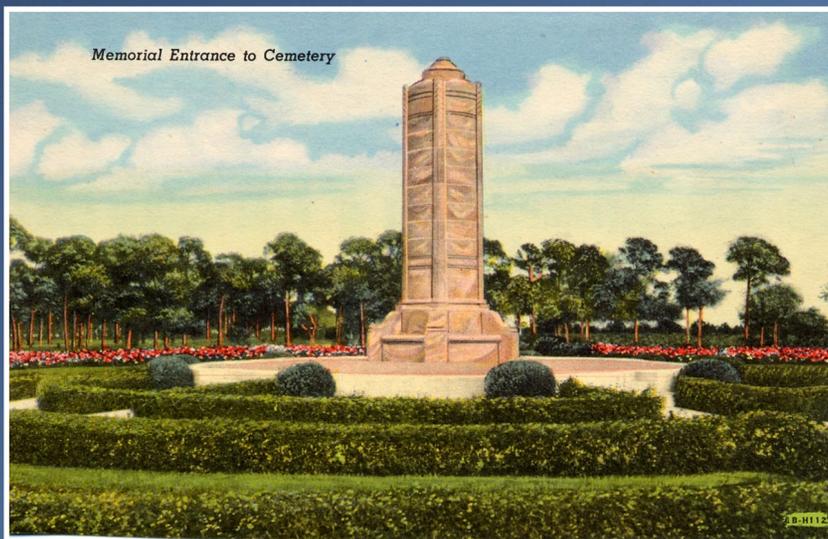


HISTORY OF BAY PINES NATIONAL CEMETERY

On March 15, 1933, the Bay Pines Cemetery was dedicated as a burial ground for those who died in the Bay Pines VA hospital and domiciliary. The site opened with 21 acres. By 1964, all available gravesites were used. A survey conducted in 1984 reported that another 4,000 gravesites could be gained through simple modifications and identified that some of the land not suitable for in-ground burials could be used for storage of cremated remains.

The cemetery was transferred to the National Cemetery System on May 28, 1984, and reopened for interments on July 2, 1984. By 1987, the only remaining gravesites were those for cremated remains and gravesites set aside for surviving spouses of those already interred. Bay Pines National Cemetery averages 1,000 burials a year and there are more than 30,500 interments of Veterans from the Indian War to present day.

In 1937, a large monument constructed of pink Etowah marble was dedicated to "the memory of those who served their country." This monument continues to stand guard at the entrance of the cemetery grounds. A polished granite bench, dedicated to the memory of World War I Veterans, sits just outside the cemetery entrance facing the POW/MIA monument. In 1976, a maple tree was planted in Section 53 to commemorate the bicentennial of our country's Declaration of Independence. In 1995, AMVETS, in association with Mrs. Edna Koch Klauser, dedicated the carillon as a "living memorial to America's Veterans who served their country honorably for the cause of Freedom."



Bay Pines VA Memorial Day Ceremony

Honoring those who gave all



Bay Pines National Cemetery | May 27, 2013

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* please stand if able

Order of Events

Military Medley	Bay Pines Medical Media	Guest Speaker	Maurice Roan Assistant Director, Florida National Cemetery
Call to Assembly	Alison Morrow Reporter, ABC Action News	POW/MIA Remembrance	Timber Creek HS JROTC
Battle Cross Presentation	Timber Creek High School JROTC	Keynote Speaker	Congressman C.W. Bill Young
Presentation of Colors*	Timber Creek HS JROTC	Musical Performance	Erica Scaglione
Pledge of Allegiance *	Barbara Homan Bay Pines National Cemetery	Placement of Ceremonial Wreath	Congressman C.W. Bill Young Suzanne M. Klinker
National Anthem *	Erica Scaglione	Benediction*	Chaplain McConnell
Invocation*	Chaplain Larry McConnell Chaplain Service, Bay Pines VAHCS	21-Gun Salute*	Gibbs High School JROTC
Welcome Remarks	Suzanne M. Klinker Director, Bay Pines VAHCS	Taps*	Ed Chaffin
Guest Speaker	Kerrie Witty Director, VA Regional Office	Retirement of Colors*	Timber Creek HS JROTC
		Dismissal*	Alison Morrow

The Bay Pines VA Hospice & Palliative Care Team is sponsoring a remembrance ceremony following this program. It will be held near building 37 in the pavilion. Shuttles are available to ride to the area. Anyone who has lost a loved one, whether they be service member, Veteran, or civilian is invited to attend.

Special thank you to:
American Legion Department of Florida, and other generous donors for supporting this event.
Boy & Girl Scouts for placing American flags
Saint Paul School 5th Grade (Clearwater) for removing the flags