



The Sentinel



The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 4 - May 2023

Chairman's Message

Although it doesn't look like much is happening at the corner of Commerce and S. Eucalyptus, there is all kinds of activity going on behind the scenes. It is kind of like the duck paddling on a pond. Looks calm on the surface, but underneath, those webbed-feet are moving like mad. Don has been working details of every aspect of the construction to come. His friend Jim Lange has provided sealed designs for the sign and more. I would have never thought it, but you have to have a building permit just to construct the sign. An of course, the sign is the project of our Eagle Scout candidate, Bobby Border. So, what seems to be a minor thing is really not so minor after all.

One of the things Don has been working on is the placement of "sails" over the stage area. This is another one of those things that looks easy and uncomplicated. Guess again! But John Desesa of Coastal Canvas and Awning in Ft. Myers is working with us for the design aspects of this element of the project. His company provides every aspect of the design, fabrication, and installation. His expertise has been invaluable in a niche area. We look forward to some nice sails that will provide shade on the south side of the Visitors Center.

Don continues to work with Mart Prost of the North American Fence Contractors Assn. for the details of how the fence will be designed and installed. This is an incredible aspect of the project. The \$50K value of the fence is a blessing and a financial boost for our project. We cannot say enough how appreciative and grateful we are.

We had two wonderful \$1K donations—one from the Highlands County Veterans Council, and one from the South Central Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association

of America. THANK YOU!!

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

May 2023:

Site Prep On-going

July 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: \$46,100



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**
Highlands County Veterans Council
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)

Blue Steel Fabrication, LLC (\$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
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Secretary: Sarah Carter
Comptroller: Erik Christensen
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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

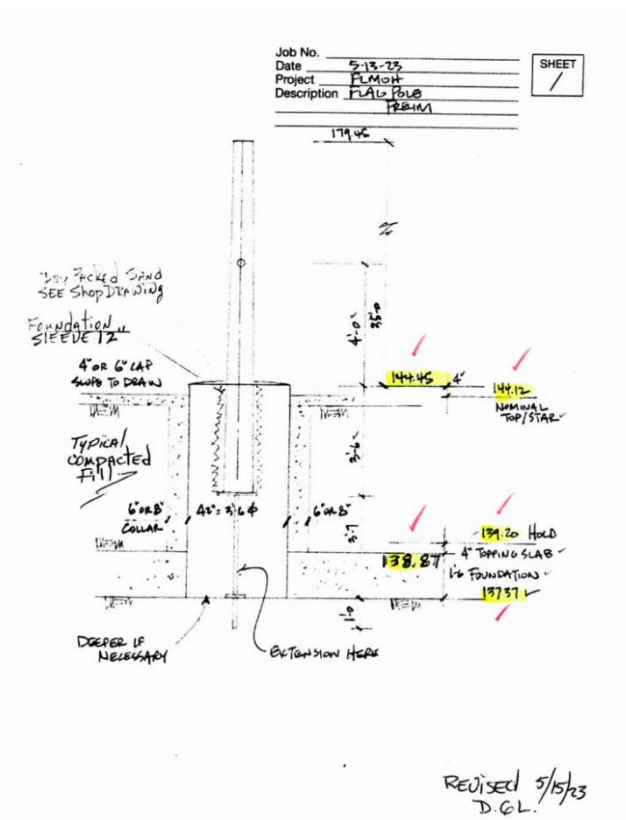
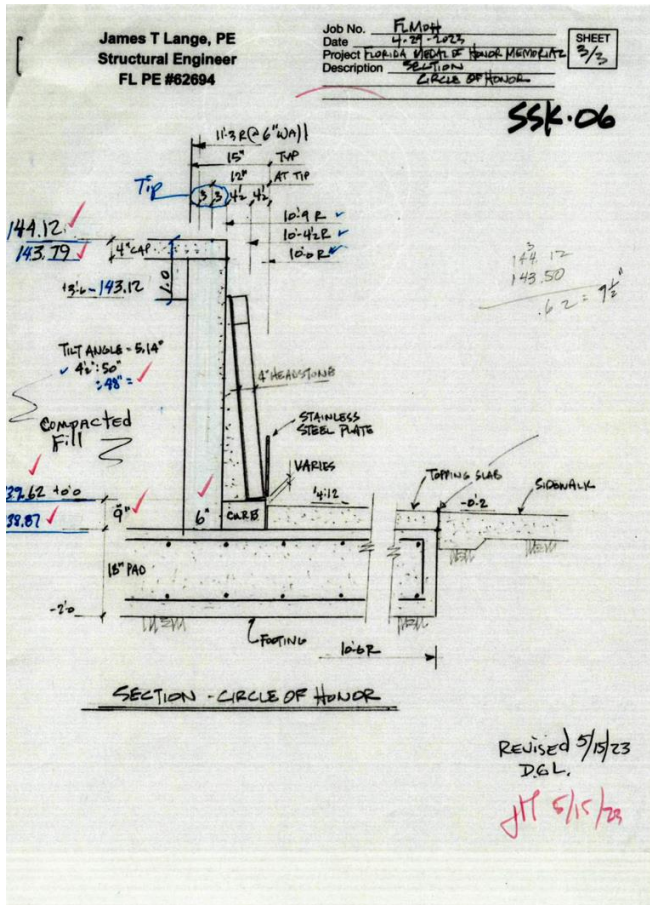
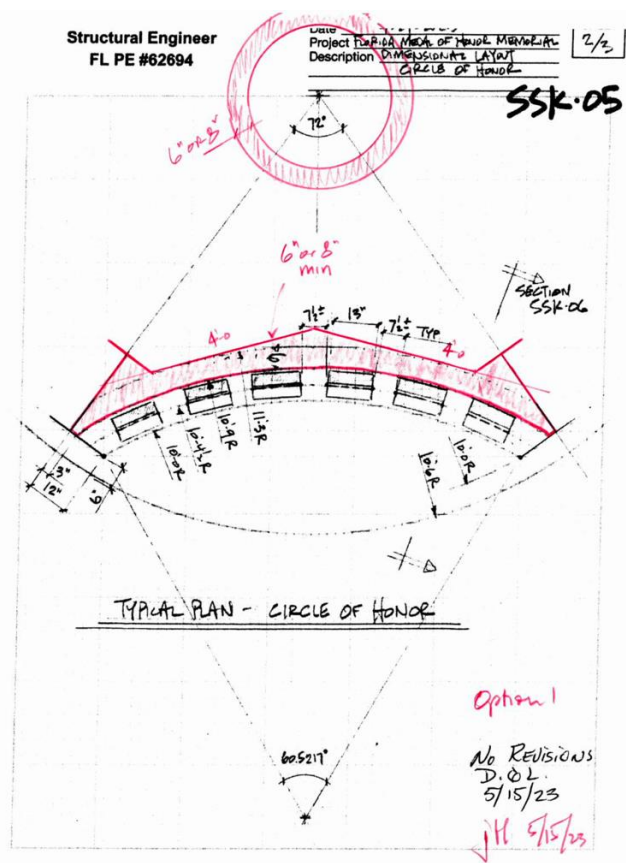
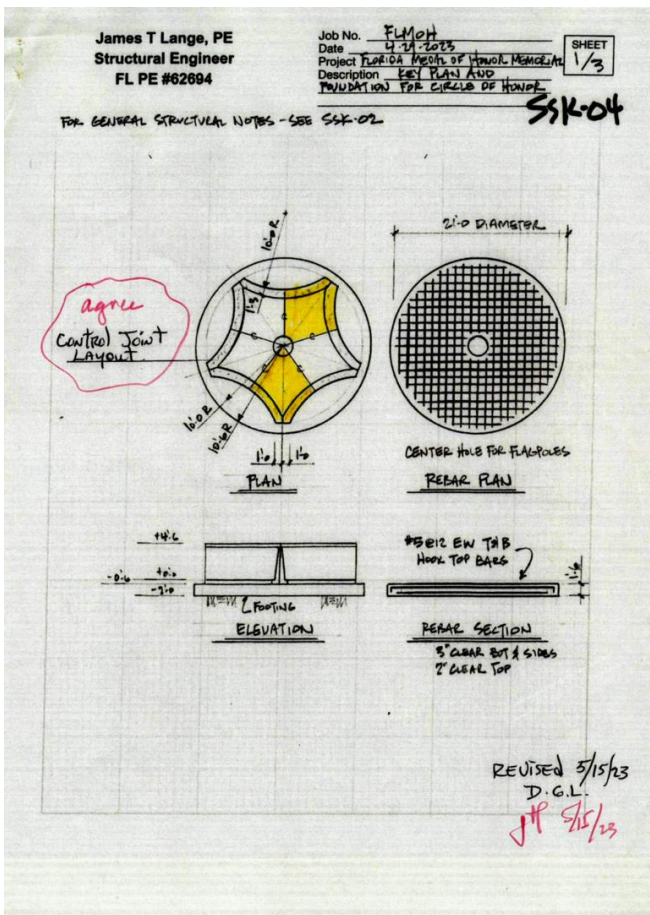


Editorial Policy

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.



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The complexity of engineering drawings for the Circle of Honor--the Monument--is readily evident from the above.

Hero of the Month

Robert Edward Femoyer

2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Corps
Jacksonville, FL



Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty near Merseburg, Germany, on 2 November 1944. While on a mission, the bomber, of which 2d Lt. Femoyer was the navigator, was struck by 3 enemy antiaircraft shells. The plane suffered serious damage and 2d Lt. Femoyer was severely wounded in the side and back by shell fragments which penetrated his body. In spite of extreme pain and great loss of blood he refused an offered injection of morphine. He was determined to keep his mental faculties clear in order that he might direct his plane out of danger and so save his comrades. Not being able to arise from the floor, he asked to be propped up in order to enable him to see his charts and instruments. He successfully directed the navigation of his lone bomber for 2 1/2 hours so well it avoided enemy flak and returned to the field without further damage. Only when the plane had arrived in the safe area over the English Channel did he feel that he had accomplished his objective; then, and only then, he permitted an injection of a sedative. He died shortly after being removed from the plane. The heroism and self-sacrifice of 2d Lt. Femoyer are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.

Conflict: **World War II**

Location of Action: **Over Merseberg, Germany**

Date of Action: **November 2nd, 1944**

MOH Awarded Posthumously: **May 9th, 1945**





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