Over Memorial Day weekend, several activities take place at Sarasota National Cemetery to honor all who died in service to our nation. On Saturday, May 28, Flags for Fallen Vets will place an American flag at each gravesite starting at 8:00 am. Anyone wishing to participate must register in advance. Click here to get to the registration page, and then follow the 2022 Volunteer Registration Form to Sarasota and enter your information. Also, on Saturday, May 28, following the flag placement, there will be a short program at Patriot Plaza from 10:00 to 10:30 am.

On Monday, May 30, Memorial Day, at 3:00 pm, there is a National Moment of Remembrance, an annual event that asks Americans, wherever they are at 3:00 pm local time, to pause for one minute to remember those who have
died in military service to the United States. TAPS Across America encourages all who are interested to play TAPS at 3:00 pm. You will hear buglers throughout our region, including some musicians who will play at Sarasota National Cemetery.

This year for the first time, there will be a concert performed by the Lakewood Ranch Wind Ensemble at Patriot Plaza on Memorial Day from 5:00–6:30 pm. More information can be obtained at their website.

Any event at Patriot Plaza is free and open to the public. Parking at Sarasota National Cemetery is limited to asphalt surfaces only due to continuing gravesite development, so please plan to arrive early. There is seating for 1,000 on the marble benches at Patriot Plaza, or you can bring your own chairs if you wish. Food, beverages, and pets are prohibited at Sarasota National Cemetery and Patriot Plaza.

Sharing Patriot Plaza Art with the Community

The Patterson Foundation is creating new opportunities for our community to connect with #PatriotPlaza’s stories of service and sacrifice by repurposing several tablets previously used in the Testimonies art exhibit. To be eligible, recipients need to meet two criteria: provide a valuable service to our community and have a
program that honors veterans in a meaningful way.

Featuring a photographic image encased in glass and a Georgia white marble tablet inscribed with an engraved drawing and text, the art reflects the personal voices of those who have served, supported, and sacrificed across generations of military history. A blog by Scott Lempe outlines the details of this community sharing.

In March, the Tidewell Hospice Foundation received a second piece of art in their corporate offices in Sarasota. Click here to view the video of the dedication. An additional piece was unveiled at the Goodwill Manasota Veterans Services on May 25. In June, another tablet will be unveiled at the University of South Florida Sarasota Manatee campus. We hope to formally dedicate the remaining pieces later this year.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT PATRIOT PLAZA

Through a collaboration with The Patterson Foundation and Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, "The Future of the Philanthropic Sector: Experiential Learning with The Patterson Foundation"
provides undergraduate and graduate students attending Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy a professional growth opportunity using The Patterson Foundation's initiatives. This semester-long course culminates with a weeklong spring study away experience at The Patterson Foundation in Sarasota, FL. Click [here](#) to learn more about this program. No visit would be complete without a visit to Patriot Plaza!

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## VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2022

On March 29, annually, our communities recognize and remember the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and welcome them home in ways they did not receive after returning from the Vietnam War. A ceremony was held at Sarasota National Cemetery with the Honor Guard of the American Legion #159 of Venice, Commander Brian Russ of Alpha Company of the Vietnam Brotherhood, and special guest, COL (Ret) Ben Knisely, a Vietnam veteran shot down during the Vietnam War.

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## HELP US WELCOME TO THE NEW ADMIN OFFICER AT SARASOTA NATIONAL CEMETERY

Michelle Green is the new Administrative Officer of Sarasota National Cemetery, effective February 28, 2022. She is responsible for all administrative operations at the facility. Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs, Mrs. Green served as the travel manager at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic (NCTAMSLANT) in Norfolk, VA. Mrs. Green retired after 20 years from the U.S. Navy as a Chief Yeoman in 2017.
A special edition of the Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Book was published in April 2022 in conjunction with the 2022 Suncoast Remake Learning Days Patriot Plaza events. When you think of the military, you probably envision war, soldiers fighting, tanks, submarines, battleships, helicopters, and airplanes carrying weapons. But you might be surprised to realize how many different missions the military has, and our military members do. In our military there are engineers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, electricians, veterinarians, journalists, linguists, musicians, the list goes on and on. In this special edition, we highlight a wide variety of these missions.
country, while Veterans Day honors all American veterans, living and dead, who have served honorably during war and peacetime. We honor the service and sacrifice of all veterans, but in this issue we would like to highlight some specific groups. You may have heard of or seen movies about some of them. [Click here to learn more]

**View the Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Book Archive**

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**SUNCOAST REMAKE LEARNING DAYS AT PATRIOT PLAZA**

Suncoast Remake Learning Days, presented by the [Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](http://www.suncoastcampaign.org) with the support of [The Patterson Foundation](http://www.thepattersonfoundation.org), consisted of more than 140 events over ten days hosted by more than 165 organizations. Over the weekend of April 30 and May 1, we hosted students and their families for tours of Patriot Plaza and then some interactive flag folding. Special thanks to Patriot Plaza Guides Tom Smith, Joe Reynolds, Linda Tittle, and Bonnie Caplan for giving tours and to Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Navy (Retired) Joseph Martin for leading the American flag folding activity! A special shout out to Ms. Carol Lavallee, Civics teacher from Pine View School, who sent the most students to Patriot Plaza that weekend!

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**RECRUITING ADDITIONAL PATRIOT PLAZA GUIDES**

If you or someone you know is looking for a rewarding volunteer experience that interacts with visitors and involves art, architecture, and patriotism, come be a Patriot Plaza Guide! These Sarasota National Cemetery volunteers are trained and experienced in sharing the art and architecture of the outdoor amphitheater that honors veterans, inspires patriotism, and embraces freedom. First, sign up with the Sarasota National Cemetery staff as a volunteer, then contact the [Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County](http://www.sarasotaarts.org) Education Director at education@sarasotaarts.org or 941-365-5118, extension 301, to schedule your training.
STAY CONNECTED

Share this newsletter with friends, family, and co-workers. Click HERE to be added to the distribution of the Patriot Plaza Newsletter.

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

#PatriotPlaza  
@ThePattersonFoundation