

# THE PATRIOT'S CALL: *United for Faith & Freedom*

## Assembly 1818



Special Edition May 23, 2026

## Remembering Our Fallen with American Flags

This morning's American Flag Placement at **Sarasota Memorial Veterans Cemetery** was completed with great success, thanks to the dedication of our Assembly and Council Brothers, families, and friends.

At 7:50 AM, families were given the opportunity to place their loved ones' flag privately and prayerfully. Immediately afterward, our Knights of Columbus, joined by families and friends began placing flags as instructed, **speaking each veteran's name and rank aloud, offering a salute, and thanking them for their service.** It is a profound honor to stand in that sacred moment, forming a personal link between the deceased and the presenter of the flag.

At 8:00 AM, volunteers began the mass placement. Flags were placed directly in front of each monument, 12 inches out from the center, and inserted approximately 4 inches into the ground. Once placed, each Brother ensured the staff was straight, read the name on the monument aloud, and expressed gratitude for the veteran's service and sacrifice.

A special word of appreciation goes to the **50+ Knights**, not including the many family members and friends, who faithfully completed Section 3. Your presence, discipline, and reverence honored every veteran entrusted to our care.

### FLAG RETIREMENT – MAY 30

We will return for **Flag Retirement** on **Saturday, May 30**, rain or shine.

- Arrive by **8:00 AM**
- Enter through the **East (second) entrance**
- Do **not** begin removal until Meshia confirms the flags are dry enough and gives instructions on proper bundling
- All volunteers will gather at **Section 6** for guidance on the respectful retirement of the flags

If you wish to be registered for the event, please use the **Signup Genius link** previously sent by Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818. Registration is not mandatory, but it is appreciated.

### **A Message Worth Remembering**

At one of our monthly meetings last year, we invited Ms. Richardson to speak. Her words touched the hearts of our Brother Knights and continue to inspire our service:

*“I am a firm believer of Service over Self and will continue for as long as I am physically able, make strides forward to educate our community on the importance of remembering and honoring our true heroes, our veterans, and for those who have eternal rest at our cemetery.”*

Brothers, thank you again for your spirit of patriotism, charity, and unity. Today’s work was a powerful witness to our mission and our love for those who served.





























Knights of  
Columbus®



HONORS and thanks OUR  
**VETERANS**



*Flags across America*