



UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings! This edition of our newsletter shares a wonderful story by some out-of-town visitors, along with a tour from a leader of a national-level Veterans Service Organization. You won't want to miss upcoming events at Patriot Plaza that are highlighted leading up to Memorial Day and beyond. Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends, family, and coworkers. If anyone would like to be added to the distribution, just let me know! Linda Gould, LLGouldsrq@gmail.com

SHARE YOUR STORY

We welcome stories from people who have visited Patriot Plaza. Please tell us about your visit and the impact Patriot Plaza has on you, your family and friends. Share your stories with us by sending them to: Linda Gould, LLGouldsrq@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE PATRIOT PLAZA

VISITORS



Capt. Alan Barbour, USMC, and his wife, Jan, recently visited Patriot Plaza. In their own words, they were "absolutely amazed at the quality of the displays and maintenance of the entire facility. It is an exceptional tribute to those who have passed away after serving their country in the Armed Forces, whether during active duty or peacetime." Capt. Barbour shared that one of the photographs displayed is of Operation Hastings, an American military operation in the Vietnam War. The operation successfully pushed the Northern Vietnamese Army (NVA) back across the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Capt Barbour was the pilot of the UH-1E helicopter flying Wood B Kyle, the Commanding General of the Third Marine Division, on the day it began, on July 15, 1966.

TOURS



On March 31 Sarasota had the honor of hosting a visit from Michael Helm, the national commander of the American Legion. Commander Helm was accompanied by several regional and local American Legion commanders, including Mr. Jay Conti, the Florida Commander for the American Legion. On April 16, Ms. Diane Zumato, the National Legislative Director for the AM/Vet organization received a tour as well.

Since March, there have been at least six scheduled group tours and several hundred individual visitors that have toured Patriot Plaza, either on their own or on the Tuesday morning tour that is offered. Recent school tours included a guided tour visit with Charlotte County School supervisors. Looking for a unique event for your organization? Schedule a guided tour of Patriot Plaza.

EVENTS



The West entrance of Patriot Plaza is flanked by "Guardian Eagles" that speak to the military function of sentries - guardians and protectors. Military sites are guarded by sentries and these types of sculptures are often seen in older military cemeteries.

Upcoming Events at Patriot Plaza

On Sunday, May 24 at 5:00 pm, Sarasota National Cemetery will host a Memorial Day Ceremony. The community is invited to attend in order to honor and remember our heroes who have passed. Click here to see the full [agenda](#).

On Sunday, June 14 from 6:00-7:30 pm, the [Military Officers Association of Sarasota](#) will join [The POPS Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota](#) to celebrate the 238th birthday of our nation's flag. This unique 90-minute musical event will focus on the origin and history of the United States Flag as presented by Mr. Vane Scott III, who brings life to this amazing story. A special feature of this event will be a formal Flag Retirement and Retreat Ceremony. This is a "don't miss" event that is free and open to the public.

PATRIOT PLAZA IS A GIFT TO THE NATION FROM [The Patterson Foundation](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

GUIDED TOURS & ED EXPLORATIONS

Public tours are available at Patriot Plaza every Tuesday at 10am -- except federal holidays.

Through a partnership with [The Patterson Foundation](#) and the [Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County](#), Guides were recruited from the Sarasota National Cemetery (SNC) volunteers and trained on the history and meaning of the art elements at Patriot Plaza to provide visitors with a deeper understanding of Service and Sacrifice.

Tours are free and open to everyone who is interested. To schedule a group or school tour, contact Cindy Balistreni, Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or cbalistreni@sarasotaarts.org. In addition to scheduling free guided tours, the Arts and Cultural Alliance can schedule tours through Ed Explorations. <http://www.edexploresrq.com>

Patriot Plaza in Sarasota National Cemetery is available free of cost for you and the community to use for events honoring veterans.

Events at Patriot Plaza need to:

- 1) Be free and open to the public
- 2) Honor veterans
- 3) Maintain the dignity of a national cemetery

Contact Sarasota National Cemetery Director John Rosentrater via email at john.rosentrater@va.gov or (941) 922-7200 to request holding an event at Patriot Plaza.

In order to learn more about Sarasota National Cemetery please visit www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp.

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