



Patriot Plaza Newsletter

July 20, 2017

UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

It has been a warm and wet summer for us so far! Even so, lots of family and friends have been visiting our region, and many are heading to [Sarasota National Cemetery](#) (SNC) to experience Patriot Plaza.

It is heartwarming to know that this outdoor amphitheater that was dedicated to our community as a gift from The Patterson Foundation three years ago is being recognized for its unique art and architecture by organizations as well as visitors from all across the country. Did you know that SNC and Patriot Plaza are #4 on Trip Advisor as a place to visit in our community?

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.

A VISION REALIZED

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.

PATRIOT PLAZA GUIDES





When [The Patterson Foundation](#) opened its doors in 2010, one of its legacy initiatives was the Military Initiative. Patriot Plaza, the outdoor amphitheater at Sarasota National Cemetery, started as a vision to honor not only the military service of the Patterson Family, but to build a lasting legacy and physical tribute to our nation's veterans and their families. The ground breaking in December 2012 took that vision and made it a reality as the work began.



Volunteers at Sarasota National Cemetery

Are you looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity? Sarasota National Cemetery volunteers give their time and talent as a way to give back to their community. Many of those volunteers take the time to receive additional training with the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County in order to become Patriot Plaza Guides. These guides ensure that all visitors have a memorable experience when they visit Patriot Plaza. There are currently over 25 trained Patriot Plaza Guides and we always need more!



The culmination of that dream and vision three years ago, not only dedicated Patriot Plaza to our community, but also donated this lasting tribute of art and architecture to our Federal Government, specifically the Department of Veterans Affairs, [National Cemetery Administration](#).

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.

Through a partnership with [The Patterson Foundation](#) and the [Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County](#), Guides are 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 the Arts Education Manager for the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County, (941) 365-5118, x301 or education@sarasotaarts.org

ART AT PATRIOT PLAZA



A LOOK BACK AT THE COMMUNITY DEDICATION OF PATRIOT PLAZA





The art installations at Patriot Plaza are some of the space's most inspiring and touching features. Patriot Plaza is a place where stories of service and sacrifice are honored. With a goal to preserve memory through art, the installations honor those who serve and their families, while communicating their stories to future generations. The Patterson Foundation enlisted the expertise of art consultant [Ann Wykell](#) and a volunteer art advisory group of local and regional experts to conduct a call for artists that met national standards. There are six areas of art: Testimonies, Witness to Mission, Home, Guardian Eagles, Night to Day-Here and Away and the Star Map. Detailed information can be found at this [link](#).



**CIVICS TEACHER EXPERIENCE
PATRIOT PLAZA**





Although teachers are not in the classroom for the summer, many are still training and experiencing field trips that their students will be taking this coming school year. In June, eighth-grade Civics instructors from many Sarasota County schools came out to get an up front and personal understanding of what their students will experience when they take the [EdExploreSRQ](#) field trip to Patriot Plaza. The teachers actually took a bus so they would receive the full experience! During the school year, The Patterson Foundation provides funding for bus transportation for students from the surrounding counties in grades 4-12 to visit Patriot Plaza. This will ensure that our youth are able to learn more about patriotism, understand how we are able to enjoy the many freedoms we have in our country, and why we honor our veterans and their families. During the fall semester eighth-grade students in the [Sarasota County School System](#), as part of the [Any Given Child program](#), will be visiting Patriot Plaza as part of their Civics class curriculum.



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