

**International Commemorative Ceremony  
at the German War Cemetery Motta Sant'Anastasia, Italy**

**Thursday, November 2, 2023, 11:00 a.m.**

11:00 a. m. Music

\*\*\*

Welcome and moderation:

Johanna KLIER

Head of Cooperation, German War Graves Commission / Volksbund

\*\*\*

Greetings:

Dr. Anastasio CARRÁ

Deputy and Mayor of Motta Sant'Anastasia

Oberst i.G. Thomas REIBERLING

Defense Attaché, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Rome

\*\*\*

Music

\*\*\*

Commemorative address by Volksbund

Dr. Gundula BAVENDAMM

Member of the Board, German War Graves Commission / Volksbund

\*\*\*

Contribution by local students

\*\*\*

Laying of wreaths

\*\*\*

„Il Silenzio“ and „Ich hatt' einen Kameraden“

\*\*\*

Devotional and prayer

Pastor Sabine KLUGER, Evangelical Lutheran Congregation Sicily

Military Pastor Claus-Jörg RICHTER at the German Protestant Military Parish Sigonella

\*\*\*

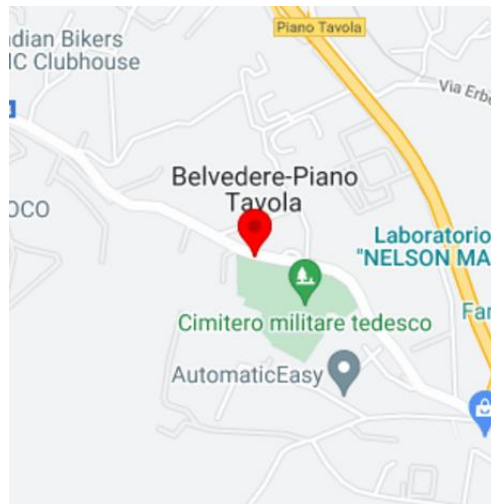
National Anthems of the Italian Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany

\*\*\*

Reception

## How to get to the German war grave site Motta Sant'Anastasia

International commemoration  
ceremony at the German war  
gravesite Motta Sant'Anastasia, Italy  
Strada Provinciale 13, No. 25, 95040  
Motta Sant'Anastasia, Italien  
37°31'30.37"N; 14°59'23.14"E



The German war gravesite, eight kilometers west of Catania, rises above a valley in the midst of one of the most beautiful landscapes in Sicily. It is dominated by the massif of Mount Etna, the highest volcano still active in Europe. On September 25, 1965, the war gravesite was inaugurated to the public. In 2010 and 2011 it was completely restored. The re-dedication took place with public participation on April 29, 2011.

The war gravesite was built as a crypt structure, in the inaccessible basement of which the sarcophagi with the war dead are located. At present it is the resting place of more than 4,000 Germans who died in the Second World War. They were reburied here from all parts of Sicily by the staff of the Volksbund. A staircase leads the visitor from the forecourt to the courtyard of the comrades' grave. On a natural stone tablet the visitor finds the inscription of 28 known and three unknown German soldiers, who rest here in a common grave. On another eight plaques are the names of 128 German soldiers, who fell in Sicily in the years 1941 - 1944, but whose graves have not yet been found. The center of this courtyard is a bronze sculpture of great expressiveness in the form of a dying young person. Four other courtyards are accessible from that point.

Program subject to change!