MEMORIAL DAY 2020

Please share your experiences after visiting Patriot Plaza by sending your stories to Linda Gould at LLGouldsrq@gmail.com.

EVENTS, TOURS AND VISITS

EVENTS AND GUIDED TOURS AT PATRIOT PLAZA ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

CLICK HERE TO SEE THE CURRENT GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION (NCA) ABOUT SARASOTA NATIONAL CEMETERY.

Patriot Plaza is considered an outdoor space with public art. You are allowed to visit this outdoor amphitheater with a mask and social distance.
At 8:00 am the Sarasota National Cemetery Director, John Rosentrater, and his staff will participate in a ceremony that will take place at each of the 142 national cemeteries across our nation at the same time. You can participate as a member of the community audience by tuning in to the Sarasota National Cemetery Advisory Committee (SNCAC) Facebook page.

The second remembrance program on Monday, May 25 will also be held virtually at 10:00 am and can be viewed by tuning in to the SNCAC Facebook page. An original video was produced this month featuring Gold Star family members who give us a glimpse into the personal lives of 15 troops, all of whom died as a result of service to our country. The video was produced so that Sarasota National Cemetery and its advisory committee can stand in Patriot Plaza and call the names of fallen service members as is normally done in remembrance and honor. Bugler Danny Bilyeu will sound Taps and Chaplain Ted Smith will read an honor roll of names provided by Gold Star families. Local volunteers at the cemetery will explain their appreciation for the sacrifices that have been made and viewers will hear a little about the role of music, flowers, and prayer in military tributes. Ed Lyons, who is the cemetery's assistant director and a veteran, explains why Memorial Day is very personal to him.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is a day set aside for us to pause to recognize the military spouses around us who have the greatest impact on our lives and our military communities. This day of appreciation is the Friday in May before Mother's Day. This special day was first recognized by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.
75th Anniversary of VE Day

VE day is celebrated on May 8 each year and this year it marks 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. The 75th anniversary provided our nation, and our friends around the world, with an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark and terrifying period. Each year this is an opportunity for us all to remember the enormous sacrifices that were made at home and abroad and to joyously celebrate as people did 75 years ago, the arrival of peace in Europe. We salute and honor our World War II veterans as the Greatest Generation. Thank you for your service and sacrifice.
US Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 16, 2020, marked the 70th anniversary of the first combined demonstration by America's defense team of its progress, under the National Security Act, towards the goal of readiness for any eventuality. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department -- the Department of Defense. Click here to connect to a musical tribute to Armed Forces Day from the US Naval Academy Band in 2019.

HONORING AND ONWARD

Honoring & Onward is a celebration of The Patterson Foundation's decade of impact through people, organizations, and communities while continuing to connect, learn, share, evolve, and strengthen its efforts to realize shared aspirations. As every person and organization works through the challenges due to COVID-19, The Patterson Foundation has paused on its in-person engagement efforts, so all can focus on their own well-being, realizing we are all part of a community that cares for others.