Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery

Free and Open to the Public, Sunrise to Sunset!

February 2022

View the virtual Patriot Plaza tour experience!
Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery

Patriot Plaza, a 2,800-seat ceremonial amphitheater, was built and donated to Sarasota National Cemetery in Florida by The Patterson Foundation. It features commissioned art that honors veterans, inspires patriotism, and embraces freedom. The space is a place of peace and reflection and exists for our community to honor veterans through ceremonies and events for generations to come. Sarasota National Cemetery, like all 155 national cemeteries managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, is a place where all active duty or honorably discharged veterans can be buried. Some spouses and dependent children of eligible veterans can also be buried there.

Detailed eligibility requirements can be found at www.cem.va.gov.

What is Presidents’ Day?

Presidents’ Day is celebrated on the third Monday of February. It originated after George Washington’s death and was celebrated on his birthday, February 22. In the late 1960s, Congress moved this holiday, and two other Federal holidays, to Mondays. Now President’s Day celebrates all U.S. presidents past and present.

Can you name the presidents on Mount Rushmore National Memorial (from left to right)? Take a photo of you and your answers and send it along with your name to be entered in a drawing for a prize. Send to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Presidents that Served in the Military

The President of the United States has many important jobs. One of them is being the Commander-in-Chief. This means they are the commander of all the nation’s military. 31 of the 46 U.S. Presidents have served in the military.

George Washington
Thomas Jefferson
James Madison
James Monroe
Andrew Jackson
William Henry Harrison
John Tyler
James K. Polk
Zachary Taylor
Millard Fillmore
Franklin Pierce
James Buchanan
Abraham Lincoln
Andrew Johnson
Ulysses S. Grant
Rutherford B. Hayes
James Garfield
Chester Arthur
Benjamin Harrison
William McKinley
Theodore Roosevelt
Harry S. Truman
Dwight D. Eisenhower
John F. Kennedy
Lyndon B. Johnson
Richard Nixon
Gerald Ford
Jimmy Carter
Ronald Reagan
George H.W. Bush
George W. Bush

Take a pic!

Find a FUN FACT about any of the 46 U.S. Presidents! Take a photo of you and your FUN FACT and send it along with your name for a prize! Send to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Six presidents served in the Navy:
George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford,
Richard Nixon, Lyndon B. Johnson, and John F. Kennedy

Two presidents served in the Air Force:
George W. Bush and Ronald Reagan (Army AirCorps)

The three highest ranking presidents
while in the military were:

George Washington
Lieutenant General
(Three Star)

Ulysses S. Grant
General
(Four Stars)

Dwight D. Eisenhower
General of the Army
(Five Stars)

George Washington loved
dogs!! He bred many dogs:
dalmations, foxhounds,
greyhounds, mastiffs,
terriers...just to name a few!

The final resting place of
President Ulysses S. Grant and
his wife, Julia, Grant’s Tomb,
is the largest mausoleum in
North America, located in New
York City.

Dwight Eisenhower was
the first president to ride
in a helicopter.
A lot of presidents have received medals of valor.

- **George H.W. Bush** *(Lieutenant, Navy)* received the Distinguished Flying Cross. The Distinguished Flying Cross medal is our nation’s highest award for extraordinary aerial achievement. As a valor decoration, it ranks fourth in order of precedence, and is awarded to recipients for heroism while participating in an aerial flight.

- **Lyndon B. Johnson** *(Commander, Navy)* received the Silver Star. The Silver Star medal is third-highest military decoration for valor in combat. The Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

- **John F. Kennedy** *(Lieutenant, Navy)* received the Purple Heart. The Purple Heart medal is presented to service members who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in the U.S. military. A Purple Heart is a solemn distinction and means a service member has greatly sacrificed themselves, or paid the ultimate price, while in the line of duty.

- **Theodore Roosevelt** *(Colonel, Army)* is the only president to receive the Medal of Honor. It is awarded to service members who distinguish themselves “through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.” A green laurel wreath, a symbol of victory, encircles the points of the star, and the eagle connecting the medal to its ribbon perches on a gold bar with “VALOR” inscribed on it.
Meet the **WINNERS** who submitted their colored medals from a previous Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Book!

**JESSIE**

**ABIJAH**

**ABRAHAM**

**JILLIAN**
The Maze

Starting at the Washington Monument, find your way in the maze to the Lincoln Memorial!

Take a picture of you and your completed maze, and send it along with your name for a prize!
Send to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:00am–4:30pm
Closed federal holidays

Visitation Hours: Open daily from sunrise to sunset

- Sarasota National Cemetery is located at 9810 State Road 72 in Sarasota
- Admission is free
- Please no pets or picnics
- Burials occur on weekdays so please be respectful of those attending services

To learn more about Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery,
visit: thepattersonfoundation.org/patriot-plaza

Twitter: #PatriotPlaza #ForAllAges

Learn about Suncoast Remake Learning Days — a 10-day festival of free, experiential learning events
for children and families. (Think of it as the world’s largest multi-venue open house for hands-on
learning from April 29 to May 8, 2022.)

Use your camera on your mobile device for more information!

Generously funded by