THE PATRIOT'S CALL

BISHOP CHARLES McLAUGHLIN ASSEMBLY 1818

UNITED IN FAITH AND FREEDOM

SPECIAL EDITION – November 2026

Veterans Day 2026 at Sarasota National Cemetery



Worthy Brothers,

This year marked the 17th annual Veterans Day ceremony held at Sarasota National Cemetery, a sacred place established to honor our nation's heroes. Since its inception, the cemetery has become hallowed ground where veterans from every branch of military service are laid to rest with honor. It stands not only as a final resting place, but also as a living testament to the courage, commitment, and selflessness of those who answered the call to serve.

The celebration was marked by a beautiful and reverent Mass celebrated by **Most Reverend Robert Kantor, V.E.**, assisted by the priests of the Diocese of Venice. The ceremony was further enriched by the stirring and patriotic music provided by the **Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School Symphonic Band**. Joining in this tribute were Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from throughout the Diocese of Venice and surrounding areas, along with Knights from councils across Southwest Florida. Together, they formed a powerful witness to faith, patriotism, and gratitude for those who have served our nation.

Beneath clear skies and in the company of grateful citizens, the Color Corps of Assembly 1818 stood proudly alongside fellow Sir Knights from surrounding assemblies at Sarasota National Cemetery. Standing tall and unwavering throughout the Mass and Veterans Day Ceremony, they served as a visible reminder of honor, patriotism, faith, and sacrifice. The leadership and dedication of Worthy Florida District Master SK Robert Urrutia, SK Steve Wyer, SK Marty Reis, and SK Charlie McLaughlin helped ensure the dignity and success of this solemn observance.

The presence of the Color Corps added a profound sense of reverence and tradition to the ceremony. Their precision, discipline, and respect reflected the very values exemplified by the veterans we gathered to honor. The sight of Sir Knights standing in honor guard formation, joined by Brother Knights from throughout the region, served as a visible reminder that service to God, country, and neighbor remains alive and strong.

As we gathered among rows of white marble markers, we were reminded that freedom is never free. Each name etched in stone tells a story of duty, courage, and love of country. Yet Veterans Day is also about the living veterans among us, whose sacrifices continue long after their time in service has ended. Today we honor them, thank them, and pledge never to forget the debt of gratitude we owe.

It was a moving tribute that united faith, patriotism, remembrance, and community. As people of faith, we conclude this day with grateful hearts and a prayer for all who have sacrificed so much for us. May God bless our veterans, both living and deceased. May He comfort the families who carry the memory of loved ones lost. May He grant eternal rest to those who have gone before us and strength and peace to those who continue their journey among us.

Let us leave this sacred place renewed in our commitment to live worthy of the sacrifices made on our behalf. May we strive to be faithful stewards of the freedoms secured by our veterans and examples of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism in our communities.

Veterans Day is far more than a date on the calendar. It is a day dedicated to recognizing every man and woman who has worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. It is an opportunity to thank those who returned home and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We remember the young men and women who left families behind, endured hardship and danger, and defended the freedoms that we often take for granted. Their service preserved our nation's ideals and secured the liberties enjoyed by generations of Americans.

As we reflect upon the meaning of Veterans Day, let us remember the words of our Lord: *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.”* (John 15:13). The sacrifices of our veterans embody this profound truth and inspire us to live lives of gratitude and service.

May God bless our veterans. May God bless the United States of America. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.










































VETERANS DAY
THANK YOU
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