



The Sentinel

The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 22 – November 2024



Chairman's Message

We are so excited that we are closing in on the dedication ceremony. We had a final inspection by the City of Sebring this week and are all set to celebrate. We still have some final cleanup, painting of the stripes in the parking lot, and a couple of other minor details to complete. But we are ready and so proud that we have accomplished so much. Being able to honor the twenty-four heroes, educate—especially our youth—on the high price of freedom, and inspire everyone on the values associated with the Medal of Honor is for our group of dedicated volunteers both an honor and a privilege.

As you will see in the picture gallery, we have received the markers that were reengraved by Buxton & Bass Funeral Home in Okeechobee at no cost to us. They are set up around the monument and look great. The flags are also flying and lit up beautifully at night. The site is really beautiful and we get compliments all the time as people drive by and see how pretty it is.

Our dedication ceremony on 12 December at 10:00 AM promises to be fantastic. We hope you will be able to attend.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman

**Make sure to mark your
calendar for December
the 12th at 10:00 AM**



Calendar of Events

November 2024:

Construction On-going

November/December 2024:

Final Tweaks

December 12th, 2024, 10:00 AM:

Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Opening



Funding Status

State of Florida: \$250,000

Highlands County: \$93,000

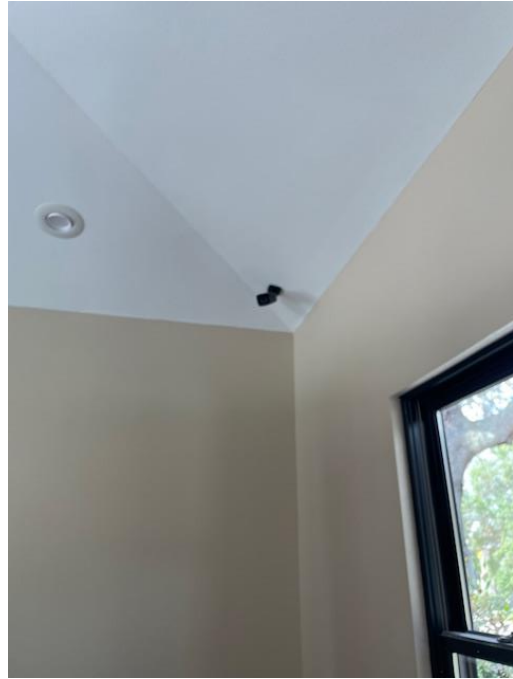
Sebring CRA: \$20,000

Duke Energy: \$20,000

Private Donations: \$88,489

In-Kind Donations: \$501,544

These pictures show the installation of the baseboards by Danny Parker's team, as well as the camera security system indoors and outdoors. We have state-of-the-art coverage with the cameras. Also shown is a view of the front of the building.



These pictures show some of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) signage, along with some adjustments to one of our flagpoles by Bob Van Etveldt, Don Laycock, and Byron Oakley. Also shown is a view from the Visitors Center towards the monument—note how the sun glows above the American flag.



These pictures show nighttime views of the site demonstrating the beauty of the lighting on the poles. Additionally, the setup of the markers around the monument gives an idea of the final look—though there is stainless steel to be added. Finally, we added a decorative and functional retaining wall along the front fence.



This is a beautiful view taken with a drone. It clearly shows the magnificence of the site, with the monument, sidewalks, and visitors center. To the top right is the Highlands County Government Building. Our sign is at the corner of Commerce and S. Eucalyptus. There are already some changes to the construction, such as the addition of the markers around the monument, safety/handrails on the stage, and more. We are very proud of what we have accomplished.



Hero of the Month

Nicholas Joseph Cutinha

Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army

Coral Gables, FL



Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. While serving as a machine gunner with Company C, Sp4c. Cutinha accompanied his unit on a combat mission near Gia Dinh. Suddenly his company came under small-arms, automatic-weapons, mortar, and rocket-propelled grenade fire, from a battalion-size enemy unit. During the initial hostile attack, communications with the battalion was lost and the company commander and numerous members of the company became casualties. When Sp4c. Cutinha observed that his company was pinned down and disorganized, he moved to the front with complete disregard for his safety, firing his machine gun at the charging enemy. As he moved forward, he drew fire on his own position and was seriously wounded in the leg. As the hostile fire intensified and half of the company was killed or wounded, Sp4c. Cutinha assumed command of all the survivors in his area and initiated a withdrawal while providing cover fire for the evacuation of the wounded. He killed several enemy soldiers but sustained another leg wound when his machine gun was destroyed by incoming rounds. Undaunted, he crawled through a hail of enemy fire to an operable machine gun in order to continue the defense of his injured comrades who were being administered medical treatment. Sp4c. Cutinha maintained this position, refused assistance, and provided defensive fire for his comrades until he fell mortally wounded. He was solely responsible for killing 15 enemy soldiers while saving the lives of at least nine members of his own unit. Sp4c. Cutinha's gallantry and extraordinary heroism were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Conflict: **Vietnam War**

Location of Action: **Near Gia Dinh,
Republic of Vietnam**

Date of Action: **March 2, 1968**

MOH Awarded Posthumously: **April 7, 1970**





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

- Construct 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 to complete the construction, outfitting, 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 – shorturl.at/pzO01
- Phone – text "FLMOHM" to 44321
- Mail – See last page

Sponsorship Levels

- **Platinum** \$50,000.00 and up
- **Gold** \$25,000.00 – \$49,999.99
- **Silver** \$10,000.00 – \$24,999.99
- **Bronze** \$5,000.00 – \$9,999.99
- **Brass** \$1,000.00 – \$4,999.99
- **Founding Member** \$100.00 – \$999.99

Our Sponsors (Thus Far)

- **Platinum Level**
The State of Florida
City of Sebring
- **Silver Level**
City of Sebring CRA
Duke Energy Foundation
- **Bronze Level**
The Borders
The Christensens
In Memory of Bolivar Rivera
VFW Post 4300 Sebring
AVVA Chapter 1097
John and Janet Harbaugh
- **Brass Level**
Highlands County Veterans Council
Woman's Club of Sebring
Publix Supermarkets Incorporated
John McClure, Esquire
APEC Inc.
Glades Elect. Charit. Trust c/o Lee Hildreth
Quarters for a Cause c/o Staci Christmas
The Battle of the Bands Incorporated
Re/Max - Chip Boring
Therese Mendel
The Rotary Club of Highlands County
Avon Park Noon Rotary
Master Chief Petty Officer Eugene Kissner
BPOE Elks 1529, Sebring
South Central Florida Chapter of the Military
Officers Association of America
Robert Brooks
Ronald Sevigny
Kevn Roberts
Jim and Linda Sacco
Pipal Realty Group (Sara Pipal)
Doug and Patricia Tait
Mike Oakley
Robin Carney
- **Founding Members**
Haywood Taylor
Alvin W. Pals
Moddie Desselle
Mr. & Mrs. Scardino
William Bond
Patricia Wilhelm

Brinker International
 LuLaRoe Chantel Gilmore - Newly Inspired You!
 Heritage Festival
 Steven Albert
 Avon Park Service Club
 American Legion Post 25 Auxiliary
 Fort Meade Baptist Church
 Tanglewood Veterans Association
 Lake Placid Noon Rotary Club
 Dynamic Sales Associates, Inc.
 Richard Uhrich and Karen Wiggins
 Gayle Parker/Melissa Middleton
 Eric Martinez & Heidi Fonrondona
 Denise Williams
 Mr. Robert Brooks Posthumous
 George & Nancy Hensely

In-Kind Sponsors

- **Platinum Level**
 Highlands County
 North American Fence Contractor's Assn.
 Jahna Concrete
- **Gold Level**
 Buddy Hopson
- **Silver Level**
 Andersen Windows
 Marmer Construction (est.)
 Griffin's Carpet Mart (est.)
 Quality Roofing
 Sabre Electric (est.)
 Premier Irrigation (est.)
 Jeff Fultz A/C Inc.
 Coastal Canvas
 Josh Lewis
 Buxton & Bass Funeral Home
- **Bronze Level**
 Crosson & Payne Tree & Land Service
 Stidham's Rentals
 Rick Perry
 Scott's Miracle Gro (est.)
 Frames and Images
 Harry & DJ Marsh
- **Brass Level**
 Sunset Drafting
 SGIS Surveying-Will Pyle
 Chem-Crete-Larry Mroz
 SGIS Surveying
 Richard Siver
 Red E Equipment Services
 Gadd & Associates, LLC
 Sunbelt Rentals
 Heartland Exterminating
 LOCINOX
 Heartland Crane
 K & M Site Services (est.)
 SOS Septic & Sewer (est.)
 Gettle & Associates (est.)
 Excavation Point
 Phoenix Metals
 Bernie's House Painting (est.)
 Duda Sod Farms (est.)
 Envision Lighting Systems
 South Florida State College
 Highlands County Sheriff's Office

Down N Dirty Cleaning Services, LLC
 Brandon's Affordable Painting
 CANTEX
 Summit Fire & Security

- **Founders' Level**
 Junctions-Selvin Walker
 Liberty Flagpoles
 Blue Steel Fabrication, LLC
 Central Florida Insulation
 Kerry Howerton
 Alan Jay Corporate Office
 Maureen Collins
 Jim Kennedy

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 can 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: Harry Marsh
Comptroller: 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
Engineering Consultant: Clinton Howerton
Legal Advisor: John McClure
CPA: Bruce Lybarger



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 33875

Telephone: 863.451.5862

Email: FLMOHM@gmail.org

Facebook: FLMOHMemorial

X: FLMOHM