

## Themes for Sarasota National Cemetery Assembly Area Art

---

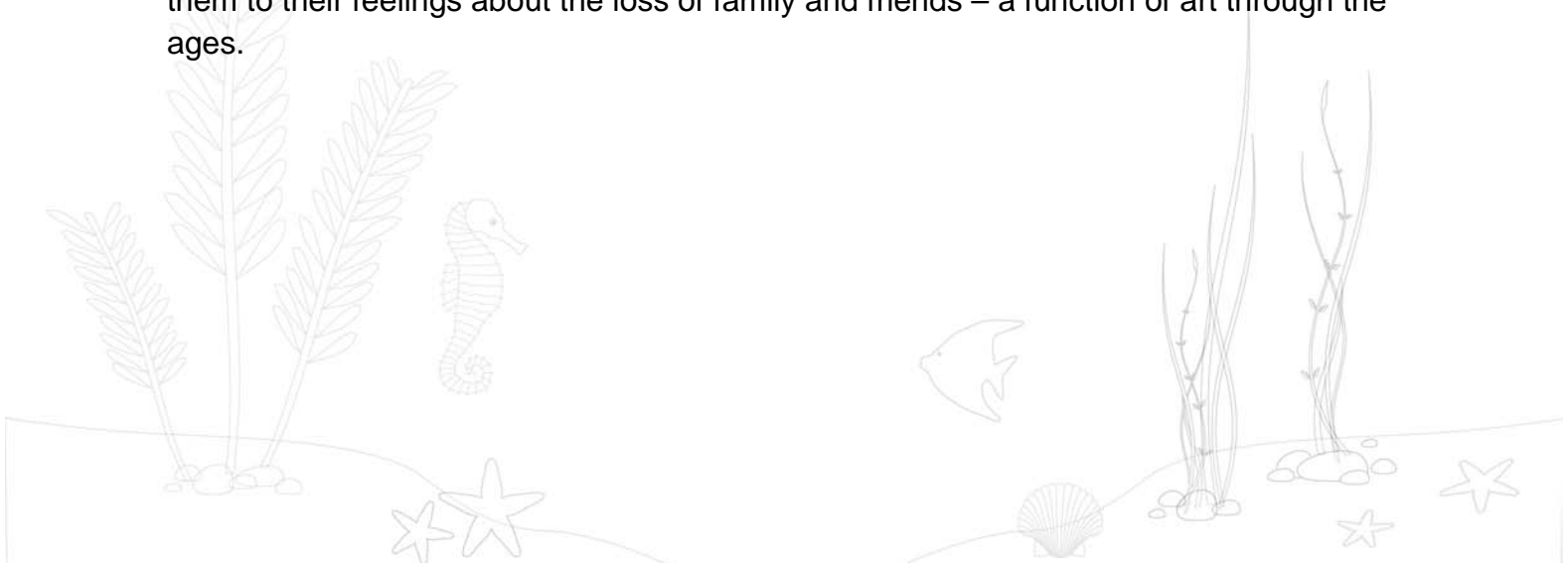
The assembly area art tells the stories of individuals' experiences framed by the ideals and ideas of patriotism, sacrifice and history. The art can encompass the range of human experiences and emotions that make up the experiences of those who commit to serve in the U.S. military.

There are three perspectives from which these experiences can be conveyed:

1. The soldier in the military role and context
2. The soldier - veteran and their families in the community/civilian context
3. History - the continuity of the role of the military from the founding of the United States to the present

The narrative arc of the two sides of the assembly area will begin with patriotic themes and symbols at the entrances well as in sidewalk surfaces at the entrances. Inside the assembly area, art may address the military context in one half of the space and the soldier-family–community experience on the other half.

Families who visit the assembly area after a funeral or at a public event will see images that recall their own past experiences, remind them of the challenges as well as the pride of that period in their lives or the lives of their loved one, inform visitors in the future about this period in our nation's history; connect them to the importance of the military in keeping our country free and safe. They will also have art that will connect them to their feelings about the loss of family and friends – a function of art through the ages.



## List of Themes and Ideas

---

This list is provided as a suggestion to artists of the range of ideas and themes for consideration when thinking about art for this space. It is derived from feedback from workshops with veterans and active-duty reservists, conversations with The Patterson Foundation leadership and individuals in the local community. It is only a starting point for prospective artists' exploratory thinking, not a list from which artists must select.

### I. Historical Perspective Themes

*"To care for them who have born the battle, his widow and his orphan."*

- Abraham Lincoln, authorization to found the first national cemeteries

#### ***Patriotism***

- Includes pride and identification with the history of our country, which is bound with the history of military service by Americans
- Includes participation in the traditions symbolized by the flag and other emblems of the United States and the military

#### ***Tradition and the preservation of traditions of military practice***

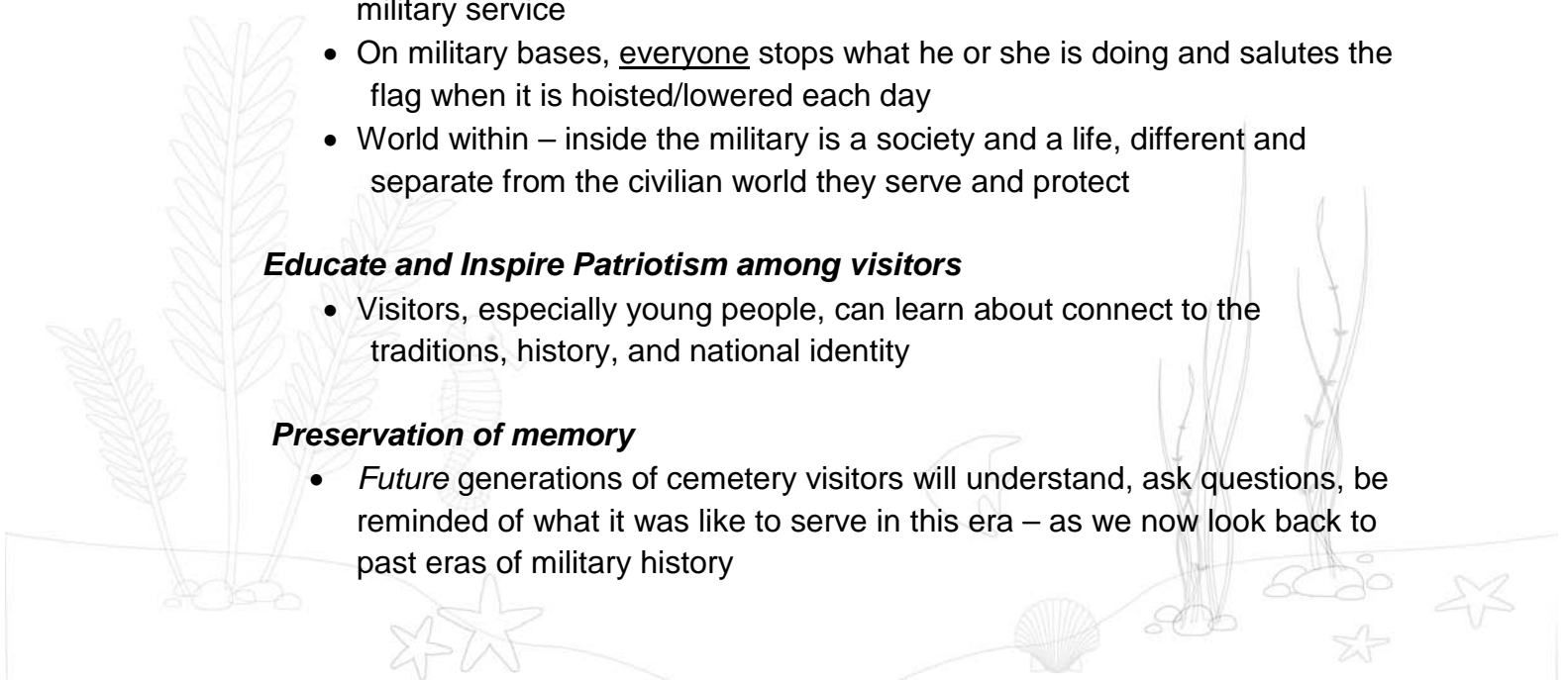
- A key value within the military and within each of the five services
- For many families, tradition is personal and means multiple generations of military service
- On military bases, everyone stops what he or she is doing and salutes the flag when it is hoisted/lowered each day
- World within – inside the military is a society and a life, different and separate from the civilian world they serve and protect

#### ***Educate and Inspire Patriotism among visitors***

- Visitors, especially young people, can learn about connect to the traditions, history, and national identity

#### ***Preservation of memory***

- *Future* generations of cemetery visitors will understand, ask questions, be reminded of what it was like to serve in this era – as we now look back to past eras of military history



- Objects such as medals, unit patches, uniforms, equipment, evoke memories for veterans and can be a form of preservation of memory for future generations

## II. The Soldier's Experience

### ***Loyalty***

- Within the unit, strong bonds of camaraderie, mutual support and strong emotional ties among those who serve together
- Bonds of the “band of brothers” are most meaningful and motivate many soldiers in worst times of stress and danger
- To their branch of service, Navy, Army, etc
- To the U.S. and the ideals of the U.S.

### ***Courage and Valor in the face of danger and fear***

- Whether during peacetime or war, in roles that support those who fight or in combat, every soldier puts him or herself at risk.
- The real life of soldiers should be told vs. the idealized image – and overcoming fear is a common challenge
- Soldiers are motivated by ideals, but have to confront and survive the realities of combat

### ***Professionalism and Discipline***

- Trained to do their jobs and pride in performing it extremely well
- Technology changes and is part of the story – today's soldiers carry laptops – many of us grew up with images of WWII and Korea soldiers carrying radio equipment into the field

### ***Celebrate the commitment and accomplishments of all veterans***

- Many people serve in peacetime but were prepared to go in harm's way
- Many people serve stateside in many ways

### III. **The families' experiences and the soldier in the context of family and community**

- "Leave-taking from families is the worst part of service."
- Children emulate and imitate their military parent. Play dress-up with uniforms.
- Families sacrifice too. Their life is altered by the commitment and demands of the soldier's job, the missing family member.
- Family commitment that supports the work the military spouse and parent is a form of patriotism.
- Computer technology has helped the soldier stay in touch with families
- Loss and the fear of loss is a constant in the lives of families of active servicepersons particularly but not only, in times of conflict.
- Soldier family-member can be called away on a moment's notice –

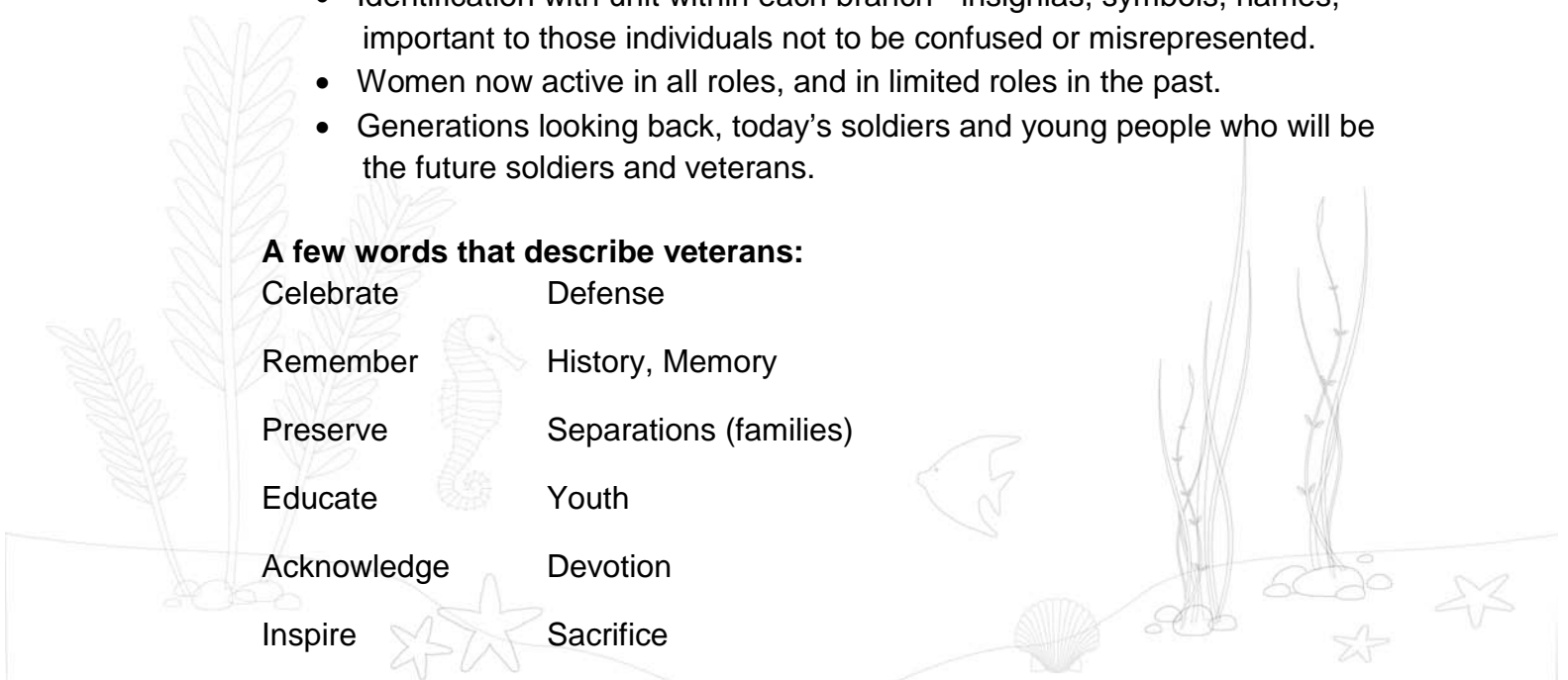
### IV. **Who are our soldiers and our veterans?**

**Pride** in being an American – including immigrants and non-citizens who choose to identify and serve an adopted country

- Identification with unit within each branch - insignias, symbols, names, - important to those individuals not to be confused or misrepresented.
- Women now active in all roles, and in limited roles in the past.
- Generations looking back, today's soldiers and young people who will be the future soldiers and veterans.

#### **A few words that describe veterans:**

Celebrate	Defense
Remember	History, Memory
Preserve	Separations (families)
Educate	Youth
Acknowledge	Devotion
Inspire	Sacrifice





Teamwork

Valor

Commitment

Discipline

Heroism

