Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery

Free and Open to the Public!

Veterans Day

View the virtual tour experience!
Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery

Patriot Plaza, a 2,800-seat ceremonial amphitheater, was built and donated to Sarasota National Cemetery in Florida by The Patterson Foundation, featuring commissioned art that honors veterans, inspires patriotism, and embraces freedom. 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. Like all 155 national cemeteries managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Sarasota National Cemetery is a place where all active duty or honorably discharged veterans can be buried. Some spouses and dependent children of eligible veterans can also be buried there.

Detailed eligibility requirements can be found at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov).

What is the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day?

Memorial Day honors American service members who died in service to our country, while Veterans Day honors all living American veterans from all wars or peacetime and who have served honorably.

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May.

Veterans Day is observed on November 11th.
If you go for a walk through the cemetery look at the headstones or markers. You will find a lot of information there. Here are examples of what you might find on each one:

- An emblem of faith
- Full name
- Highest rank attained
- Branch of the service
- Certain awards known as Medals of Valor
- Date of birth and date of death
- Other information like their home state, a special unit or special credentials

Of the many U.S. Presidents that served in the U.S. Armed Forces, we are spotlighting two; John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan:

“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty.”

**John F. Kennedy,** 35th U.S. President
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy (1941-1945)

“We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty, though it never was. Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause.”

**Ronald Reagan,** 40th U.S. President
Captain, U.S. Army Reserves and U.S. Army Air Force (1937-1945)
Helping to Recognize our Veterans

Everyone you meet has a story and our veterans are no different. We have veterans who have served in World Wars, Korea War, Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan War, and peacetime assignments. You might have a family member, friend or neighbor who served. It is important to learn about their experiences so that we can better appreciate what they have done for our country.

“I know one of my grandfathers never talked about his service in World War II until my sister asked him to share. He wrote it down and then recorded himself talking about it. If she hadn’t asked him to do that, his story would have been lost. -- Stacey Gadeken, The Patterson Foundation

You might think about asking a veteran you know about their experiences in conflict. Remember to be sensitive and thoughtful.

Another way to recognize our veterans is by thanking them. Some veterans are easy to spot because they might have something that identifies them as a veteran, like hats, vests, or license plates. Make sure to thank them. You might also consider writing thank you notes to veterans. Send them to family members, friends, or neighbors who have served!

You could also invite them to visit Patriot Plaza with you!

We would love to see a picture of you with your favorite veteran! Send it along with your name to be entered in a drawing for a prize.
Send to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Medals of Valor

The U.S. Armed Forces awards Medals, Service Crosses, Silver Stars, Distinguished Flying Crosses and Purple Hearts to service members, acknowledging special recognition. For example, the Purple Heart medal is awarded to service members for wounds or loss of life in combat. The Silver Star medal is awarded to service members for gallantry in action against the enemy of the United States.

Below are the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

Color the medals, and take a picture of you and the medals, then send it along with your mailing address to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
We will send a prize for the first 15 photographs we receive!
Meet the artists who submitted their artwork from previous Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Books!!!

CONGRATS!!!

CHLOE

KENNEDY

KEITH

SHAWN

NIAVY & JANELI

MICHAEL

ISAIAH

LILLIAN
This puzzle is a word search puzzle that has a hidden message in it!

First find all the words in the list. Words can go in any direction and share letters, as well as cross over each other.

Once you find all the words, copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks to reveal the hidden message!
Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:00am–4:30pm
Closed on federal holidays

Visitation Hours: Open daily from sunrise to sunset

- Sarasota National Cemetery is located at 9810 State Road 72 in Sarasota, Florida
- Admission is free
- Please no pets or picnics
- Burials occur on weekdays, so please be respectful of those attending services

To learn more about Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery, visit: thepattersonfoundation.org/patriot-plaza

Twitter: #PatriotPlaza
#ForAllAges

Veterans Day
Memorial Mass with Bishop Frank J. Dewane at Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Road 72/Clark Road
Thursday, November 11, 2021
3:00pm

For more information contact Gail Ardy at The Diocese of Venice
941-484-9543 or ardy@dioceseofvenice.org

All Are Welcome!