

## **“Our Heroes” – Fort Pierce World War I Memorial (1919)**

Erected in 1919, this monument stands as one of Fort Pierce’s earliest public memorials, honoring local men who gave their lives during World War I, known at the time as “The Great War.”

The names engraved here represent young men from Fort Pierce and the surrounding St. Lucie County community who answered the nation’s call to service between 1917 and 1918. Many died overseas in Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Forces, while others perished during training or as a result of the 1918 influenza pandemic that swept through military camps.

The inscription “Our Heroes” reflects a community’s immediate and personal loss—families, neighbors, and friends whose lives were cut short in a conflict that marked the United States’ emergence on the global stage.

The presence of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers insignia symbolizes both the military service of those honored and the broader role of federal infrastructure and coastal development in the Fort Pierce area during the early 20th century.

This memorial also reflects the early civic and veteran-led efforts of the post-war period, including organizations such as the American Legion, which played a key role in preserving the memory of local service members.

More than a century later, this monument remains a solemn reminder that even small communities bore a profound share of sacrifice in a global conflict—and that the legacy of service, duty, and remembrance continues to define Fort Pierce.