



# The Sentinel



The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.  
Issue 29 – April 2026

## Chairman’s Message

Year two is off to an incredible start. While we had 1,425 visitors in year one, we have already had nearly 800 in just 3.5 months of year two—a 30%+ increase in visitors! This includes visits by Sebring High School AFJROTC, Heartland Christian Academy, Cornerstone Christian Academy, the Young Americans for Freedom, and the Mason Smoak Foundation student groups. We also had visits by the Lake Placid Woman’s Club, and the Flywheelers Classic Car Club. We had an incredible “National Medal of Honor Day” ceremony featuring a flyover of T-34’s from the Veterans Airlift Command. We received additional donations and grants—especially \$7K from Duke Energy—but others as well. In-Kind donations continue—Home Depot donated mulch, Lakeview Water Sports gives us K-cups for our coffee service, and Down N’ Dirty provides janitorial services on a routine basis.

I was recently challenged to engage our enterprise in political activities. As a 501.c.3, we are prohibited from doing so. To be clear, we are non-partisan. We are not “red” or “blue.” We are “Red, White, and Blue!” Engaging in political activities would taint us, and we simply will not do so. Putting our 501(c)(3) status in jeopardy would be a bad move to be sure.

By the way, though it is a while to October, our reservation form for the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Annual Gala is included on the last page. We hope you will attend!!

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely, Mike Borders, Chairman



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



## Calendar of Events

### **On-going:**

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

### **TBD**

8:00 AM  
Second Annual Golf Tournament

### **22 October 2026**

5:30 PM  
Second Annual Gala Dinner  
(reservation form on page 11)

### **19 December 2026**

10:00 AM  
Wreaths Across America Ceremony



## Funding Status

Please support us with your donation. See the “How You Can Help” section on pages 10-11 for more info. As a non-profit, your donations help us keep the doors open and are greatly appreciated.

The first picture below is from the visit of the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF), led by Mr. Virgil Beato of Sebring High School. Among the patriotic youngsters pictured is Ethan Bush, this year's club president.



The picture below on the left is one of the many visits by Sebring High School AFJROTC, and the picture on the right is of some of the cars of the Florida Flywheelers Old Car Club during their group visit to the Memorial.



The below pictures show our Non-Veteran and Veteran of the Year award winners, Bob Van Etveldt (left) and Shawn Nickel (right), along with Mike Borders (center). Also featured is a group photo of our many volunteers (and there are even more who couldn't be there for the photo!!).



The below pictures show the visit of the Lake Placid Woman's Club.



The pictures below show the visit of the Mason Smoak Foundation Student Group. This group is comprised of eight young leaders from each of the three local high schools: Avon Park, Sebring, and Lake Placid.



The pictures below show the visit of the Heartland Christian Academy (left) and Cornerstone Christian Academy (right).



These pictures are of the **National Medal of Honor Day** ceremony held on 25 March.



The Crowd



VFW Post 4300 Honor Guard

More photos of National Medal of Honor Day—we had 135 people on hand!



Beautiful flyover of T-34's by the Veterans Airlift Command.



Still more photos of National Medal of Honor Day.

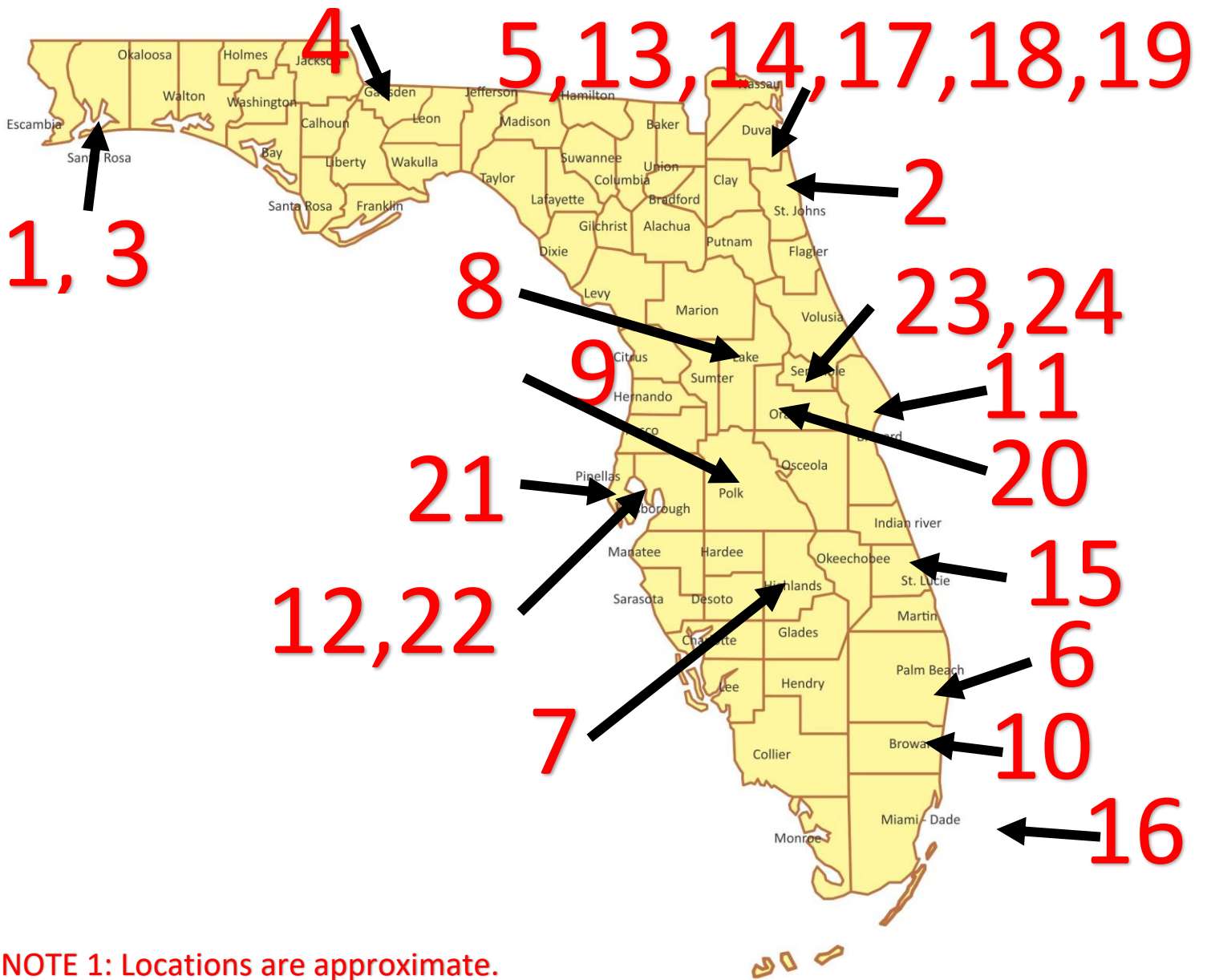


Three generations of the Oakley family dedicate a bald eagle statue and plaque honoring Chief Master Sergeant, USAF (Ret.) Harry Oakley, Jr., former Chairman of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial.



A close-up of the T-34's from the Veterans Airlift Command.

# WHERE OUR HEROES ENTERED THE MILITARY



NOTE 1: Locations are approximate.

NOTE 2: The Pentagon credits the location based on where the servicemember entered military service.

NOTE 3: See next page for the list of our heroes.

1. Charles A. Varnum: Pensacola
2. Clarence Millville Condon: St. Augustine.
3. Francis Edward Ormsbee, Jr.: Pensacola.
4. William Merrill Corry, Jr.: Quincy.
5. Robert Edward Femoyer: Jacksonville.
6. David McCampbell, Commander: West Palm Beach.
7. Thomas Buchanan McGuire: Sebring.
8. Robert Miller McTureous, Jr. : Altoona.
9. James Henry Mills: Fort Meade.
10. Alexander Ramsey Nininger, Jr.: Ft. Lauderdale.
11. Emory Lawrence Bennett: Cocoa.
12. Baldomero López: Tampa.
13. Hammett Lee Bowen, Jr.: Jacksonville.
14. Bruce Wayne Carter: Jacksonville.
15. Ardie Ray Copas: Fort Pierce.
16. Nicholas Joseph Cutinha: Coral Gables.
17. Robert Henry Jenkins: Vietnam War. Jacksonville.
18. Clyde Everett Lassen: Jacksonville.
19. Clifford Chester Sims: Jacksonville.
20. Larry Eugene Smedley: Orlando.
21. Robert Ronald Ingram: Clearwater.
22. Paul Ray Smith: Tampa.
23. Alwyn Crendall Cashe: Oviedo.
24. Robert James Miller: Oviedo



### **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 11

### **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:**

- Bill Finke (from annual to 5-yr)
- Charlotte Prezioso

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### **Sponsor News**

- Down N' Dirty Janitorial Services is now a Brass Sponsor.
- Walter Fricke is a Brass Sponsor.
- Lakeview Water Sports, Taylor Rentals, CS Waterworks, and the Lake Placid Woman's Club are Founding Members.



# **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 12.

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala



The Florida Medal of Honor Memorial invites you to attend  
5:30 PM, Thursday, October 22nd, 2026, at Island View of Sun N' Lake.

## *Program*

No-host cocktails & Social

Toasts

Dinner

Dress code is dark suit,  
black tie, dress uniform,  
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 28 September 2026 (sooner is better)

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

A check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed @ \$100.00 per person  
Mail check payable to FLMOHM, 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 \_\_\_\_\_