Presidents’ Day

Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery

Free and Open to the Public, Sunrise to Sunset!

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.

What is Presidents’ Day?

Presidents’ Day is celebrated on the third Monday of February. It originated after George Washington’s death and was celebrated on his birthday, February 22. In the late 1960s, Congress moved this holiday and two other Federal holidays to Mondays. Now Presidents’ Day celebrates all U.S. presidents past and present.

History of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

On July 17, 1862, Congress authorized President Abraham Lincoln to buy land to be used as national cemeteries for soldiers who died in service of their country. There were 14 cemeteries in that first year. By 1870, there were 73 cemeteries. As of 2023, there are 155 national cemeteries.
The President of the United States is the Commander-in-Chief. This means that they are the commander of all of the military forces of the United States. You might recognize this seal if you’ve ever seen the President speak on television.

Try coloring the U.S. Presidential Seal!
IN THIS TEMPLE,
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION,
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER

The Lincoln Memorial
The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC honors the 16th president of the United States.
Fun Facts
...about Abraham Lincoln that you may not know...

He loved animals. His cat Tabby got to eat dinner at the table in the White House. He also had dogs, horses and goats too!

Abraham Lincoln was athletic. As a young man he was a very successful wrestler who almost never lost.

He was (and still is) the tallest president. He was 6 feet 4 inches tall. He also had the biggest recorded shoe size. He wore a size 14!!!

Lincoln was the first president to sport a beard while in office.

He was the very first president to be photographed at his inauguration.

Do you have an interesting fact about Abraham Lincoln that you would like to share? Send it along with your name to: connect@gradelevelreadingsuncoast.net
Even though Illinois is known as the Land of Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. He grew up in Indiana before moving to Illinois to start his political career. Find and color Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois.

Guess which state is the birthplace of the most presidents?
(Answer found on Page 6)
There are eight presidents who were born there!

Patriot Plaza Activity

Do some internet searching and find the eight presidents’ names and send it along with your name to: connect@gradlevelreadingsuncoast.net
Presidents Who Served in the Military

**WORD SEARCH**

- Arthur
- Buchanan
- Bush
- Carter
- Eisenhower
- Fillmore
- Ford
- Garfield
- Grant
- Harrison
- Hayes
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Kennedy
- Lincoln
- Madison
- McKinley
- Monroe
- Nixon
- Pierce
- Polk
- Reagan
- Taylor
- Truman
- Tyler
- Washington

**Answer:** Virginia
Learn more about Suncoast Remake Learning Days — a 10-day festival of free, experiential learning events for children and families. Think of it as the world’s largest multi-venue open house for hands-on learning from April 21 to April 30, 2023.

Use your camera on your mobile device for more information!

Generously funded by The Patterson Foundation

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