Honoring Veterans
Inspiring Patriotism
Embracing Freedom

Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery
Free and Open to the Public, Sunrise to Sunset!

April 2022

Special Edition: Diversity of Missions

View the virtual Patriot Plaza 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. It features 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. Sarasota National Cemetery, like all 155 national cemeteries managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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.

When you think of the military you probably envision war, soldiers fighting, tanks, submarines, battleships, helicopters and airplanes carrying weapons. But you might be surprised to realize how many different missions that the military has and our military members do. In our military there are engineers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, electricians, veterinarians, journalists, linguists, musicians, the list goes on and on. In this special edition, we will highlight some of the wide variety of these missions.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Motto: Essayons (This is a French phrase that means “Let us try”)

Mission: Deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our nation, energize our economy, and reduce disaster risk.

Their oldest job is that they are in charge of making sure our water transportations are safe and reliable. They are in charge of more than 25,000 miles of inland waterways!

DID YOU KNOW?

The USACE built the Washington Monument and the Pentagon.
The USNS Comfort (USNS stands for U.S. Navy Ship) is a hospital ship that can actually go places where they need a hospital.

They built field hospitals all over the country in the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The military health system along with other agencies helped to respond to these crises:
- The Japanese earthquake and tsunami in 2011
- Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines
- The Ebola epidemic in West Africa
- The 2015 earthquake in Nepal

The National Guard are part-time military members who have other jobs but are called into duty to help in their communities (and other places). Here are just some of the things that they do:
- Help prepare for storms
- Assist in evacuations and shelters
- Clean up the aftermath of storms, floods, fires
- Bring supplies to remote areas
- Assist the sick and injured

The Coast Guard is part of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and helps safeguard our coastlines.
- They respond to disasters and help rescue people during hurricanes.
- They flew DOT officials up in planes to survey the damage to roads and bridges after Hurricane Michael.
- They help secure our coastline and assists in the War on Drugs.
Puzzle Challenge

Find the words in the puzzle. Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

Accountant
Chemist
Electrician
Journalist
Linguist
Nurse
Public Affairs

Chaplain
Communications
Engineer
Law Enforcement
Mechanic
Pharmacist
Veterinarian

Chef
Dentist
Information Technology
Lawyer
Musician
Pilot

Take a picture of you and your completed puzzle, email it along with your name to be entered into a drawing for a prize! Send to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Color the Helicopter Rescue!

Take a picture of you and your completed artwork, email it along with your name to be entered into a drawing for a prize! Send to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:00am–4:30pm
Closed federal holidays

Visitation Hours: Open daily from sunrise to sunset

- Sarasota National Cemetery is located at 9810 State Road 72 in Sarasota
- 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

THIS BOOK IS COOL! is a series of 100 webisodes to encourage a love of reading!

Thanks to the generosity of The Patterson Foundation, children who are registered for THIS BOOK IS COOL! will receive:
- 20 free books and activity guide with activities and word puzzles that correspond to the books
- Regular contact with a Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Engagement Team member
- Invitations to family engagement events throughout the summer

To qualify for THIS BOOK IS COOL!, you must be:
A resident of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, or Sarasota counties, entering preK–3rd grade, and enrolled at a Title I school, eligible for free/reduced lunch, or have other demonstrable need.

To register and learn more, use your mobile device camera to scan the QR code

Generously funded by