

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

Assembly 1818



Special Edition May 30, 2026

The Quiet Heroism of Service

What a day it was for Assembly 1818, one of those mornings where the clouds threatened, the radar lied, and the Knights, wives, families, and friends marched forward and *beat the rain by sheer determination*. Our section at Sarasota National Cemetery was completed with heart, humor, and the kind of teamwork that would make even the most seasoned drill sergeant smile.

There were laughs echoing across the rows, plenty of good-natured ribbing, and more than a few shouts of “RUBBER BANDS!” as the 20-flag bundles came together with assembly-line precision. Boxes filled, tarps overflowed, and through it all, Diana Hopfinger led the charge like a lioness on a mission organizing flags, securing bundles, and keeping the whole operation moving.

And then, once the final flag was wrapped, the last box sealed, and the tarp heaped high... someone asked the question:

“Where’s Diana?”

After a brief search, a suspiciously flag-shaped mound shifted on the tarp and we discovered her at the bottom of the pile, still clutching a handful of rubber bands and cleaning the last flag. A true leader to the end!

On this Flag Retirement Day, we honor not only the flags we respectfully retired, but the spirit of service shown by every Knight, spouse, family member, and friend who came out. Your dedication ensures that our nation’s symbols are treated with the dignity they deserve.

Thank you to all who served today with reverence, with joy, and with the patriotic pride that defines Assembly 1818.

















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