



Patriot Plaza Newsletter

February 22, 2018

UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

Our first edition of the Patriot Plaza newsletter each year traditionally covers one of the most popular events at Patriot Plaza, the [Wreaths Across America](#) program that takes place in December each year across the nation at our national cemeteries. Sarasota National Cemetery had its first burial in January 2009. In 2017 over 12,000 wreaths were needed to provide a wreath for every grave site. This cemetery serves over seven counties in our region and once again the communities in our region came together to ensure that each veteran and family member able to receive a wreath was recognized and remembered. Each year more and more people come together in fellowship to place the wreaths. This year saw many different first time groups as well as traditional ones that wore their organization shirts and shared the day with their family, friends and colleagues as well as their neighbors and new acquaintances.

Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends, family, and co-workers. To be added to the distribution, just let me know, Linda Gould, LLGouldsrq@gmail.com.

Follow and "Like" our [Legacy of Valor Facebook page](#) for inspirational and informative posts covering national and local topics concerning veterans.

THANK YOU TO THE ORGANIZERS

As we look back at 2017 at the different events that took place at [Patriot Plaza](#), we thank those organizations that collaborate their time, talent and treasure to bring events to Patriot Plaza that are free and open to the public and honor our veterans and their families. Three main events take place every year with more events being added by different organizations in our community.

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 made on you, your family, and friends. Share your stories with us by sending them to Linda Gould, LLGouldsrq@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Patriot Plaza at 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 [Event Hosting Guidelines](#) and contact Sarasota National Cemetery Director John Rosentrater at john.rosentrater@va.gov or (941) 922-7200 to request holding an event at Patriot Plaza.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Sarasota National Cemetery.

GUIDED TOURS & EDEXPLORATIONS

Public tours of [Patriot Plaza](#) are currently conducted every Tuesday at 10am, except on federal holidays. Private group and school tours can be scheduled Tuesday through Friday.

Through a partnership with [The Patterson](#)

Thank you to the Sarasota National Cemetery Advisory Committee, led by Renee Gilmore, and the Tin Can Sailors Squadron led by John Crawford and Paul Miller, in association with Director John Rosentrater for a moving **Memorial Day Remembrance** program. For the past eight years the [Diocese of Venice](#) with the [Knights of Columbus](#) has presented a beautiful **Veterans Day Mass** that continues to bring our community together in fellowship to honor all those who have served. The Sarasota National Cemetery **Wreaths Across America** planning committee, led by the Location Director, Meshia Richardson, has consistently evolved and met the goal of placing a wreath at every grave site of our heroes and their families that have passed on.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2017

Through a partnership with [The Patterson Foundation](#) and the [Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County](#), Guides are 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 the Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or education@sarasotaarts.org

SEA CADETS



The [Maritime Eagles at Manatee School for the Arts](#) is the only Sea Cadet Unit in Manatee or Sarasota county. It is a division that prides itself in helping young men and women ages 10 -17 years of age in becoming the best citizens of their communities. Although they wear the uniform of the United States Navy, their mission is not to steer their cadets into any branch of service. However, if the individual does decide to put off college for a while and join a branch of service, that cadet may enlist at an accelerated pay grade. The goal of their staff is to promote and ensure an atmosphere where each cadet can be successful in both school and life. Their motto "Lead, follow or get out of the way" is not a slogan but words they strive to live by daily.

STUDENT VETERANS STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA





The WAWA Veterans Alliance, who has 76 members, was represented by the Region 9 from Tampa Bay. They enjoy getting together for community outreach and were very enthusiastic to be participating in this year's Wreaths Across America program at Sarasota National Cemetery. They also connected with Goodwill Manasota's team that was participating and are looking forward to collaborating to share information about resources available to veterans and future volunteer opportunities.



The mission of the [Student Veterans of America \(SVA\)](#) is to provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation. SVA envisions a nation where all student veterans succeed in post-secondary programs and contribute to civilian society in meaningful ways. This organization provides the resources and support to do so through five major initiatives: Supporting Campus Chapters, Advocacy, Developing Partnerships, Connecting Alumni and Investing in Research. The [State College of Florida \(SCF\)](#) maintains SVA chapters on the Bradenton campus and the Venice campus.

Goodwill Veterans Services Team



[Goodwill's Veterans Service Advisors](#) offer access to employment preparation courses, educational and technical skills classes, and work tools; all aimed at assisting veterans find meaningful employment so that they may advance beyond their military careers and regain a sense of pride, dignity and purpose. One-on-one guidance is provided, especially to those who have become disabled during their tour of duty. Program trainers

match job seekers with job opportunities through targeted recruitment services and job fairs. As former veterans, coaches are uniquely qualified to help other veterans rise to the challenge of assimilation. This Program is also an expansion of the Goodwill's Job Connection program - which provides job training, placement and employment services to thousands of American veterans as well as their spouses and families.



Over 33 residents of [Sun City Center](#) enjoyed the third annual President's Day visit organized by the [Community Foundation of Tampa Bay](#). The bus

was funded by the [Freedom Plaza](#) retirement center at Sun City Center. Five [Patriot Plaza Guides](#) were on hand to enhance their experience. Many thanks to Jim Robinson, Bonnie Caplan, George Gillespie, Linda Tittle and Zoe Moore.

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

STAY CONNECTED

[#PatriotPlaza](#)

[@ThePattersonFdn](#)

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

GEN SHELTON - GUEST SPEAKER

Thursday, March 29, 9:30 - 11:00am

FLAGS FOR FALLEN VETS

Saturday, May 26, 8:00

