Honoring Veterans
Inspiring Patriotism
Embracing Freedom

Patriot Plaza at
Sarasota National
Cemetery

Free and Open
to the Public!

Independence Day
July 4th

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 153 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.

What is Independence Day?

On July 2nd, 12 of the 13 colonies voted in favor of Independence. Why, then, do we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th? Because delegates needed to make some revisions to the Declaration of Independence first. It was officially adopted on July 4th, 1776, so that is why we celebrate on the 4th.

Did you ever wonder why we celebrate Independence Day with fireworks? That tradition goes back a long way. John Adams was the 2nd President of the United States (1797-1801). Here is something John Adams wrote in a letter in 1776 about July 4th:

“It will be celebrated with pomp and parade, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of the continent to the other.”

How are you and your family going to celebrate July 4th?

DID YOU KNOW?

John Adams thought it should be celebrated on July 2nd
Take a pic!

Patriot Plaza Activity

Color the US flag and cut it out to use on July 4th! Take a picture of you and your flag, then send it along with your mailing address to:
connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
We will send a prize for the first 15 photographs we receive.
Color the past and present US flags. Take a picture of you and your artwork, including your mailing address, and send it along to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Fun Facts about the Flag

FACT Since 1777, there have been 27 versions of the US flag.

FACT In 1818, Congress decided that the number of stripes should be fixed at 13, and only new stars added.

FACT In the Civil War (1861-1865) the US flag survived many attempts by Confederate forces to seize and destroy it.

FACT The current version of the flag, with 50 stars, was designed by a high school student, Robert Heft, who won the design contest in 1960.

FACT Five American flags have made it to the moon.

Do you have an interesting fact about the US flag that you would like to share? Send it along with your name to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Meet the artists who submitted their artwork from previous Patriot Plaza Family Engagement Activity Books!!!

CONGRATS!!!

KNOX

KEITH

SHAWN

TALA

CLAUDIO

WILL
Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to the other cells with the same number to reveal the quote.

A Patriot Plaza Double-Puzzle with a Hidden Message!!!

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Quote by Franklin D. Roosevelt
32nd President of the United States
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

Generously funded by