Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery

Free and Open to the Public, Sunrise to Sunset!
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 a Veteran?

A person who has served in active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

What is Veterans Day all about...

The United States and other countries celebrate November 11th as Armistice Day to commemorate the ending of World War I on November 11, 1918.

Veterans Day is intended to honor and thank all military personnel who served the United States, particularly living veterans. It is marked by parades and church services and in many places the American flag is hung at half-mast. A period of silence lasting 2 minutes may be held at 11am.

What is the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day?

Memorial Day honors American service members who died in service to our country, while Veterans Day honors all American veterans, living and dead, who have served honorably during war and peacetime.
Military Funerals

The American flag is important and there are protocols about how flags are used and how they are displayed at national cemeteries.

When a veteran is buried, they are entitled to military honors. You may see some of these ceremonies when you visit Patriot Plaza and Sarasota National Cemetery. The veterans’ family will receive a folded American flag and a trumpet or a bugle will play “Taps.” Some veterans may be eligible for a Honor Guard of 7 who fire 3 rifle volleys over the grave. At a military funeral if there is a casket, the flag is draped over the casket and folded by the Honor Guard. If there is no casket, then the flag is already folded.

At Sarasota National Cemetery and other national cemeteries, the flag is flown at half-staff during funerals to honor the veterans. When there are multiple funerals in one day, the flag is lowered 30 minutes before the first funeral and raised 30 minutes after the last service.

At federal buildings and installations the flag is flown at half-staff by executive order by the President of the United States.

The colors on the flag represent:
Red: valor and bravery
White: purity and innocence
Blue: vigilance, perseverance, and justice
At Patriot Plaza you can find the seals of five of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Army  Marine Corps  Navy  Air Force  Coast Guard

Did you know that there is a sixth branch? It is the United States Space Force. It was founded on December 20, 2019, so it is about to turn 4 years old!

Founding Date: December 20, 2019

Motto: Semper Supra (Latin for Always Above)

Members of the Space Force are called Guardians.
Ribbons
The United States Armed Forces awards ribbons to recognize military service and personal accomplishments. They are worn on the left side of the uniform. Here are some military ribbons:

Vietnam Service Medal Ribbon

Afghanistan Campaign Medal Ribbon

Iraq Campaign Medal Ribbon

Korean Service Medal Ribbon

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Ribbon

Antarctica Service Medal Ribbon

National Defense Service Medal Ribbon

DID YOU KNOW?
The mosaic mural at Patriot Plaza is 50 feet long!

Patriot Plaza Activity
Find and circle the service ribbons in this partial photo of the “Night to Day, Here and Away” mosaic mural at Patriot Plaza.
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the highest ranking military official in the United States. Air Force General Charles Q. Brown, Jr. became the newest chairman this year. You can also tell he is a pilot because he wears his wings above all of this ribbons. See how many ribbons he has? Can you find the five ribbons below on his uniform?

GENERAL CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.
Make Your Own Ribbons!

Below are blank “ribbons” for you to color and name the ribbon medals.

Name of Ribbon medal

Name of Ribbon medal

Name of Ribbon medal

Name of Ribbon medal

Name of Ribbon medal

Take a picture of you and your ribbon medals and email it along with your name to be entered into a drawing 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

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY
MARCH 2, 2024

Patriot Plaza 10th Anniversary
Celebration

Generously funded by