

Letter from

SENATOR BILL NELSON

Welcome to the Battlefield Cross Memorial Dedication. Although I am unable to be with you today, I thank you for coming together to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country during the Gulf War Era.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all fallen brave military members. Although they are gone, their commitment to the United States and its ideals won't ever be forgotten. It is because of their dedicated service that we are all able to enjoy the freedoms we do today.

Sincerely,
Bill Nelson, Senator

Message from

COMMISSIONER JOHN MORRONI

Today, we gather to honor our brave Pinellas County military service members, who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of liberty and freedom.

On behalf of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, we offer our deepest condolences to the loved ones these service members left behind. We also extend our utmost appreciation and respect for the sacrifices made by the heroes we are here to honor.

Sincerely,
John Morroni, Chairman
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

— *Pinellas County's Fallen* —

SPC KEITH CLITES
U.S. ARMY

LCPL JOSEPH D. DOUGHERTY III
U.S. MARINE CORPS

SGT DENIS J. GALLARDO
U.S. ARMY

SPC BRITTANY B. GORDON
U.S. ARMY

CPL FRANK R. GROSS
U.S. ARMY

SPC ARTURO HUERTA-CRUZ
U.S. ARMY

MCPO RICHARD J. KESSLER, JR.
U.S. NAVY

MSGT MICHAEL H. MALTZ
U.S. AIR FORCE

PFC LOUIS E. NIEDERMEIER
U.S. ARMY

CPL JONATHAN D. PORTO
U.S. MARINE CORPS

SSG MICHAEL R. ROBSON
U.S. ARMY

PFC JONATHAN M. ROSSI
U.S. ARMY

2ND LT CHARLES R. RUBADO
U.S. ARMY

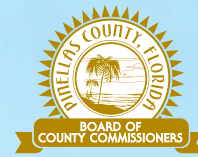
LCPL NATHANIEL J. A. SCHULTZ
U.S. MARINE CORPS

SPC ZACHARY L. SHANNON
U.S. ARMY

SSG MATTHEW S. SITTON
U.S. ARMY

SGT JAMES D. STEWART
U.S. ARMY

SGT DAVID W. THOMAS
U.S. ARMY



PINELLAS COUNTY

Battlefield Cross Memorial

DEDICATION



MAY 25, 2015 • WAR VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK



In Flanders Fields

BY LT. COL. JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Star-Spangled Banner

BY FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Oh, say can you see
by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed
at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched
were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare,
the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave?

God Bless the U.S.A.

BY LEE GREENWOOD

If tomorrow all the things were gone
I'd worked for all my life
And I had to start again
With just my children and my wife

I'd thank my lucky stars
To be living here today
Cause the flag still stands for freedom
And they can't take that away

Chorus

And I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me
And I'd gladly stand up next to you
And defend her still today
Cause there ain't no doubt
I love this land
God bless the U.S.A.

From the lakes of Minnesota
To the hills of Tennessee
Across the plains of Texas
From sea to shining sea

From Detroit down to Houston
And New York to L.A.
Well, there's pride in every American heart
And it's time we stand and say

Chorus (repeat)

Welcome and Pledge
John Morroni, Pinellas County Commission Chairman

Posting of Colors
Vietnam Veterans of America, Pinellas County Chapter 522

Invocation
Reverend Father Robert "Bob" Swick

National Anthem
Rachael Smith

Remarks
Representative David Jolly
Letter from Senator Marco Rubio
Mike Prendergast, Executive Director, Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Command Sergeant Major Christopher K. Greca, Command Senior Enlisted Leader, U.S. Central Command
Mike Bousher, Vietnam Veterans of America, Pinellas County Chapter 522

God Bless the U.S.A.
Pinellas County Employee Choir

Battlefield Cross Dedication
Toni Gross and Cheryl Sitton, mothers of fallen
Reading of fallen names and invitation for family members to lay dog tags on the monument.

Moment of Silence

Benediction
Reverend Father Robert "Bob" Swick

Retiring of Colors
Vietnam Veterans of America, Pinellas County Chapter 522

Adjournment
Toni Gross