



#### UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

Happy Summer! This edition of our newsletter provides wonderful photos and updates of events and activities at Patriot Plaza. The first newly created community-hosted event took place on June 14, Flag Day, and was attended by many from our community and beyond. The number of visitors continues steadily on a daily basis. Tours are available on Tuesday mornings or you can schedule your own tour for your family or organization. Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends, family, and coworkers. If anyone would like to be added to the distribution, just let me know! Linda Gould, [LLGouldsr@gmail.com](mailto:LLGouldsr@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. Share your stories with us by sending them to: Linda Gould, [LLGouldsr@gmail.com](mailto:LLGouldsr@gmail.com)

#### 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 and the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, 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 Ballstren, Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or [cballstren@sarasotaarts.com](mailto:cballstren@sarasotaarts.com). In addition to scheduling free guided tours, the Arts and Cultural Alliance can schedule tours through Ed Explorations. <http://www.edexplorations.com>

#### STAY CONNECTED

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

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



#### EXPERIENCE PATRIOT PLAZA

##### VISITORS



As the number of visitors to Patriot Plaza increases, so does the connectivity of the photographs shown there. Shown on the left, Pat Coco Valdez served in the US Marine Corps and stands beside the photograph of a brave young Marine recovering from wounds suffered in Afghanistan. Mrs. Valdez was part of the Welcome Home reception when he returned home. She still feels strongly connected to him and was moved to see a picture of this same young Marine recently when she attended the Flag Day celebration at Patriot Plaza. Shown on the right is Mrs. Edith Butler who was excited to be part of a group from the Bradenton First Baptist Church receiving a tour by Patriot Plaza Guides.

##### TOURS



Take a tour of Patriot Plaza, and bring your family and friends or visitors to the area! All Patriot Plaza Guides must be Sarasota National Cemetery volunteers, but not all Sarasota National Cemetery volunteers are Patriot Plaza Guides. [Learn more](#) about how the Patriot Plaza Guide program came about through a partnership between The Patterson Foundation and the Sarasota Arts and Cultural Alliance.

On June 1, The Patterson Foundation hosted a Guide Appreciation Breakfast as a meaningful tribute to the work and dedication of these special volunteers. This incredible group of volunteers has committed many hours during the past year in educational classes designed to give them knowledge about the meaning of Patriot Plaza and the featured artworks and artists. Click [here](#) to learn more about how to become a Patriot Plaza Guide and the special recognition given after this first year.

#### EVENTS



Flag Day 2015 honored our American Flag with the "Celebrating the Stars and Stripes" program, our first newly created community-hosted event at Patriot Plaza!

##### Events at Patriot Plaza

On Sunday, May 24 over 1,200 people attended the Memorial Day Ceremony hosted by Sarasota National Cemetery. The program was wonderful with speakers and music, followed by a special commemoration honoring Vietnam Veterans from our community on the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

Sunday, June 14, the Celebrating the Stars and Stripes program was hosted by the Military Officers Association of Sarasota. Approximately 2,000 people attended the evening program which centered on Vane Scott who gave us a history of the American Flag accompanied by The POPs Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota.

##### Upcoming Events

On Sunday, August 16, as part of the Spirit of 45 celebrations worldwide in honor of the 70th anniversary of VJ Day, there will be a massing of buglers to play TAPS at Patriot Plaza and a wreath presentation to Sarasota National Cemetery. The time of this event is currently scheduled for 6:00 pm. Check our Facebook links for updates as details are finalized.

PATRIOT PLAZA IS A GIFT TO THE NATION FROM [The Patterson Foundation](#)

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.