



MAY 2016

UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

As spring moves toward summer, we have done some Spring Cleaning out at Patriot Plaza! The amphitheater was closed recently for a few days for some cleaning and maintenance in order to keep it in pristine condition for your visits. Our community continues to embrace this lasting tribute to our veterans by hosting events, both large and small. We encourage you to visit soon and often. Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends, family and co-workers. If anyone would like to be added to the distribution, just let me know! Linda Gould, LLGouldsr@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE PATRIOT PLAZA

VISITORS



Our visitor highlight in this edition is on Shana Zamikoff and her father, Mark Fitzgerald. Mark was drafted and served with the Combat Engineers in Vietnam during 1968 and 1969. He attended the dedication of Patriot Plaza in June 2014. Mark's experience that day was bittersweet as he reflected on his military service in Vietnam. Upon seeing the grounds of Sarasota National Cemetery he felt an appreciation for his own survival. At that moment he never felt more honored to have served his country. The emotional impact of visiting Patriot Plaza allowed Mark to finally share his experiences in Vietnam with his family.

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, LLGouldsr@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

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

GUIDED TOURS & EDEXPLORATIONS

Public tours are available at Patriot Plaza every Tuesday at 10am -- except on 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

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TOURS



Tours are an integral part of experiencing Patriot Plaza. Every Tuesday morning at 10:00am there is a Patriot Plaza Guide available to provide a public tour. Tours can also be scheduled with the [Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County](#). Exciting news is that more and more organizations are assisting in providing much needed transportation to our region's schools to facilitate School Tours! [The Patterson Foundation](#) is proud to be one of those organizations that is currently providing transportation in order to ensure our children experience the history and artwork found at Patriot Plaza located at Sarasota National Cemetery.

EVENTS



On Tuesday, March 29 a [Vietnam War 50th Commemoration - America Thanks You](#) program was conducted at Patriot Plaza. Over 1,500 members of our community came out to share in this special event. Those attending included over 800 Vietnam Veterans or family members of Vietnam Veterans who came out to remember and honor their service in Vietnam. The music was enjoyed by all and the presentation of commemorative pins to so many who served and sacrificed was very moving.

Upcoming Events at Patriot Plaza

Memorial Day Ceremony: Saturday, May 28 - Sarasota National Cemetery will host a Memorial Day Ceremony.

Flag Day Celebration: Sunday, June 12 - A Flag Day Celebration will be held at Patriot Plaza hosted by the [Military Officers Association of Sarasota](#) and [The POPS Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota](#).

Save the Date in 2016:

Friday, November 11 - Veterans Day Mass

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

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