



# The Sentinel

The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.  
Issue 26 – July 2025



## Chairman's Message

The last quarter has seen continued success at the Memorial. Over 900 visitors come in, including group visits like the Military Officers Assn. of America (MOAA) and the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). We also brought in lots of folks during the "Soda Fest" on the Sebring Circle. Visitors have been coming in from all points of the compass. We are happy that the word is getting out. We were also featured in the latest *Heartland Living* magazine (June & July 2025 issue)—a wonderful article. Finally, we made our first donation—to the Young Americans for Freedom—for a plaque at Sebring High School's library, recently named in honor of Tommy McGuire.

Our golf tournament held at Sun N' Lakes on 28 June was an overwhelming success. Thanks to Jordan Fairfield and to the many sponsors who helped us raise funds for future operations. We plan to do it again, so stay tuned. We also plan to hold a gala dinner on 23 October at Sun N' Lakes' Island View Restaurant. See info below. Finally on 13 December we will hold a ceremony and place "Wreaths Across America" on each of the markers at the Memorial. To sponsor wreaths, see the information below.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Michael R. Borders  
Chairman

**This newsletter is published quarterly:  
Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct**



## Calendar of Events

### **On-going:**

Open Tuesday—Saturday  
10:00 AM — 4:00 PM

### **23 October 2025**

5:30 PM

Gala Dinner

Sun 'N Lake Island View Restaurant

### **11 November**

Veterans Day

### **13 December 2025**

10:00 AM

Wreaths Across America Ceremony



## Funding Status

Fundraising is on-going.

Please support us with your donation.  
See the "How You Can Help" section on  
page 8 for more info.

The below pictures show ladies and gents of the South Central Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.

Many of the members are also on our Memorial's board or serve as docents/tour guides.





These pictures show our pop-up tent set up on Commerce Street during the April “Soda Fest,” as well as some of the craft soda that we served. Not only did we collect some cash donations, but the festival generated 47 visitors to the memorial on both days of the event.



The picture below shows our check presentation to the “Young Americans for Freedom” group. This patriotic group pushed through the initiative to name the Sebring High School Library after Medal of Honor recipient Major Tommy McGuire, Sebring High School Class of 1938. Our donation will help push them across the finish line and facilitate the purchase of a large brass plaque commemorating the dedication. Pictured left to right: Lauren Bush, Elsa Kahn, Ethan Bush—president of the Young Americans for Freedom, Mike Borders, and Miriam Kaufmann. *Photo courtesy of Marc Valero of the Highlands News-Sun.*



Pictured here are the latest improvements to the Visitors Center:

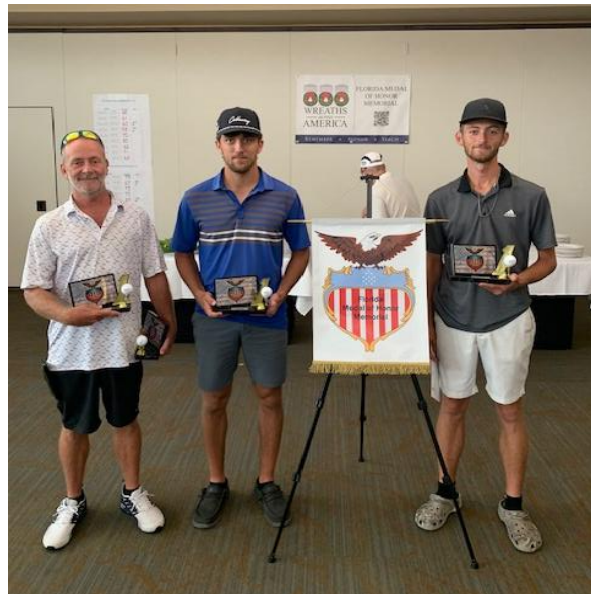
New window treatments in the main gallery room. The sun really comes in on the south side of the building. As you can see, it is still possible to see outside. The shades have the added benefit of reducing the noise inside the building. Thanks to our friends at Griffin's Carpet Mart who provided them at no cost!



The pictures below are from our fundraising golf tournament held at Sun N' Lakes golf course. Special thanks to Jordan Fairfield who organized the tournament for us. Special thanks to our many sponsors as well. The tournament, called a "Greenskeeper's Revenge" event, was unique and fun for all concerned. We plan to do it again next year.









## **Florida Medal of Honor Memorial History**

The Florida Medal of Honor Memorial (FLMOHM) began in 1991 as the Medal of Honor Park, thanks to donations from Veteran organizations and others. The Highlands County Health Department building was named after local hero and Florida MOH recipient Major Thomas B. McGuire, Jr. Oak trees and bronze markers were placed for each Florida MOH recipient. In 2005, these were replaced by marble markers. In 2010, these were moved to the newly constructed Tranquility Garden nearby by the Sebring Veteran Services Office (VSO).

From 2000 to 2008, DAV Chapter 49 Commander Harry Oakley spearheaded efforts to enhance the park with a structure and memorial. The Medal of Honor Park Foundation was established in 2011, and in 2014, it was renamed the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial. That year, the Highlands County Commissioners allocated 1.32 acres for the memorial near the Sebring Veteran Services Office.

A new challenge arose when it was discovered that the adjacent property housed protected gopher tortoises, making removal too costly. The solution was to use an alternate piece of property in downtown Sebring at the corner of Commerce and South Eucalyptus (the site of the Highlands County Girl Scout House), which required coordination with the City of Sebring, owner of the property.

State Representative Kaylee Tuck successfully pushed for a \$250,000 state appropriation, finalized in 2022, despite previous setbacks from Hurricane Michael and the COVID pandemic. This provided the spark to begin the project in earnest.

After navigating various bureaucratic hurdles, final approvals were secured in November 2022. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on November 29, 2022. Without the overwhelming generous support of businesses and citizens of our community, the project would never have been realized. The memorial and visitors center were dedicated on 12 December 2024 by the sole living Florida recipient, Mr. Robert R. Ingram, Representative Kaylee Tuck, and Chairman of the Board Colonel (Ret) Michael R. Borders. We owe all our sponsors and supporters a deep debt of gratitude.



### **Our Mission**

To honor and preserve the legacy of Florida Medal of Honor recipients through education, leadership, and inspiring displays, ensuring their courage and sacrifice are never forgotten.

### **Our Vision**

To inspire all generations to embody the six character traits of Medal of Honor recipients, fostering a deeper appreciation and commitment to the values of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism.

### **Our Goals**

- Maintain the Memorial and Visitors Center
- Provide educational outreach to K-12 school systems

### **What We Do**

#### **Honor Florida's Heroes**

Preserve the memories of the 24 Floridians who have been awarded the MOH and inspire others to build on their legacies.



#### **Inspire Our Community**

Encourage our community, young and old, to embody the ideals of the MOH (sacrifice, commitment, courage, integrity, citizenship, and patriotism).

#### **Educate and Inform**

Work with K-12 schools to promote the virtues, behaviors, and choices of everyday heroes as exemplified by the MOH awardees through thought-provoking curriculum and active learning activities.



### **How You Can Help**

Additional funds and help are needed for, operating costs and maintenance of this unique and special facility.

### **Volunteer**

- Be a museum docent
- Assist with the K-12 educational outreach program.

### **Donations**

Tax-deductible donations accepted:

- Online – <https://shorturl.at/9YLCm>
- Phone – text "FLMOHM" to 44321
- Mail – See page 8

### **Sponsorship Levels**

- **Platinum** \$50,000 and up
- **Gold** \$25,000 – \$49,999.99
- **Silver** \$10,000 – \$24,999.99
- **Bronze** \$5,000 – \$9,999.99
- **Brass** \$1,000 – \$4,999.99
- **Founding Member** \$100 – \$999.99

### **Our Newest Members:**

- Douglas Deierlein
- Jonathan Shaffer
- Terry Mendel
- Steven Albert
- Douglas Tait
- Glenn Paraday
- Adam Lunn
- Jerome Kaszubowski
- Susan Johnson
- Glenn West
- Bradley Bouters
- Peter Injasoulion
- George Hensley
- Carl Lundgren
- Daniel Pepin
- Ed Gadbois
- Hal Graves

## **Thank You!**

### **How To Become a Member**

Please consider becoming a member of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial. Members are invited to special previews, member-only activities, and are kept informed of special events via a newsletter, social media, and the website. There are three different membership levels: Annual, Five-Year, and Life. An application form is provided on Page 9.



### **How to Become a Sponsor**

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit/ non-profit, we rely on donations and fund raising. Our staff is all volunteer. We have a full range of expenses. Donations may be tax-deductible. Go to the "How You Can Help" section on the previous page to see how to donate or sponsor our organization and use the contact information on the last page.



### **Board of Directors & Other Volunteers**

**Chairman:** Michael R. Borders

**Vice Chairman:** C. Raymond McIntyre

**Junior Vice Chairman:** Byron Oakley

**Treasurer:** Richard Karkowski

**Education:** Erik Christensen

**Construction Project Mgr.:** Donald Laycock

**Secretary/Asst. Const. Project Mgr.:** Judy Laycock

**Marketing:** Moddie Desselle & Heather Oakley

**IT:** Shawn Nickel

**Chaplain:** Denise Williams

**Master Gardeners:** Mark and Marie Milia

**Legal Advisor:** John McClure

**CPA:** Mark Cox



The Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc. is an incorporated Florida non-profit organization. We are non-partisan, apolitical, and are a 501(c)(3), charitable, non-profit, tax-exempt organization. The FLMOHM is a 501(c)(3) / IRS EIN# 45-3798922 / State of Florida Corporation N16000001848 / My Florida Market Place 85-8017597686C-0 / vendor # F45398922001/ D-U-N-S Number 05-868-9165 / FL Tax Exempt #Registration #: CH56194 "A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1.800.435.7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.



## **Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.**

**Website:** [www.flmohm.org](http://www.flmohm.org)

**Mail:** 442 S. Eucalyptus St., Sebring, Florida 33870

**Telephone:** 863.451.5862

**Email:** [FLMOHM@gmail.org](mailto:FLMOHM@gmail.org)

**Facebook:** FLMOHMemorial

**X:** FLMOHM



# Florida Medal of Honor Memorial (FLMOHM) Membership Application

Members are invited to special previews, member-only activities, and are kept informed of special events via a newsletter, social media, and the website.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last, First, MI) (dd-mm-yyyy)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Military Branch (If applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Present/Former Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Types of membership:

- ☐ Annual (\$25)
- ☐ Five-Year (\$100)
- ☐ Life (\$250)

Return this completed form with enclosed dues to any docent at the FLMOHM Visitors Center or mail it to: Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, 442 S. Eucalyptus St., Sebring, FL 33870. Questions: call 863.451.5862 or email FLMOHM@gmail.org.



(FLMOHM Use Only): Member No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Inaugural Gala



The Florida Medal of Honor Memorial invites you to attend:

5:30 PM, Thursday, October the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at Island View of Sun N' Lake

## Program

No-host cocktails & Social Hour

Presentation of the Colors

Toasts

Dinner

**Dress code:** dark suit, black tie,  
dress uniform, or evening wear  
appropriate for the occasion

## Menu

Mixed Green Salad

Warm Rolls

Maple Glazed Pork Loin

or

Herb Roasted Chicken

or

North Atlantic Salmon

Key Lime Pie

Coffee or Tea

**R.S.V.P. by 13 October 2025 (sooner is better)**

Please Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats for the Gala

A check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed @ \$100.00 per person

Make check payable to FLMOHM

Mail to 442 S. Eucalyptus St., Sebring, FL 33870

Name: _____	Pork___	Chicken___	Fish___
Name: _____	Pork___	Chicken___	Fish___
Name: _____	Pork___	Chicken___	Fish___
Name: _____	Pork___	Chicken___	Fish___
Name: _____	Pork___	Chicken___	Fish___
Name: _____	Pork___	Chicken___	Fish___

*Join Us in Our Mission*

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ **December 13, 2025** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



**Help Florida Medal of Honor Memorial  
honor local heroes!**

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a  
veteran's grave this December at  
Florida Medal of Honor Memorial

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or  
visit [www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/FL1340P](http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/FL1340P)



#KeepMovingForward