



MAY 2016

UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

As we approach the two year anniversary of the dedication of Patriot Plaza to our community, The Patterson Foundation would like to thank our community for embracing this wonderful amphitheater that is a lasting tribute to veterans in our region. The Patterson Foundation blazed the trail as the first private foundation allowed by the National Cemetery Administration to fund the construction and donation of a structure honoring veterans at a national cemetery. We encourage you to visit soon and often. Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends, family and co-workers. If anyone would like to be added to the distribution, please click the link at the bottom of the newsletter and send us your information, we are happy to add you.

EXPERIENCE PATRIOT PLAZA

EVENTS AND TOURS



Since the opening of Patriot Plaza on June 14, 2014 to May 2016, there have been 16 events held and multiple tours given that include: 120 Public tours, 71 Group Tours and 21 School Tours! Many of the school tours scheduled toward the end of this school year, and in the future will receive assistance with much needed transportation. The Patterson Foundation is proud to be one of those organizations that is currently providing transportation for any tours scheduled as an EdExploration in order to ensure our children experience the history and artwork found at Patriot Plaza located at Sarasota National Cemetery. Clockwise above the photos represent some of the larger events held to include Veterans Day Mass, Wreaths Across America, Memorial Day 2015 and most recently the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

PATRIOT PLAZA GUIDES



Sarasota National Cemetery is able to provide information and tours to the many visitors that are arriving each day due to the countless volunteer hours given freely. Tours are an integral part of experiencing Patriot Plaza and the cemetery. Every Tuesday morning at 10:00am there is a Patriot Plaza Guide available to provide a public tour. You must sign up to be a volunteer at Sarasota National Cemetery first and are then able to receive special training to be a Patriot Plaza Guide. Tours and Patriot Plaza training can be scheduled with the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County.

RECOGNITION NATIONALLY, REGIONALLY AND LOCALLY



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, LLGouldsm@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

Download the [events guide](#) and 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 & EDEXPLORATIONS

Public tours are available at Patriot Plaza every Tuesday at 10am -- except on 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 Balistreri, Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or cbalistreri@sarasotaarts.org.

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Visitors from near and far visit Patriot Plaza with recognition taking many forms. Patriot Plaza is recognized as a major tourist attraction in our region and is currently ranked #4 on [Trip Advisor](#) as part of the tour of Sarasota National Cemetery. Locally Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery is a nominee for the [Sarasota Magazine's 2016 Spirit of Sarasota Architecture Awards](#)! The Spirit of Sarasota Awards promote public awareness of Sarasota's built environment and outstanding design by recognizing a building that captures the evolving character of our culture-rich and increasingly diverse community. Please vote [HERE](#) online by selecting "Sarasota National Cemetery." Deadline: Thu, June 2. It's a great way to honor our veterans! Be sure to share with friends and family! And click [HERE](#) for a promotional flyer to vote for Patriot Plaza! Please note: The URL link to vote only works on laptops or computers, not on mobile devices. Feel free to share this info/email with friends, family or neighbors! Posting on your Facebook is another great way to continue sharing Patriot Plaza.

Upcoming Events at Patriot Plaza

Memorial Day Ceremony: Saturday, May 28, 11:00am - Sarasota National Cemetery will host a Memorial Day Ceremony.

Flag Day Celebration: Sunday, June 12, 6:00pm - A Flag Day Celebration will be held at Patriot Plaza hosted by the [Military Officers Association of Sarasota](#) and [The POPS Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota](#).

Save the Date in 2016:

Friday, November 11 - Veterans Day Mass

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

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