



JULY 2016

UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

What an amazing start to the summer as the annual Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony and a Flag Day Celebration Concert both took place at Patriot Plaza. This wonderful amphitheater that Honors Veterans every day was the Awardee of the 2016 "Spirit of Sarasota" American Institute of Architects (AIA) People's Choice and Jury Awards, an Architecture Award sponsored by the Florida AIA and Sarasota Magazine. Read below how you can continue to recognize this amazing tribute to our veterans by voting at the Florida State level. Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends, family and co-workers. If anyone would like to be added to the distribution, just let me know, Linda Gould, LLGouldsp@gmail.com

Follow our Legacy of Valor (LoV) Facebook page for the announcement of a Patriot Plaza photo contest during July 2016

A VOTE FOR PATRIOT PLAZA IS A VOTE FOR VETERANS!!

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



Patriot Plaza is a nominee for the Florida Architecture People's Choice Award, which is sponsored by Florida Foundation for Architecture. Voting for Patriot Plaza is Honoring Veterans. Vote HERE. Join us over this wonderful Independence Day weekend as The Patterson Foundation shares voting information on this award at the following locations/events:

- Friday, July 1 - Grand Prix Block Party, Main Street Sarasota
- Saturday, July 2 at the Bradenton Manasque Game
- Monday, July 4 - Gloria Musicae Patriotic Spectacular at the First Methodist Church, Pineapple St, Downtown Sarasota.

We would also love to see your photos of Patriot Plaza. So much so that we are holding a Photo Contest the month of July with a weekly winner to be announced on our Facebook Page.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



The 2016 Memorial Day Ceremony was incredibly wonderful this year! Every year the Sarasota National Cemetery staff and their Advisory Committee do an excellent job of remembering our fallen heroes on Memorial Day weekend. Prior to the ceremony, Flags For Fallen Vets, a national nonprofit organization with a local chapter, ensured an American flag was placed at each of the more than 9,000 gravesites at Sarasota National Cemetery. The ceremony itself from start to finish, was very moving. Keynote Speaker Brigadier General (Ret) McClintock spoke of his experiences in the military and Sarasota Military Cadets provided a bagpiper and also singers for the ceremony. Master Sergeant (Ret) Barbara Vaughn, US Air Force, gave an insightful and resonating speech on how far women have come in our military, and the ceremony ended with Echo Taps being played by three buglers that left everyone remembering those veterans that have passed before us.

FLAG DAY CELEBRATION AND CONCERT



The Second Annual Flag Day Celebration and Concert was held on Sunday, June 12 and was hosted by the Stars and Stripes Foundation, with the Sarasota Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and The POPS Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota. We would like to publicly thank LTC (Ret) Tom Piazze for his passion and thoughtful determination that resulted in last year's first ever Flag Day Celebration at Patriot Plaza and his efforts in leading a team of organizations and individuals that continue to bring this wonderful celebration of our flag to Patriot Plaza. Although it rained earlier in the day, the clouds parted once again and the sunshine came through for the presentation of the colors by the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, a delightful concert with conductor Robyn Bell of the POPS along with the Gloria Musicae Singers, followed by a dignified Flag Retirement Ceremony performed by the American Legion Post 159 Honor Guard.

Upcoming Events at Patriot Plaza

- Save the Date in 2016:
Friday, November 11 - Veterans Day Mass
Saturday, December 10 - Wreaths Across America

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, LLGouldsp@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/nchs/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 Balistrieri, Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or cbalistrieri@sarasotaarts.org

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