

Memorial Day Observance Flag Placement Sarasota National Cemetery Saturday, May 24, 2025 7:30am

Below are Instructions for our Mission at Sarasota. Please review them prior to May 24th!

Thank you for joining me on our 11th annual placement of flags at Sarasota National Cemetery. This year, we will be placing approximately 25,000 flags at our veterans monuments.

Volunteer Registration is required. If your group exceeds 5 people, the primary contact should register online, then email me at sarasotawreaths@gmail.com with the total number of volunteers.

All volunteers for flag placement are asked to attend **Flag Removal on May 31st at 8:00**. See page 2 of these instructions for additional information on Flag Removal.

Instructions for May 24th Flag Placement are as follows:

We will place flags **Rain or Shine**. Dress accordingly, flip/flops are not recommended, grounds will be wet/damp.

1. What to bring:

Water/beverages, a 5 or 6" Phillips Screwdriver, a 12" ruler or 12" paint stick, and a Rubber Mallet to assist with driving the screwdriver into the ground. Hammers are not permitted.

2. Arrival Time and Parking:

Carpooling is necessary!

Arrive by 07:30 and enter at the East entrance sign (by Maintenance Building).

Park at the east end, by the Maintenance Building near the POW Flagpole. DO NOT park on any grassy area.

Report directly to the POW Flagpole directly west of the Maintenance Building (Look for Cargo Trailer). You will receive instructions from me and the Section Captains on the correct placement of flags.

3. Flag Placement:

We will be placing approximately 25,000 Flags.

Families may place their loved one's flag at 7:55am after instructions are given.

Volunteers begin mass placement at 8:00am. Each volunteer will be responsible for correct placement of a minimum of 40 flags.

Flags are placed in front of each Monument, 12" out from center of the front of the Monument and approximately 4" into the ground. Do not hammer the staff of the flag. Follow instructions, please. Special Instructions will be provided for the Columbarium by the Section Leaders.

Once flag is placed, confirm the staff is straight, say the name on the monument aloud and thank them for their service and their sacrifice.

If you have questions about why we place flags in this manner, please watch the YouTube Video on Flag Placement at Arlington National Cemetery.

4. Memorial Day Ceremony

Memorial Day Service will be held on Saturday, May 24th at 10am at Patriot Plaza. Flag Volunteers are welcome to stay for the ceremony.

Instructions for May 31st Flag Retirement are as follows:

We retire flags **Rain or Shine.**

Dress accordingly, flip/flops are not recommended, grounds will be wet/damp.

Arrive at the Cemetery by 08:00 and enter at the east (second) entrance.

Do not begin removal until I determine that flags are dried enough for removal and give instruction on bundling them.

Everyone is to gather at Section 6 for instruction on properly retiring the flags and how to bundle them.

Please bring your own water/beverages and old towels or rags to wipe the flags and staffs down prior to bundling.

Once again, I am looking forward to this year's Mission. On behalf of myself and our cemetery staff, we are so very appreciative of the support from all of you and our community in Remembering and Honoring all our Veterans at our National Cemetery this Memorial Day.

All questions regarding Flag Placement or Flag Retirement at Sarasota should be directed to me by phone at 941-448-6299 or by email at sarasotawreaths@gmail.com

Thank you for joining our mission to Never Forget!

Meshia Richardson Judd, Event Director
Family & Friends of Sarasota National Cemetery Inc
Sarasota National Cemetery
941-448-6299
sarasotawreaths@gmail.com