



# FREEDOM. PASS IT ON.



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### THUNDER BY THE BAY



This is the 16th year for [Suncoast Charities for Children](#) in one of its largest fundraisers. This year, the entire festival is dedicated to all veterans, active duty military, and their families as a Legacy of Valor partner! While all the great information about this fun festival can be found at

[ThunderByTheBay.org](#), we want to share some highlights!

#### Activities That Honor Veterans:

The Legacy of Valor Motorcycle Ride will take place on Sunday, Jan 12. The ride this year will be led by [Paul Teutel, Sr.](#), from [Orange County Choppers](#), along with an Honor Escort of Veterans with representatives from [A Co. Vietnam Brotherhood](#) and [American Veterans \(AMVETS\) Post 301](#). They will lead the first wave of riders in the "Cruise for Cash" event to the [Sarasota National Cemetery \(SNC\)](#) for their first stop, which will be behind the Administration Building at SNC, allowing riders a view of the ongoing construction of Patriot Plaza!

Thunder By The Bay and Suncoast Charities for Children will also honor veterans over the weekend of Jan 11 & 12 by hosting a **Hospitality Tent for Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their families** offering complimentary soda, water, and food (military ID required). On Sat, Jan 11, a color guard from A Co, Vietnam Brotherhood will present the colors followed by the National Anthem and a tribute song, followed by veterans being introduced and then introducing each musical act throughout the day. Sunday, Jan 12 will see the same program, only the color guard will be from the Manasota Korean War Veterans Association, followed by more local veterans introducing the remaining musical acts for the festival.

#### Regularly Scheduled Thunder by the Bay Activities:

The festival starts with a **Kick Start Party at The Francis**, 1262 N. Palm Avenue, on Thursday, Jan 9, with Whiskey, Wine, Craft Beer, and Cigar Tasting. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets.

Friday, Jan 10 finds us at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota for the **Kick Off Party**, which includes a Fashion Show, Silent Auction, and Casino Style Gaming. Entry tickets (\$20 for general public and \$15 for veterans with military I.D.) can be purchased at the door.

We hope you will all join us for a wonderful festival supporting Suncoast Charities for Children and Honoring Veterans!

## WAYS TO CONNECT

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep an eye on the [Legacy of Valor Calendar](#) in 2014! There will be over 15 Legacy of Valor partner events in the coming months to take part in --whether it's attending the event yourself or sharing the word throughout your social networks to help ensure the success of your fellow LoV Partners' events.

## MEDIA PARTNERS



If you missed it, you can read WWSB My Suncoast's coverage on the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Sarasota National Cemetery by clicking [here](#).

## THE FINAL WORD

### REFLECTING ON 2013 & GEARING UP FOR 2014



As you look forward to the exciting possibilities and your goals for 2014, we ask you to also reflect on the impressive accomplishments of the vibrant, collaborative Legacy of Valor partnerships in 2013.

100 organizations within the community have embraced one another under the Legacy of Valor umbrella creating new or strengthening lasting relationships.

Through the work of those 100+ partnerships, 34 Legacy of Valor events took place to date within our community.

More than 285,000 people have been directly engaged through Legacy of Valor events and partner outreach efforts over the course of the past year.

Over 11,500 of those have been intimate, in-depth conversations educating community members about Legacy of Valor's campaign message to honor our veterans, inspire patriotism and embrace freedom.

During the one month [Unified LoV Campaign](#), 12 organizations raised more than \$500K including The Patterson Foundation match to support veteran-serving programs.

[December 12, 2013 Holiday Events Aboard](#)

[November 26, 2013 Accolades for Unified Legacy of Valor Opportunity](#)

[FreedomPassItOn.org](#)  
Created by [The Patterson Foundation](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, January 26** 2-6PM

### Venice Veterans Gala

A salute to all US military veterans past & present, with special tribute to the Greatest Generation. Attendees can swing dance to music of Lorri Hafer & Ten O'clock Band at the Venice Community Center. For more information or to purchase tickets to the event, click [here](#).

**Sunday, January 26**  
**Wounded Warriors Family Support Fundraiser**

The Heritage Oaks Golf and Country Club volunteer community will sponsor a Golf and Dinner Event in support of Wounded Warriors Family Support. All proceeds from the Chinese Auction and local businesses will go directly to [WWFS](#). To register for the event contact, James M. Hesson, USA (Ret) at 941-915-3689 OR [bjghesson@verizon.net](mailto:bjghesson@verizon.net).

## FEATURED VETERAN



### Lisa Christy

**RANK:** Master Sergeant

**BRANCH:** US Air Force, Ret.

**YEARS SERVED:** 22

**HIGHEST AWARD:** Defense Meritorious Service Medal

To learn more about Lisa, click [here](#).

## SUBMIT IDEAS

Have an upcoming event honoring veterans, a way for Legacy of Valor Partners to continue to connect, or a special project your organization is proud of that you want to share with the Legacy of Valor partner family through the newsletter? Please share by sending to:

**Erika Kelly**  
[ekellytp@gmail.com](mailto:ekellytp@gmail.com)

## Stay Connected

[#LegacyofValor](#)

[#FreedomPassItOn](#)

