



The Sentinel

The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 24 – January 2025



Chairman's Message

We are proud to be open for business after last month's fantastic dedication ceremony. We have had many visitors come in and have received accolades from all of them. What the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial and Visitors Center has brought to our community and to the State is simply wonderful. See more pictures from the dedication ceremony later in the newsletter

I have some great news to share with you. The Secretary of the Navy directed that one of the newest destroyers coming into the fleet will be named the **USS Robert R. Ingram (DDG 149)**. We are so proud to have had Mr. Ingram at our dedication ceremony. As the sole living recipient of the Medal of Honor from the state of Florida, we were indeed fortunate.

I also want to share with you that you need to mark your calendars now. The 25th of March is **National Medal of Honor Day** in the United States. We will conduct a wreath-laying ceremony at 11:00 AM at the Memorial. This will include a color guard, a bell-ringing for each of the twenty-four Florida recipients, and the lighting of flames of valor. Please join us for the occasion. You won't be disappointed!

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman

NOTE: This newsletter will shift to quarterly starting with this edition—Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct



Calendar of Events

On-going:

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

25 March 2025

11:00 AM

**National Medal of Honor Day
Wreath-Laying Ceremony**

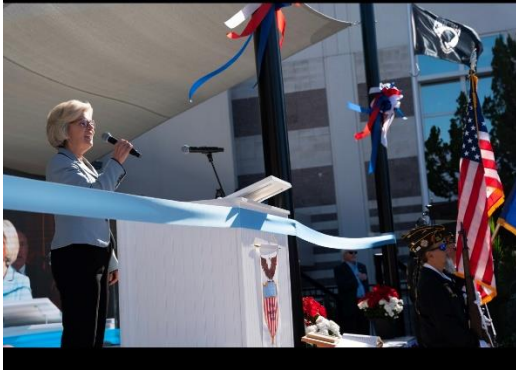


Funding Status

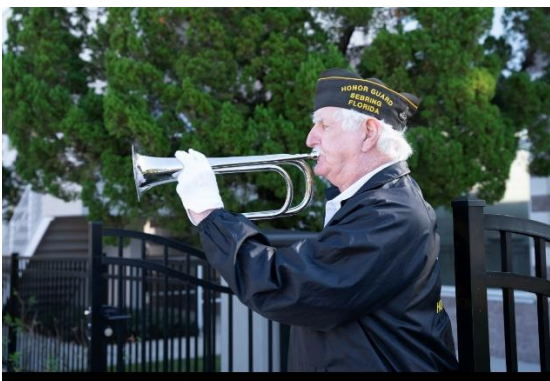
Fundraising is on-going.

Please support us with your donation. See the "How You Can Help" section on page 6 for more info.

These pictures show the VFW Post 4300 Honor Guard looking at our nation's flag, the presentation of colors, Mrs. Becky McIntyre singing the national anthem, a view of the crowd gathered for the dedication ceremony, Vietnam veteran Lieutenant Colonel Long looking at Tommy McGuire's medals, and cadets of Sebring High School Air Force JROTC.



These pictures show the Sebring Civil Air Patrol team, Mayor John Shoop presenting Mr. Ingram with the "Key to the City," Mr. Ingram speaking with Commissioner Kevin Roberts, Chair of the County Commission Arlene Tuck presenting Mr. Ingram with a Highlands County proclamation, the VFW Post 4300 Honor Guard bugler playing taps, and Honor Guard Commander Captain Mike Rogers speaking with Mr. Ingram inside the Visitors Center.

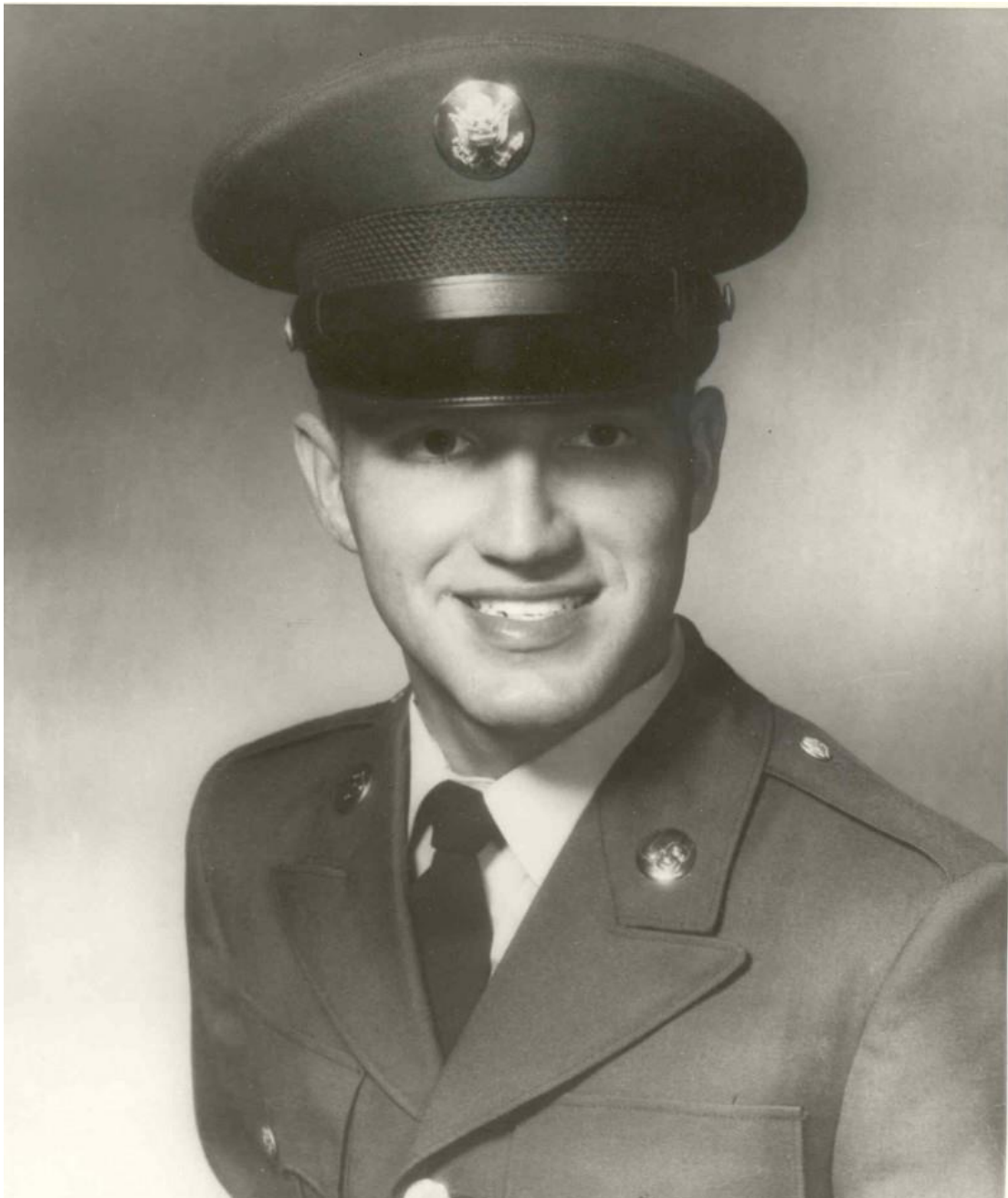


Hero of the Month

Hammett Lee Bowen, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army

Jacksonville, FL



Citation

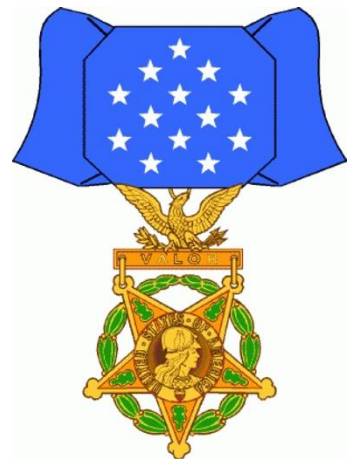
SSgt. Bowen distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant during combat operations in Binh Duong Province, Republic of Vietnam. SSgt. Bowen's platoon was advancing on a reconnaissance mission into enemy-controlled terrain when it came under the withering crossfire of small arms and grenades from an enemy ambush force. SSgt. Bowen placed heavy suppressive fire on the enemy positions and ordered his men to fall back. As the platoon was moving back, an enemy grenade was thrown amid SSgt. Bowen and three of his men. Sensing the danger to his comrades, SSgt. Bowen shouted a warning to his men and hurled himself on the grenade, absorbing the explosion with his body while saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. SSgt. Bowen's extraordinary courage and concern for his men at the cost of his life served as an inspiration to his comrades and are in the highest traditions of the military service and the U.S. Army.

*Conflict: **Vietnam War***

*Location of Action: **Binh Duong Province, Republic of Vietnam***

*Date of Action: **June 27, 1969***

*MOH Awarded Posthumously: **July 17, 1974***



PRESENTATION DATE & DETAILS: July 17, 1974 at the Blair House (Courtyard) by Vice President Gerald R. Ford to his family

BORN: November 30, 1947, LaGrange, GA

DIED: June 27, 1969, Binh Duong Province, Republic of Vietnam

BURIED: Restlawn Memorial Garden Cemetery (MH) (512-B-4), LaGrange, GA



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 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 Newest Members:

- Richard and Sharilyn Karkowski
- John and Janet Harbaugh
- Eugene Kissner
- Arlene Tuck
- Joseph Fiorello
- Edward "Bud" Mulchy
- Kevin and Jan McDevitt
- Ronald Seigny
- Jim and Sarina Burhans
- Michael Halloran
- Charles and Nancy Dye
- Eric and Heidi Martinez
- Eric Heestand
- Erin Grall
- James T. Lange
- Chris Campbell

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 8.

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 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 863.402.8292 or email FLMOHM@gmail.org.



(FLMOHM Use Only): Member No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____