



The Sentinel



The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 3 - April 2023

Chairman's Message

If you go downtown and look at the corner of South Eucalyptus and Commerce, you will see some differences due to the site work accomplished to this point by our good friend and supporter Buddy Hopson. You'll see some photos later in the newsletter that make my point. Construction guru extraordinaire Don Laycock continues to work the details of how the site lays out down to the inch. Don is also a surveyor and had his gizmo in action to measure the specifics of the site. It was a thing to behold. As he did that work, he was assisted by Bobby Border—our Eagle Scout candidate. Bobby will be responsible for the sign at the corner. We are grateful for his participation.

The final details of the blueprints for the Visitors Center are being hammered out by local draftsman Don Polston, owner of Sunset Drafting. Don is an Army veteran and is doing all the work for free—another important “in-kind” contribution. His talents are amazing, and we are glad to have his support. There are many details to how everything on the site lays out in addition to the floorplan for the building. Even the structure of the sign is significant. Don's good friend, James Lange, is doing the structural plans for the sign. Thanks to James for his in-kind contribution.

Don and I met with Mart Prost of the North American Fence Contractors Association (NAFCA). Are these guys great! Short story: they are going to do the entire fence for the site for FREE. This would be a \$50K job if we had to pay for it. This major in-kind pledge will make a big impact in our funding for the project. We still need money, but we are elated with this pledge. Thanks to Mart and NAFCA.

Finally, we met with Century Link who are going to remove the utility markers on the corner that would block the sign. Hooray!

We still need your financial support to complete our task. Rising prices are a factor and are getting worse. The funding we have will fall short of our requirements moving forward. Any contribution you can make will be helpful, and we will be eternally grateful.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman



Calendar of Events

April 2023:

Site Prep On-going

June 2023:

Memorial Build Begins

August 2023:

Visitors Center Build Begins

1 March 2024:

Work Complete

25 March 2024:

Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Opening



Funding Status

Primary Source: \$250,000 State of Florida

Private Donations: \$44,100



Our Mission

To construct and maintain a perpetual memorial that honors the Florida Medal of Honor recipients and ensures that they are never forgotten.

Our Vision

To inspire current and future generations about the ideals of courage, integrity, patriotism, leadership, and sacrifice; to help them understand the meaning and price of freedom; and to encourage them to embrace their responsibility as citizens in a democracy.

Our Goals

- Construct the Memorial
- Construct and outfit the Visitor’s 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

Although partially funded through a subgrant from the Florida Department of Education, additional funds are needed to complete the construction, outfitting, and maintenance of this special facility.

Donations

Tax-deductible donations accepted:

- Online – shorturl.at/pz001
- Phone – text “FLMOHM” to 44321
- Mail – See Contact Us section

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

Volunteer

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

Our Sponsors (Thus Far)

- **Platinum Level**
The State of Florida
City of Sebring
- **Bronze Level**
The Borders
The Christensens
In Memory of Bolivar Rivera
VFW Post 4300 Sebring
- **Brass Level**
Woman's Club of Sebring
Publix Supermarkets Incorporated
John McClure, Esquire
APEC - Automated Petroleum & Energy Company, Inc.
Glades Elect. Charitable 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
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



• **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
- Kevin Roberts
- Steven Albert
- Avon Park Service Club
- American Legion Post 25 Auxiliary

In-Kind Sponsors

• **Platinum Level**

Highlands County (\$50K)

• **Gold Level**

Buddy Hopson (\$25K)

• **Bronze Level**

Crosson & Payne Tree & Land Service (\$2K)
 Stidham’s Rentals (\$5K)

• **Brass Level**

Junctions--Selvin Walker (\$500)
 Liberty Flagpoles (\$750)

How to Become a Sponsor

Our organization is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit/ non-profit. We rely totally on donations and fund raising. Our entire staff is volunteer, with no funds expended on payroll. But we do have administrative and operational expenses that must be paid, even after the memorial and visitors center is constructed and the ribbon has been cut. We also will have to pay for property and liability insurance, power, water, sewage, IT/telecom, maintenance costs, office supplies, etc. With your generous support, we will stay the course as outlined elsewhere in this newsletter. Depending on your personal tax situation, donations are tax-deductible. So go to the "How You Can Help Us" or "Contact Us" section on the previous page to see how to donate or sponsor our organization.



Links

- The Florida Medal of Honor Memorial www.flmohm.org
- Congressional Medal of Honor Society <https://www.cmoHS.org>
- National Medal of Honor Museum <https://mohmuseum.org>

The Three Versions of the Medal of Honor



Army Air Force Navy



Board of Directors & Other Volunteers

- Chairman:** Michael R. Borders
- Vice Chairman:** C. Raymond McIntyre
- Junior Vice Chairman:** Byron Oakley
- Treasurer:** Harry Marsh
- Secretary:** Sarah Carter
- Comptroller:** Erik Christensen
- Construction Project Mgr.:** Donald Laycock
- Asst. Const. Project Mgr.:** Judy Laycock
- Marketing:** Moddie Desselle
- Marketing:** Heather Oakley
- Budget:** Shelly Pettit
- IT:** Shawn Nickel
- Chaplain:** Denise Williams
- Landscaping:** Mark and Marie Milia
- Boy Scout Eagle Candidate:** Bobby Border
- Engineering Consultant:** Clinton Howerton
- Legal Advisor:** John McClure
- CPA:** Bruce Lybarger



Editorial Policy

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 vendor # F45398922001/ D-U-N-S Number 05-868-9165 / REGISTRATION #: CH56194 "A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING

TOLL FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE.
REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT,
APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE”

Recent Events and Activities

Site Preparation in April 2023



Some of the first shell road base to be dropped into the site. Provided by Highlands County.



Front-end loader and roller work by Buddy Hopson to get things ready for construction.



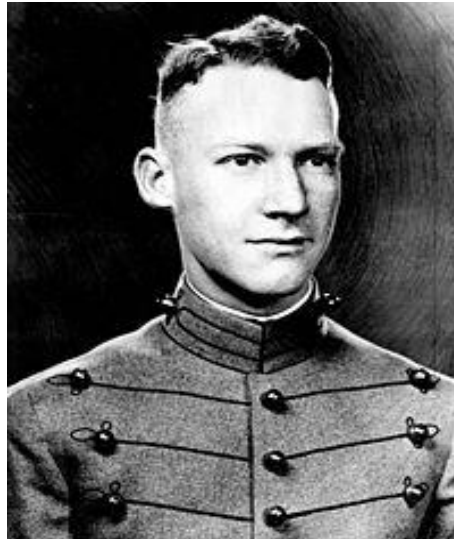
On the left a look at the prep for the location of the memorial and on the right the location of the sign and a view from Commerce Street (Eucalyptus is on the left).



Conceptual ideas for the main gate on Commerce as well as the fence and landscaping that will be on site.

Alexander Ramsey Nininger, Jr.

2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Army
Fort Lauderdale, FL



Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy near Abucay, Bataan, Philippine Islands, on 12 January 1942. This officer, though assigned to another company not then engaged in combat, voluntarily attached himself to Company K, same regiment, while that unit was being attacked by enemy force superior in firepower. Enemy snipers in trees and foxholes had stopped a counterattack to regain part of position. In hand-to-hand fighting which followed, 2d Lt. Nininger repeatedly forced his way to and into the hostile position. Though exposed to heavy enemy fire, he continued to attack with rifle and handgrenades and succeeded in destroying several enemy groups in foxholes and enemy snipers. Although wounded 3 times, he continued his attacks until he was killed after pushing alone far within the enemy position. When his body was found after recapture of the position, 1 enemy officer and 2 enemy soldiers lay dead around him.

*Conflict: **World War II***

*Location of Action: **Abucay, Bataan, Philippines***

*Date of Action: **January 12, 1942***

*MOH Awarded Posthumously: **February 10, 1942***





Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.

Website: www.flmohm.org

Mail: 7209 South George Boulevard
Sebring, Florida 33875

Telephone: 863.402.8292

Email: FLMOHM@gmail.org

Facebook: [FLMOHMemorial](#)

Twitter: [FLMOHM](#)