

Flag Retirement Sarasota National Cemetery Saturday, June 3, 2023

Below are Instructions for our FLAG RETIREMENT Mission at Sarasota National Cemetery. Please review them prior to Saturday, June 3, 2023 8:30AM

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

1. What to bring:

Water/beverages, and old towels or rags to wipe the flags and staffs down prior to bundling them. And bring FRIENDS!

2. Where to Report:

Report directly to the POW Flagpole directly west of the Maintenance Building (Look for Truck and Enclosed Trailer). You will receive instructions from **Steve Hopkins, Maggie Long, Bob Able and whomever else Steve may assign to assist. Do not begin removal of flags** until given the “all clear” by one of these amazing and awesome people. They are the individuals who have assisted with this since May 2015 and know exactly how to properly retire the flags.

3. How to Bundle the Flags:

Flags are bundled with TWENTY flags in each bundle, then carefully wrapped, with a rubber band securing the top, approximately 2 inches from the spear, wrapped twice, and a second rubber band at about two inches from the bottom, wrapped three times. It is easier to work in pairs.

If a flag is damaged, do not place it in a bundle. Keep it separate for proper retirement/burning.

- 4.** Other Ways you can assist this year: I need approximately 15 people in the Sarasota/Manatee County area to sign up to take one or two totes of 600 flags each to be properly dried after retirement. This is time consuming, as flags need to be sunned or positioned on tables with plenty of air circulation for at least two or three days. If you are ready, willing and able to assist with this, please send me an email at sarasotawreaths@gmail.com with your name, address, cell phone number. I will pick the totes of dried flags up from you directly.

If you have additional questions, I can be reached at 941-448-6299.

Thank you again for assisting with Flag Retirement!

Meshia Richardson Judd, Event Director & National Secretary
Flags for Fallen Vets Inc
Sarasota National Cemetery
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