



## UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our Patriot Plaza newsletter! As the Editor for this newsletter and the Community Connection Consultant for Patriot Plaza here in our community, I hope to keep you updated with news related to this amazing amphitheater and outdoor museum. Many of you may know me from the Legacy of Valor Campaign and the Veterans Legacy Summit, both held here in our region over the last two years while Patriot Plaza was under construction. It is my honor, as a resident of this wonderful community, and a military veteran, to continue to share information and stories involving Patriot Plaza. If you or your organization would like to be added to the distribution list, just let me know!  
Linda Gould, [LLGouldsrq@gmail.com](mailto:LLGouldsrq@gmail.com)

## SHARE YOUR STORY

We welcome stories from people who have visited Patriot Plaza. Please tell us about your visit and the impact Patriot Plaza has on you, your family and friends. Sue from Sarasota visited the Sarasota National Cemetery recently with a friend from out of town. Seeing Patriot Plaza for the first time, she found it overwhelming and a lovely tribute to those who have served. Sue has family members who served in the military and is so proud of them. Share your stories with us by sending them to: Linda Gould, [LLGouldsrq@gmail.com](mailto:LLGouldsrq@gmail.com)

## EXPERIENCE PATRIOT PLAZA

### VISITORS



Our community was honored to have Dr. Jane Chu, Director of the Endowment for the Arts, participate in the Celebrate Ceremony that presented Patriot Plaza to our nation on November 15, 2014. She is accompanied here by Ann Hirsch, the artist who created the eagle sculpture depicting "Home" at the East entrance to the amphitheater. "Home" was designed for the portion of Patriot Plaza recognizing the sacrifice of the military families. For detailed information on this sculpture and all the artwork found at Patriot Plaza, visit [www.patriotplaza.thepatternsfoundation.org](http://www.patriotplaza.thepatternsfoundation.org)

### DID YOU KNOW?

Patriot Plaza in Sarasota National Cemetery is available free of cost for you and the community to use for events honoring veterans.

#### Events at Patriot Plaza need to:

- 1) Be free and open to the public
- 2) Honor veterans
- 3) Maintain the dignity of a national cemetery

Contact Sarasota National Cemetery Director John Rosentrater via email at [john.rosentrater@va.gov](mailto:john.rosentrater@va.gov) or (941) 922-7200 to request holding an event at Patriot Plaza.

In order to learn more about Sarasota National Cemetery please visit [www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/sarasota.asp)

### GUIDED TOURS & ED EXPLORATIONS

Public tours are available at **Patriot Plaza** every Tuesday at 10am -- except federal holidays.

Through a partnership with [The Patterson Foundation](http://www.thepatternsfoundation.org) and the [Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County](http://www.artsandculturalalliance.org), Guides were recruited from the Sarasota National Cemetery (SNC) volunteers and trained on the history and meaning of the art elements at Patriot Plaza to provide visitors with a deeper understanding of Service and Sacrifice.

Tours are free and open to everyone who is interested. To schedule a group or school tour, contact Cindy Balistreri, Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or [cbalistreri@sarasotaarts.org](mailto:cbalistreri@sarasotaarts.org). In addition to scheduling free guided tours, the Arts and Cultural Alliance can schedule tours through Ed Explorations. <http://www.edexplorations.com>

### TOURS



In January, 20 students and 5 teachers visited Patriot Plaza from Oak Park School here in Sarasota. These students visited Sarasota National Cemetery two years ago and gained a tremendous appreciation for how we honor veterans. They were excited to return and visit the outdoor amphitheater and listened closely to the guides that came out to ensure they learned all there was to share about the artwork and history displayed.

In November 2014, the Young Marines program from Venice Middle School visited Patriot Plaza with 88 students from grades 6-8, along with seven teachers. [Follow this link](#) to see photos and learn more about their visit.

### STAY CONNECTED

[#PatriotPlaza](https://twitter.com/PatriotPlaza)

[@ThePattersonFdn](https://www.facebook.com/ThePattersonFdn)



### EVENTS



Patriot Plaza is a wonderful venue for events that honor our veterans, inspire patriotism and embrace freedom, such as the Wreaths Across America ceremony held on Saturday, December 13, 2014.

#### Upcoming Events at Patriot Plaza

May 24 - SNC to host the annual Memorial Day Ceremony. This year's ceremony will be in Patriot Plaza at approximately 5:00 pm.

June 14 (Flag Day) - Celebrate the Stars and Stripes program hosted by the [Military Officers Association of Sarasota \(MOAS\)](http://www.moas.org)

August 14-16 - 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII - Events are scheduled worldwide, including in Sarasota where the movement is building! To learn more visit: [www.spiritof45.org](http://www.spiritof45.org)

November 11 - Veterans Day Mass at Patriot Plaza

December 12 - [Wreaths Across America](http://www.wreathsofamerica.org) ceremony and wreath laying

PATRIOT PLAZA IS A GIFT TO THE NATION FROM [The Patterson Foundation](http://www.thepatternsfoundation.org)

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