



UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings! Patriot Plaza hosted many visitors, tours and events over the summer. As we move into the fall and the new school year, we hope many of you will encourage our teachers and families to sign up their students for group or family tours by contacting the [Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County](#). There is so much to learn by visiting Patriot Plaza, and the [EdExploreSRQ](#) program has two wonderful explorations for our students - one on [Patriot Plaza](#) and one on the [American Flag](#). 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, LLGouldsrq@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE PATRIOT PLAZA

VISITORS



Ron Fairchild, a key member of the national [Campaign for Grade Level Reading](#) team and President/CEO of the Smarter Learning Group, was in town in July and made time to visit Patriot Plaza, accompanied by Alicia Chalmers from [The Patterson Foundation](#). Ron has family members that served in the military and is originally from St. Petersburg, Florida. He was delighted to see the inspiring artwork and fitting tribute to veterans here in our region. He agrees that [Patriot Plaza](#) is a "Must See" for business visitors as well as family and friends.

TOURS



A tour of Patriot Plaza was included for many of The Patterson Foundation's guests in the past few months. Clockwise from the top we hosted Jen Algire, CEO of [The Greater Clark Foundation](#) in Lexington, Kentucky; bottom right corner Emily Dessem, Associate Director, [National Council on Aging](#), accompanied by The Patterson Foundation's Deborah Gauvreau, and then bottom left Sherece West-Scantlebury, President/CEO, and Andrew Ford, Senior Associate for Education and Community Change of the [Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation](#), Little Rock, Arkansas. Each visitor commented that they are interested in returning with family and friends to show them Patriot Plaza in person.

EVENTS



Our community continues to embrace Patriot Plaza with a special Spirit of 45 memorial tribute to veterans of many eras. Our local veterans organizations and wonderful Patriot Plaza Guides welcomed many who attended on a windy and misty afternoon.

Events at Patriot Plaza

On Sunday, August 16, the [Spirit of 45](#) weekend celebrations throughout our community culminated with a moving tribute at Patriot Plaza. Approximately 1,000 visitors attended the memorial ceremony which included the presentation of wreaths on behalf of our veterans, a 21-gun salute and an emotional rendering of taps that was echoed in front of and behind the amphitheater.

Upcoming Events

On Thursday, November 5 at 1:00 pm, there will be the first-ever Call To Honor ceremony at Sarasota National Cemetery in honor of eligible veterans whose unclaimed remains were discovered by the [Missing In America Project](#). This organization searches for the remains of veterans eligible to be buried in a National Cemetery, many being held at funeral homes. This upcoming ceremony will see 12 Honorably Discharged veterans inurned at the Columbarium after the special ceremony to be held at Patriot Plaza.

Save the Date: December 12 will be this year's [Wreaths Across America](#) program at Patriot Plaza.

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

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, LLGouldsrq@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 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

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 Ballistrieri, Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or cballis@arasotaarts.org. In addition to scheduling free guided tours, the Arts and Cultural Alliance can schedule tours through Ed Explorations. <http://www.edexploresrq.com>

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