



UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

This week each year we make a point to honor veterans in many ways. We hope that you will join your community in honoring veterans by: flying your flag, attending a parade, joining us at Patriot Plaza for the annual [Veterans Day Mass](#), or thanking a veteran and their family for their service and sacrifice. In December come out and place a remembrance wreath on a gravesite so that no veteran or their family members are forgotten. We wish you all safe and happy holidays and hope you will visit Patriot Plaza in the near future. 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

EXPERIENCE PATRIOT PLAZA

VISITORS



Sarasota National Cemetery has a Memorial Walk where organizations can place a memorial that meets the National Cemetery Administration parameters. The Memorial Walk is located across from the Columbarium along a sidewalk in the grassy area where at least five memorials have been placed. On October 9th, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association dedicated the latest memorial, the Sky Soldier Memorial with members from the original unit on hand to unveil the memorial and speak about their times in service. The Association hopes to dedicate a memorial in each of Florida's national cemeteries. A visit to Sarasota National Cemetery is well worth your time whether it is to witness the dignity of the grounds where our heroes rest, attend an event at [Patriot Plaza](#), or walk the Memorial Walk to remember those who have gone before.

TOURS



We love the [Patriot Plaza](#) Guides! Did you know that there is a free guided public tour of Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery every Tuesday morning at 10:00? The [Arts and Cultural Alliance](#) can schedule a free guided tour for your friends, family, business or school and can also schedule a school tour through [EdExplorationsSRQ](#) as well. [DeepCreekElementary](#) from Charlotte County has taken advantage of the ability to schedule tours and has been bringing all its 5th-grade classes for tours this fall. Sign up your classes now!

EVENTS



On Thursday, November 5, the first-ever Call to Honor ceremony was held at Sarasota National Cemetery. Members of our community came out to pay their respects to seven veterans and four spouses of veterans in order to ensure they were not forgotten. These veterans were from the Army, Navy and Air Force and represented the WWI, WWII and Vietnam eras. Their remains were interred at the Columbarium, honoring our heroes with dignity in a final resting place. We anticipate more ceremonies of this kind due to the diligent work of the [Missing In America Project](#). This organization searches for the remains of veterans eligible to be buried in a National Cemetery, many of which are held at funeral homes.

Upcoming Events at Patriot Plaza

Wednesday, **November 11** is Veterans Day. Come join the [Diocese of Venice](#) for a Mass that will take place at 3:00pm at Patriot Plaza.

On Saturday, **December 12** at 9:00am the annual [Wreaths Across America](#) program will be held at Sarasota National Cemetery. Our community is invited to attend and participate in the placing of remembrance wreaths on the many gravesites as well as the Columbarium.

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

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

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 Balistreri, Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or cbalistreri@sarasotaarts.org. In addition to scheduling free guided tours, the Arts and Cultural Alliance can schedule tours through Ed Explorations. <http://www.edexplorationsrq.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

Download the events guide and 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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