



The Sentinel

The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 27– October 2025



Chairman's Message

Things continue to go gangbusters at the Memorial and Visitors Center. In our first ten months we have had 1,200+ visitors. The word is out, and folks come from all over the state. They walk through the doors or gates not knowing what to expect and leave so impressed with what we are doing to honor the twenty-four heroes from sunny Florida.

We have had numerous group visits, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution from Arcadia. We also had American Legion Post 69's Riders Group and Sons of the Legion Group—each donated \$500 to us—greatly appreciated to be sure. We were also honored to have a visit of David McCampbell—son of MoH recipient David McCampbell. We had a fascinating hour plus with him talking about his dad. We were also honored to have a visit by U.S. Congressman Scott Franklin. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate and Naval aviator, he and his team spent over an hour touring our Memorial. It was a great visit.

We held our inaugural gala on 23 October. We sold 96 seats and the event was an overwhelming success. If you missed it—then you really missed it. See pictures below. A truly great event!!

We were also honored to be awarded best 501(c)(3) of the year by the Highlands News-Sun. This is big deal in our community!!

We have also made some enhancements to the Visitors Center, such as new railing and table on the stage, and display cases inside. If you haven't been by in a while, stop in and check out the improvements.

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

11 November

Open until 8:00 PM
Veterans Day

13 December 2025

10:00 AM
Wreaths Across America Ceremony

25 March 2026

10:00 AM
National Medal of Honor Day Ceremony

Funding Status

Please support us with your donation. See the "How You Can Help" section on pages 8-9 for more info.

The pictures below show one of our two new picnic tables (this one accommodates a wheelchair), the new railing along the stage, a group of five including our 1,000th visitor, and the Patriots Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution from Arcadia.



These pictures show the presentation and a closeup of the Highlands News-Sun award of the best 501(c)(3) of the year—a great honor in our community. It makes us proud!!



The pictures below show the check presentations by the Avon Park American Legion Post 69 "Sons" of the American Legion Squadron as well as the Post 69 [motorcycle] "Riders" groups--\$500 from each!!!



Pictured here are two shots showing the son of Florida MoH recipient David McCampbell along with Mike Borders, as well as a shot of David by his father's marker at the Memorial. What a great and interesting visit!!



The pictures below and on the next page are from our Inaugural Gala held on 23 October at the Island View Restaurant in the Sun 'n Lake Clubhouse. We sold 96 tickets, heard from Sebring native Brigadier General Robert A. Lee, a Vietnam veteran. He spoke of heroes and heroism during the Vietnam War.



A view of the crowd.



Commissioner Chris Campbell and his wife Linda.



Commissioner Kevin Roberts and wife Debbe.



Chairman Mike Borders addresses the crowd.



Brigadier General Robert A. Lee speaks of heroes and heroism in the Vietnam War.



Cadet Suky Kin and Commissioner Scott Kirouac.



Lyndsay Naranjo sings for the crowd.



The U.S., Florida, and military flags.



Sebring Mayor John Shoop.



Terry Mendel and Elsa Kahn.



Michelle and David Leidel.



Sheriff Paul Blackman and wife Melissa.



Congressman C. Scott Franklin (FL-18) and members of our team.



History of the Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor (MOH) is the United States Armed Forces' highest military decoration and is awarded to recognize American soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, guardians, and coast guardsmen who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor. The medal is normally awarded by the President of the United States (the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces) and is presented "in the name of the United States Congress." It is often, not strictly correctly, referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor.

There are three distinct variants of the medal: one for the Army, awarded to soldiers; one for the Naval Service, awarded to sailors, marines, and coast guardsmen; and one for the Air and Space Forces, awarded to airmen and guardians. The Medal of Honor was introduced for the Naval Service in 1861, soon followed by the Army's version in 1862. The Air Force used the Army's version until they received their own distinctive version in 1965. The Medal of Honor is the oldest continuously issued combat decoration of the United States Armed Forces.¹ The President typically presents the Medal of Honor at a formal ceremony intended to represent the gratitude of the American people, with posthumous presentations made to the primary next of kin.

As of September 2024, there have been 3,536 Medals of Honor awarded, with over 40% awarded for actions during the American Civil War. A total of 911 Army medals were revoked after Congress authorized a review in 1917, and several Navy medals were also revoked prior to the turn of the century—none of these are included in this total except for those that were subsequently restored. In 1990, Congress designated March 25 annually as Medal of Honor Day.

Floridians received 24 of the medals. Of these, 17 were posthumously awarded.



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://tinyurl.com/233kmcfe>
- Phone – text "FLMOHM" to 44321
- Mail – See page 9

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:

- Robert A. Lee
- Paul R. Smith
- Dorman C. Dowling
- D.J. Branning
- Robert F. Cullum
- John & Linda Kolarik
- Brian Hoke
- Rick Guignon
- Brenda L. Weber



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 10.

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

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

Telephone: 863.451.5862

Email: 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: _____

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



#KeepMovingForward

Ceremony at 10:00 AM at the FLMOHM