



Patriot Plaza Newsletter

November 16, 2017

UPDATES FROM THE EDITOR

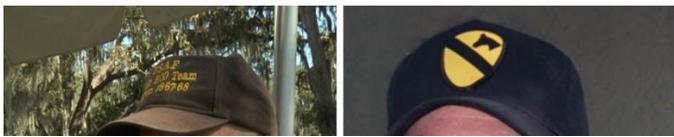
We celebrate Veterans Day each November, however it seems fitting that we should show our appreciation to veterans everyday. [Patriot Plaza](#) was designed as a place of remembrance and provides an opportunity to honor veterans and their families through art. The space is a place of peace and reflection, and exists for our community to honor veterans through ceremonies and events for generations to come. Think about scheduling a guided tour to truly see and experience this outdoor amphitheater and museum for yourself, your friends, family, or business colleagues. We also encourage you to think about events honoring veterans at this unique venue.

Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends, family, and co-workers. 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.

THANKING THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

During this time of year we give thanks for many reasons. We would like to thank the many photographers who come to events at Patriot Plaza and capture moments and memories for all of us to remember. Starting in the upper right and going clockwise, Dave Taylor, Dale Smith, Bill Wagy and Terry Longpre.



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 at 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 at 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 Tuesday through Friday.



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

VETERANS DAY MASS

The [Diocese of Venice](#) in Florida, along with the [Knights of Columbus](#) presented the Veterans Day Catholic Memorial Mass at Sarasota National Cemetery for the eighth year in a row. The mass was memorable and moving, with over 1,200 members of our community attending. The Cantor, Johanna Finch, had an exceptional voice that enhanced the verses and prayers for the religious service. [Cardinal Mooney High School](#) students helped out during the lovely sunny day by handing out water and ensuring everyone stayed hydrated throughout the ceremony.

SCHOOL TOURS



Are you aware that the [Patriot Plaza Exploration](#) at [EdExploreSRQ](#) is a unique resource that allows our children from grades 4-12 to fully experience Patriot Plaza in person? Teachers within the [Sarasota County School system](#) incorporate this

field trip into their Language Arts, Social Studies, Civics and Visual Arts classes. This outdoor amphitheater features, large artworks about the military, family, American history, and one's own place in the world. Its themes are: HONOR SERVICE, INSPIRE PATRIOTISM, and EMBRACE FREEDOM. Trained [Patriot Plaza Guides](#) give a 90-



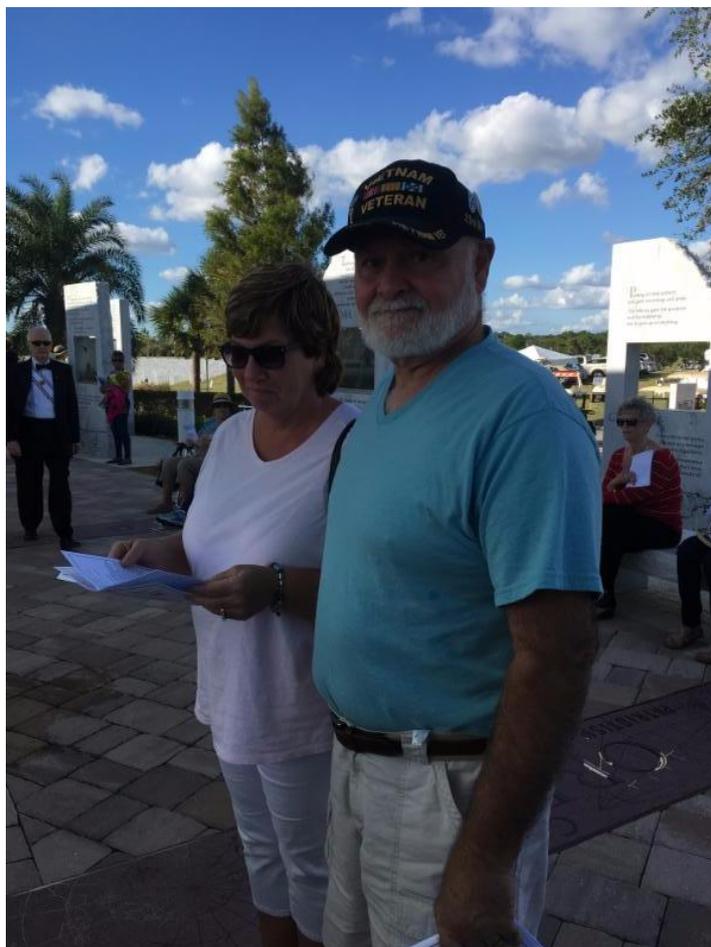
minute tour and learning activity to groups that visit the plaza. All of the Guides at Patriot Plaza are veterans or are family members of veterans. They will share their own stories, as well as describe and discuss the stories about each work of art. The artworks are as diverse as our heroes and include bronze sculptures, large mosaics, marble tablets, a global map etched in granite, and documentary photographs in this open air museum. Whether the children are in 4th grade or 12th grade or somewhere in between, this rich cultural experience allows them to explore American values while also utilizing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Wilkinson Elementary Honors Patriot Plaza Guides



At the end of the [Wilkinson Elementary School](#) tour, Edward Hashey, the fifth grade teacher in charge, told the Patriot Plaza Guides that his students wanted to sing something as a way of saying Thank You for their experience at Patriot Plaza that day. The students all gathered on the stage. The acoustics are such that someone can stand and talk and you can hear them in the back of the amphitheater. The fifth graders sang the National Anthem to the guides who were incredibly moved and touched by those young voices raised in song.

After singing, each child walked up to the guides, shook their hands, and thanked them. It was a truly special moment and the memory will remain forever. Patriot Plaza Guides are volunteers that first volunteer at Sarasota National Cemetery and then ask to receive additional training to give free tours of Patriot Plaza that will enhance your experience of this lasting tribute to our veterans and their families. **New guides are needed.** Please click [here](#) today and become a Patriot Plaza Guide.



STAY CONNECTED

[#PatriotPlaza](#)

[@ThePattersonFdn](#)



SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY

Saturday, December 16, 9:30am