



The Sentinel



The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 11– December 2023

Chairman’s Message

With this message I can say that construction has begun. The City of Sebring dug the first connection to the sewage system and that officially kicks things off. The only documents lacking for the building permits to proceed were the formally sealed engineering drawings. Those were turned into the city building department before Christmas. Soon we will see additional work starting, beginning with some inconvenient, but necessary work at the parking lot at the north end of the property. Stand by!

I can also pass on some fantastic news! The Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) awarded us with a \$20K grant, specifically for the shade sails that will cover the deck area on the south side of the Visitors Center. Naturally, we had to provide a package with detailed engineered drawings, competitive bids, etc. They approved it at their early December meeting. This grant is critical to our success and is greatly appreciated.

I also spoke with Nancy Dodd of the Duke Energy Company. She described their process for grants and we will soon be making an application for that purpose. I appreciate the assistance of Commissioner Arlene Tuck in setting up this meeting. We look forward to working with Nancy and really appreciate her assistance.

Tracy McCoy of the marketing agency “Get Fish Slapped” asked me to meet with teammate Susan Jones. We worked on some ideas that we will soon implement to help us do a better job in getting the word out. We thank Tracy and Susan for their assistance!

We remain committed to honoring the 24 heroes and educating our youth about the cost of freedom. We will inspire everyone

about the true meaning of the word hero, and the sacrifice that goes with it.

I sincerely appreciate the support from all parties. This is an amazing project that we will all be proud of.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman



Calendar of Events

December 2023:

Site Prep/Design On-going

December 2023:

Construction Begins

January 2024:

Visitors Center and Memorial Build Begins

Spring 2024:

Work Complete

Summer 2024:

Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Opening



Funding Status

Primary Source: \$250,000 State of Florida

Sebring CRA: \$20,000

Private Donations: \$56,652

In-Kind Donations: \$298,400

The City of Sebring Public Works Department takes the FIRST STEP in bringing our project from the drawing board to reality. Here you can see them doing the first "cut" on laying sewage pipes to tie us in.

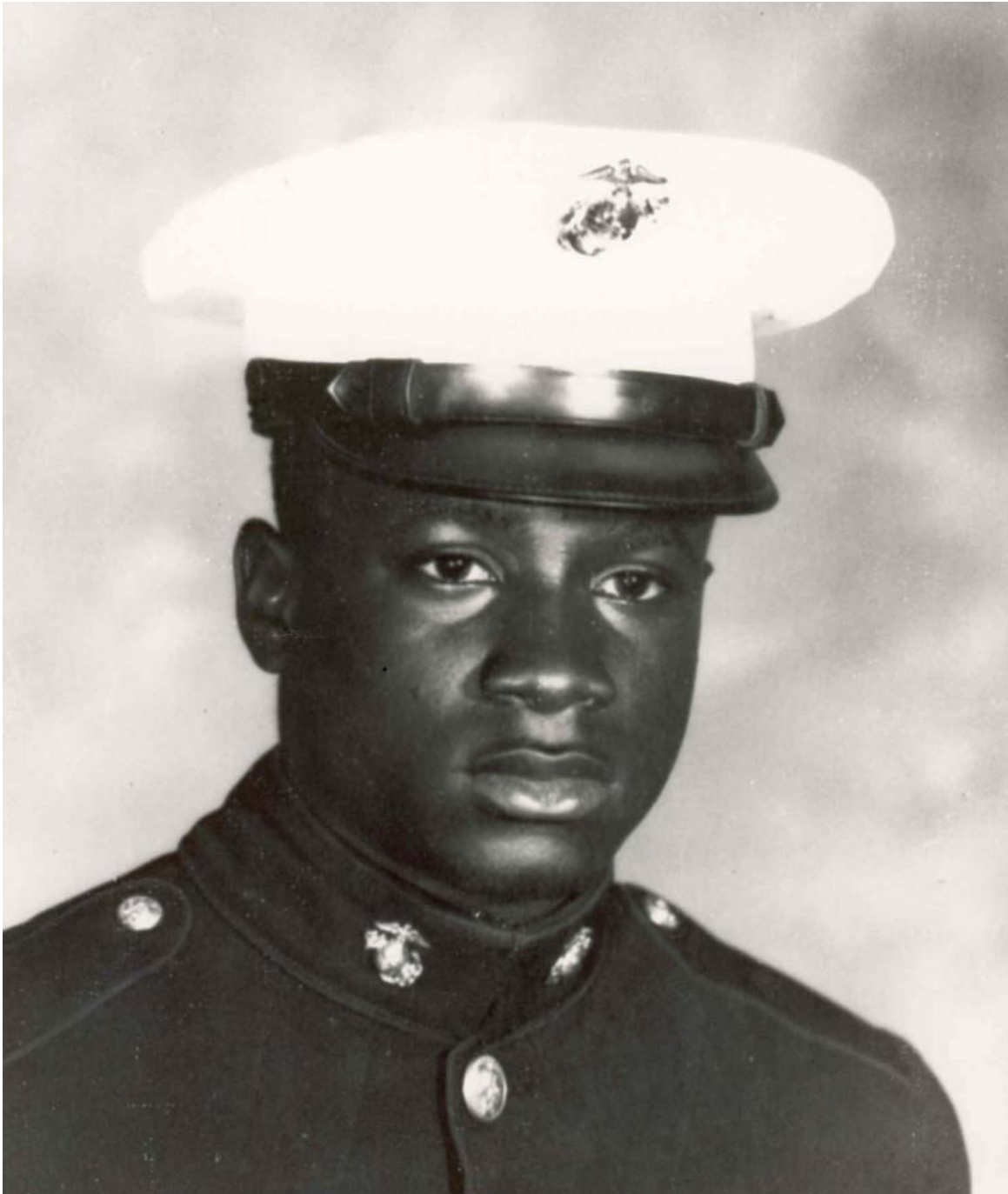


Hero of the Month

Robert Henry Jenkins, Jr.

Private First Class, U.S. Marine Corps

Jacksonville, FL



Citation

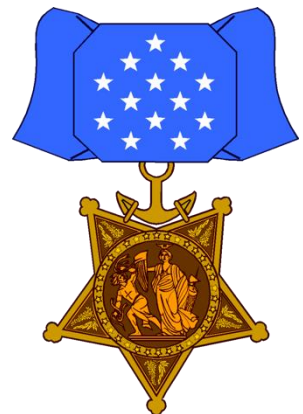
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner with Company C, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion, in connection with operations against enemy forces. Early in the morning Pfc. Jenkins' 12-man reconnaissance team was occupying a defensive position at Fire Support Base Argonne south of the Demilitarized Zone. Suddenly, the marines were assaulted by a North Vietnamese Army platoon employing mortars, automatic weapons, and hand grenades. Reacting instantly, Pfc. Jenkins and another marine quickly moved into a two-man fighting emplacement, and as they boldly delivered accurate machine-gun fire against the enemy, a North Vietnamese soldier threw a hand grenade into the friendly emplacement. Fully realizing the inevitable results of his actions, Pfc. Jenkins quickly seized his comrade, and pushing the man to the ground, he leaped on top of the marine to shield him from the explosion. Absorbing the full impact of the detonation, Pfc. Jenkins was seriously injured and subsequently succumbed to his wounds. His courage, inspiring valor, and selfless devotion to duty saved a fellow marine from serious injury or possible death and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

*Conflict: **Vietnam War***

*Location of Action: **Fire Support Base Argonne,
DMZ, Republic of Vietnam***

*Date of Action: **March 5, 1969***

*MOH Awarded Posthumously: **April 20, 1970***





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 unique and special facility.

Donations

Tax-deductible donations accepted:

- Online – shorturl.at/pzO01
- 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

• **Silver Level**

City of Sebring CRA

• **Bronze Level**

The Borders
The Christensens
In Memory of Bolivar Rivera
VFW Post 4300 Sebring

• **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

• **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
Fort Meade Baptist Church
Tanglewood Veterans Association
Lake Placid Noon Rotary Club

In-Kind Sponsors

- **Platinum Level**
Highlands County (\$50K)
- **Gold Level**
Buddy Hopson (\$25K)
- **Silver Level**
Anderson Windows
Marmer Construction (est.)
Griffin's Carpet Mart (est.)
Quality Roofing
NAFCA (est.)
- **Bronze Level**
Crosson & Payne Tree & Land Service (\$2K)
Stidham's Rentals (\$5K)
- **Brass Level**
Sunset Drafting (\$1,000)
SGIS Surveying-Will Pyle (\$1,200)
Chem-Crete-Larry Mroz (\$2,458)
SGIS Surveying (\$1,200)
- **Founders' Level**
Junctions-Selvin Walker (\$500)
Liberty Flagpoles (\$750)
Blue Steel Fabrication, LLC (\$750)
Central Florida Insulation (\$500)

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, such as property and liability insurance, power, water, sewage, IT/telecom, maintenance costs, office supplies, etc. We need your generous support. 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.cmozs.org>
- National Medal of Honor Museum
<https://mohmuseum.org>



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
IT: Shawn Nickel
Chaplain: Denise Williams
Landscaping: 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 MY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISON OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE."



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