

◆ UPDATES

EXPERIENCE PATRIOT PLAZA FIRST HAND

Remembrance is an important theme of Patriot Plaza, but it is not a memorial - it is a place for the living to reflect, honor, and celebrate. Sarasota National Cemetery (SNC) is open to the public daily from sunrise to sundown. We encourage you to take a drive to SNC and experience Patriot Plaza, its art, its stories, and its serenity with nature. For more information on visiting SNC and Patriot Plaza, click [here](#).



◆ WAYS TO CONNECT

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Let your friends and family know about this bi-weekly Freedom Front and Center newsletter. If they are not already receiving the newsletter and would like to stay informed on the latest updates regarding Patriot Plaza and the Sarasota National Cemetery, please have them send an email to Erika Kelly at ekellytpf@gmail.com requesting to be added to the email list.

◆ SEEN & HEARD

The Community Dedication of Patriot Plaza is now on the Patriot Plaza website! To see the ceremony in its entirety, [click here](#), then click on the 'Dedication Rebroadcast' button, then click on 'Media Gallery.'

Additional rebroadcasts will also occur on:

- SNN 6
- The Education Channel, Comcast 20 / Verizon 33
- Access Sarasota, Comcast 19 / Verizon 32

For exact dates and times of additional rebroadcasts, visit the [Patriot Plaza website](#) and click on the 'Dedication Rebroadcast' button.

◆ THE FINAL WORD

Beth Duda, producer extraordinaire of the Patriot Plaza dedication ceremony shares her feelings of the day through this original poem.

A Community Dedication Transformed by a Dedicated Community

By Beth Duda

Together, we created a glow, a tangible feeling of enthusiasm, gratitude and commitment. Each task, handled with grace.

Together, we gave of our time; our strengths and our talents...
Knowing every assignment was important to our shared mission

Together, with resolve and zeal we handled the expected...and the unexpected challenges with smiles and tenacity ever present

The result? Magic.

Together, the purity of our purpose shone in the hearts and spirits of everyone in attendance...And we, and they...will never be the same.

Honor...

Inspire...

Embrace.

patriotplaza.thepattersonfoundation.org
Created by The Patterson Foundation

◆ DID YOU KNOW?

In 1862, Congress authorized President Lincoln to purchase grounds for a national cemetery, establishing the beginning of the national cemetery system as we know it today.

Today there are 147 national cemeteries. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) through its National Cemetery Administration (NCA) administers 131 of them, two are still administered by the Army, and fourteen are maintained by the Department of Interior.

Sarasota National Cemetery is one of seven National Cemeteries currently in Florida.

The other Florida national cemeteries are (in order of establishment): St. Augustine in St. Augustine, Barrancas in Pensacola, Bay Pines in Bay Pines, Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, South Florida in Lake Worth, and Jacksonville in Jacksonville.

Two national cemeteries will be coming to Florida in the near future:
Tallahassee in Tallahassee and Cape Canaveral in Scottsmeer.

◆ SUBMIT IDEAS

Have an upcoming event honoring veterans, a way for the community to continue to connect with veteran related services or activities, or a special veteran-honoring project your organization is proud of that you want to share with the community through the newsletter? Please share by sending to:

Erika Kelly
ekellytpf@gmail.com

Stay Connected

[#PatriotPlaza](#)

[@ThePattersonFdn](#)



Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.
View this email [online](#).

2 N. Tamiami Trail Suite 206
Sarasota, FL | 34236 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.