in February of 1945?

On Tuesday morning in Westworth Village, we were honored to have a ceremonial American flag raising at city hall, led by Don Graves, the last surviving Marine who was there on Mount Suribachi when that iconic photograph was taken.

If you could not be present, an excellent three-minute short video of the event was prepared by Rick Irving, and here's the link on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RickIrvingofTexas/videos/942964776525165>

It was a most memorable event. Color guards from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines, and our Westworth Village Police Department were present, and I have to tell you all that "dress blue" was a beautiful sight.

Retired Corporal Graves is nothing other than a truly astonishing individual. Physically sprightly, mind clear as a bell – he's a true American hero – but wait until you hear this almost 96-year-old sing God Bless America!

His account of the Battle of Iwo Jima, and the flag raising, was nothing short of mesmerizing.

The city received from Mr. Graves an autographed and detailed map of Iwo Jima, and it will soon be proudly displayed inside city hall.

Special thanks to Lorna Paden, Ed Spurlin, and Brandy Barrett for making this event possible, Myers Jackson and Mark Donahew for their contributions in making it so memorable, and, of course, to Mr. Graves!

Best regards to all, Mayor Kelly Jones



**L. Kelly Jones**

Mayor - City of Westworth Village

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