

*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