

“WE RISE, BUT WE NEVER FORGET”

9/11 Twenty-Five Year Commemoration



On Friday, September 11, 2026, the Sarasota National Cemetery hosted a deeply moving **Twenty-Five-Year Commemoration of 9/11**, part of the national **AMERICA250** observance. The ceremony brought together clergy, first responders, veterans, civic leaders, and community organizations in a powerful tribute to the nearly 3,000 lives lost and the countless heroes who rose in service that day.

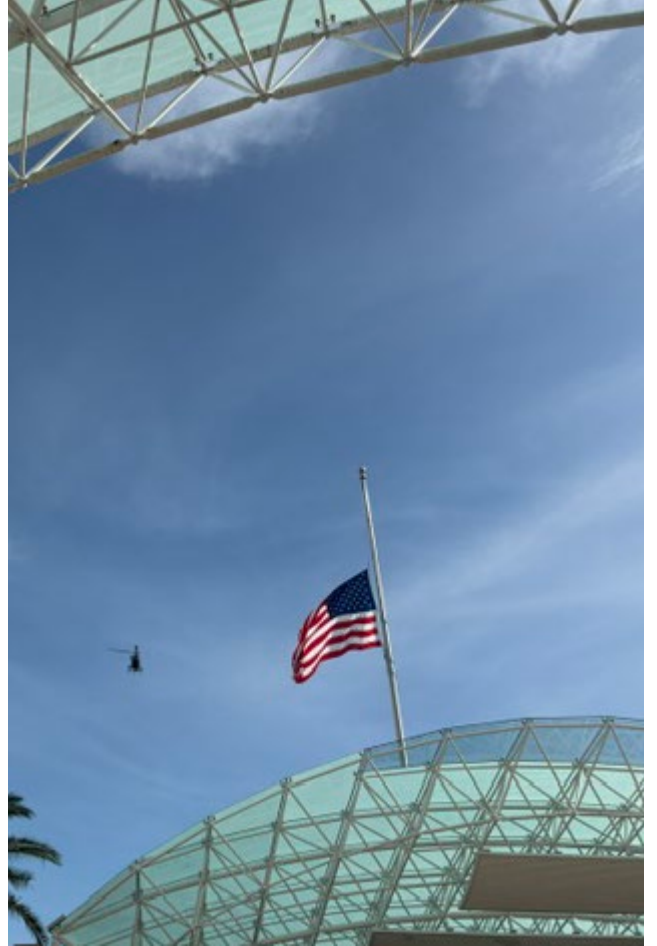
Bishop Charles McLaughlin Assembly 1818 was honored to stand among those who “Rise, But Never Forget.” Our **Sir Knights** and **Color Corps** marched with distinction in the opening procession alongside other assemblies, fire and police honor guards, and the FUMC Ensemble. Their disciplined formation and reverent bearing set the tone for the entire ceremony, reflecting the patriotism and unity at the heart of the Fourth Degree.

The program included solemn prayers, survivor testimony, the tolling of the bell, recognition of first responders and veterans, and readings from President George W. Bush, Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Mother Teresa each calling America to unity, compassion, and remembrance. Music from the FUMC Ensemble, including *America the Beautiful*, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, and *God Bless America*, lifted the gathering in shared tribute.

Assembly 1818 is proud of its Sir Knights and Color Corps for representing our Order with honor at this landmark commemoration. Their presence affirmed our mission: **Patriotism, Charity, Fraternity, and Unity always in service to our Church, our community, and our country.**

















A video frame showing a man and a woman being interviewed. The man, George Barbiero, is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, a gold cross necklace, and sunglasses. The woman, Lisa Barbiero, has red hair and is wearing a blue and red plaid top and sunglasses. They are standing in front of a large, open area with many small, white, rectangular objects laid out on the ground, possibly a memorial or a display. A microphone with the "7 NEWS" logo is visible in the foreground.

REMEMBERING 9/11

GEORGE AND LISA BARBIERO

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