

## **The Patterson Foundation**

In the mid 1800's James J. Patterson's great-grandfather, Joseph Medill, invested in the failing Chicago Tribune to make money and to create the Republican Party to get Abraham Lincoln elected president of the United States. He was successful at both and went on to own the Tribune.

Medill's grandsons Colonel McCormick and Captain Patterson, after serving in World War I, took over the Chicago Tribune and went on to hold the first radio licenses and television signals.

Captain Patterson moved with his second wife, the former Mary King (who was the first female editor of the Chicago Tribune) to Ossining, New York where they lived a grand lifestyle.

Dorothy Clarke, whose father was a prison guard at Sing-Sing, dated Jim, the only son of Captain and Mary Patterson. Jim graduated from West Point and served in Japan and Europe during World War II as a photographer.

Dorothy and Jim were married after the war and settled in Ossining. Jim worked at the New York Daily News. Dorothy and Jim were childless and had homes in both Virginia and Longboat Key, in Sarasota, Florida, close to Jim's West Point friends.

Jim died in 1992 and Dorothy Patterson created The Patterson Foundation in 1997. After she died in 2007, her estate was settled with the remainder added to The Patterson Foundation.

### **Military Initiative – Sarasota National Cemetery Assembly Area Enhancement**

The Patterson Foundation works with partners on strategic initiatives rather than having grant cycles. While there is no mandate to pay tribute to the family whose wealth created The Patterson Foundation, strategic initiatives have been selected to honor the Patterson family heritage.

Through the Military Initiative, The Patterson Foundation is providing for the design and construction of the Assembly Area of Sarasota National Cemetery. This 1.77-acre space will include seating for 3,000 people under cover and a significant installation of a variety of public art.

### **National Cemetery System**

Abraham Lincoln, as president, initiated what would become the national cemetery system on July 17, 1862, when he signed legislation authorizing the federal government to purchase ground for use as national cemeteries “for soldiers who shall have died in the service of the country.”

Eight years after the Civil War ended, Congress opened national cemeteries to all honorably discharged veterans of the Union forces. Legislation after World War I opened them to American veterans of all wartime service. Finally, after World War II, Congress expanded eligibility for burial to all veterans of U.S. armed forces, American war veterans of allied armed forces and veterans’ spouses and dependent children.

Veterans of every conflict in which the U.S. participated — from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf — are buried in national cemeteries. In addition to providing a gravesite, the US Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration provides a headstone or marker, and perpetually cares for the grave at no cost to the veteran’s family or heirs.