



Patriot Plaza Newsletter

May 18, 2017

VISITORS

UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

Memorial Day is a time to remember and honor those who gave their lives to serve our nation. We honor them by remembering them, by appreciating the freedoms we live with each day because they sacrificed for us, and by being good citizens of this great country. Take some time next weekend to remember and honor those who have served their nation.

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, LLGouldsrq@gmail.com.

Follow and "Like" our [Legacy of Valor](#) Facebook page for inspirational and informative posts covering national and local topics concerning veterans.

VISITORS



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 made 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

Download the [Event Hosting Guidelines](#) and contact Sarasota National Cemetery Director John Rosentrater via john.rosentrater@va.gov or (941) 922-7200 to request holding an event at Patriot Plaza.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Sarasota National Cemetery.

GUIDED TOURS & EDEXPLORATIONS

Public tours of [Patriot Plaza](#) are currently conducted every Tuesday at 10am -- except on federal holidays. Private group and school tours can be scheduled Monday through Friday as well.

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If you have not visited Patriot Plaza, the artwork and architecture make it an experience to remember. Around the outer edge of this outdoor amphitheater, moving and meaningful photographs embedded in marble date back from the Civil War to the present day. Award-winning photographer [David Burnett](#) is pictured here taking a picture of one of his own photographs that was selected to be part of Patriot Plaza. An internationally acclaimed photojournalist for over five decades, David Burnett learned about photography while working on his high school year book in Salt Lake City. He eventually worked for TIME Magazine in Washington and Miami, then as a freelance correspondent for two years in Vietnam. David was recently in Sarasota to receive the [Greenfield Prize](#). The [Hermitage Artist Retreat](#) and its partner, the Greenfield Foundation, marked the 2017 Greenfield Prize award with a new category, recognizing the art of photography. Pursuing the mission "to bring into the world works of art that will have a significant impact on the broader or artistic culture," the prize seeks to identify individuals whose past work and prospects position them to achieve this lofty and ambitious goal.

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 Terri Stromfeld, Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or education@sarasotaarts.org

PATRIOT PLAZA GUIDE HIGHLIGHT



Terry Stromfeld and Cindy Balistreri

We wish to bid farewell and give a heartfelt thank you and job well done to Ms. Cindy Balistreri for her superb work training the Patriot Plaza Guides over the last three years. Cindy's tireless dedication to excellence resulted in a strong training program that has recruited and trained up to 25 guides through the partnership with [The Patterson Foundation](#) and the [Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County](#). We wish Cindy well in her future endeavors!

Welcome to Terri Stromfeld who is the new Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance. Terri will take over the responsibility for training Patriot Plaza Guides and scheduling tours.

TOURS



We have more visitors coming to Patriot Plaza every day and an increase in the number of volunteers being trained to be Patriot Plaza Guides. There are currently 25 Guides trained to give tours to ensure you have a meaningful experience while viewing the diverse and meaningful artwork and architecture of Patriot Plaza. The annual Patriot Plaza Guide Appreciation Breakfast was held on Wednesday, May 3 at the Northern Trust building.

UPCOMING EVENTS



EVENTS



March 29 is recognized nationally as [Vietnam War Veterans Day](#). This day commemorates the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families. On that day in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam, and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. On March 29, 2017, the [Patriot Guard Riders](#) placed a wreath at Patriot Plaza to

say Thank You and Welcome Home.



The [National Cemetery Administration](#) joined with the [World War I Centennial Commission](#) to commemorate the start of the United States entry into World War I and to honor the Veterans of that period. On April 6, 2017, a wreath laying ceremony was held at Patriot Plaza.



Saturday, May 27:

8:00am -[Flags for Fallen Veterans](#) will be placing miniature American flags at all grave sites beginning at 8:00am. Volunteers wishing to participate must be signed up ahead of time. For more information please click on the link above or contact Meisha Richardson, the Event Director, at swfloridaliving@verizon.net or call/text 941-448-6299.

10:00am -The Sarasota National Cemetery Advisory Committee will host the Memorial Day Program. The community is invited to come out and participate in this ceremony as we remember and recognize those who gave their lives in service to their country.

STAY CONNECTED

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