



# The Sentinel



The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.  
Issue 16 - May 2024

## Chairman's Message

May was another busy month for us. Among other things, the stem walls were filled, the floor and stage were poured, the memorial star was filled and poured, as was the sidewalk around it. Concrete block was completed for the Visitors Center and more. This all involved the talented work of folks such as Red E Equipment, Sunbelt Rentals, Gadd & Associates, Jahna, Nucor, TOMO, Gettle & Associates, Heartland Exterminating, and more.

This work is a masterpiece of artistic choreography orchestrated by our construction master, Don Laycock. The coordination and integration of multiple commodity areas of work to and make sure we stay on track are all a thing of beauty. Of course, there are challenges along the way, but we will be successful.

We also continue to do the paperwork. Our latest report to the Florida Department of Education in Tallahassee was approved and they sent us the next iteration of funding - \$62.5K. It goes fast since the pace of construction has really picked up.

Seeing things go "vertical" is really gratifying. If you have been by of late to see our progress, I encourage you to do so. It is a sight to behold. The pictures you will see later in the newsletter will give you an idea of what I am talking about.

Soon, we will take delivery of the trusses, get them installed along with the roof, and then start "drying" in the interior, erecting the framing, and starting all the inside work. We believe we are on track to complete the work by early August, and will make our goal of holding the dedication ceremony on 11 September at

10:00 AM. Mark your calendars—you are invited!!

Thanks to you all for your continued support and encouragement!!

Sincerely,  
Michael R. Borders  
Chairman



## Calendar of Events

### **June 2024:**

Construction On-going

### **Summer 2024:**

Construction Complete

### **September 11, 2024, 10:00 AM:**

Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Opening



## Funding Status

**Primary Source:** \$250,000 State of Florida

**Highlands County:** \$93,000

**Sebring CRA:** \$20,000

**Duke Energy:** \$20,000

**Private Donations:** \$74,120

**In-Kind Donations:** \$327,400

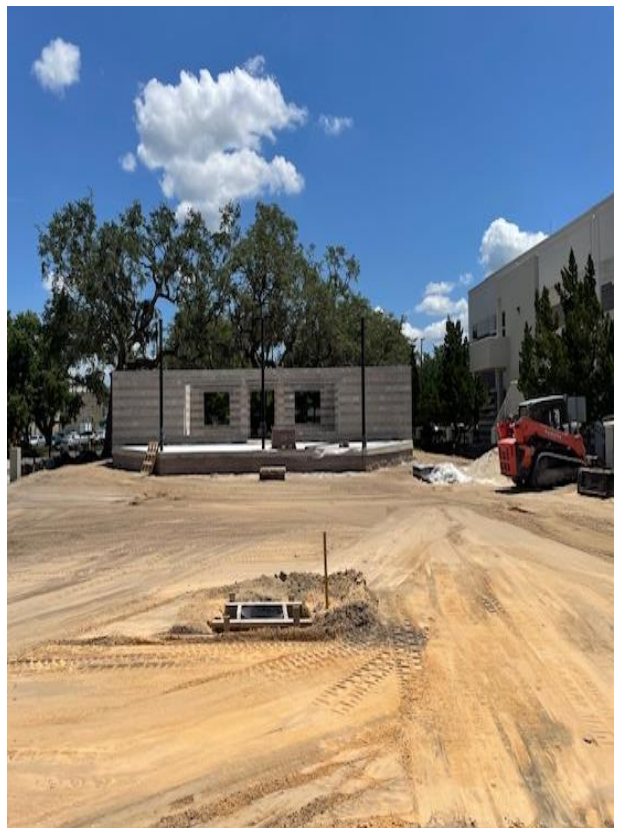
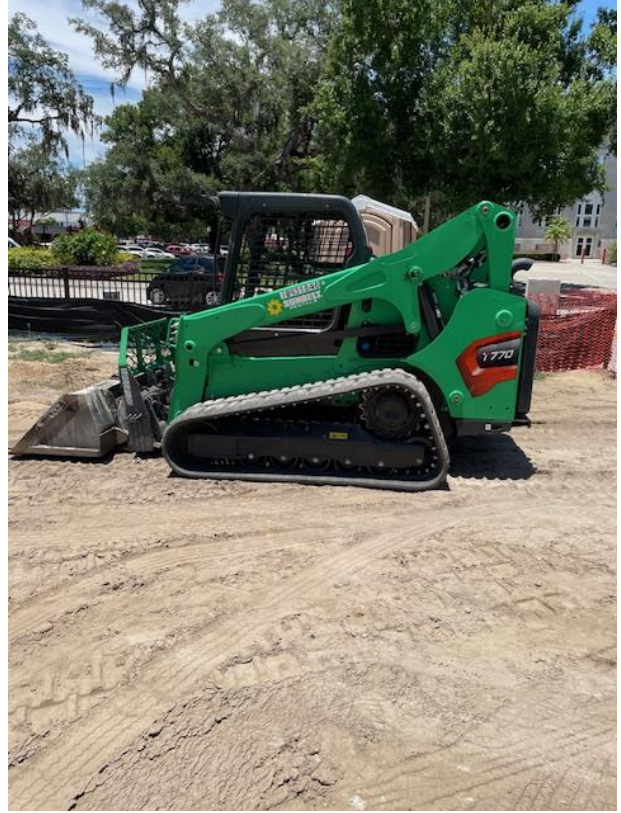
These pictures show the interior of the star with the American flagpole footer (it is BIG), Heartland Exterminating's truck, the concrete pour of the floor and deck, and the framing of the sidewalk around the memorial star.



These pictures show the filled memorial star with the drainage system, the beginning of the blockwork by Gettle & Associates, and the progress of the blockwork. Note that the alternating block pattern is intended to pay homage to the old Girl Scout log cabin that stood on this site for nearly 100 years.



These pictures show continued progress, a Bobcat donated by Sunbelt Rentals for our use during the project, the placement of the LAST block, and a view from Commerce Street of the finished blockwork.

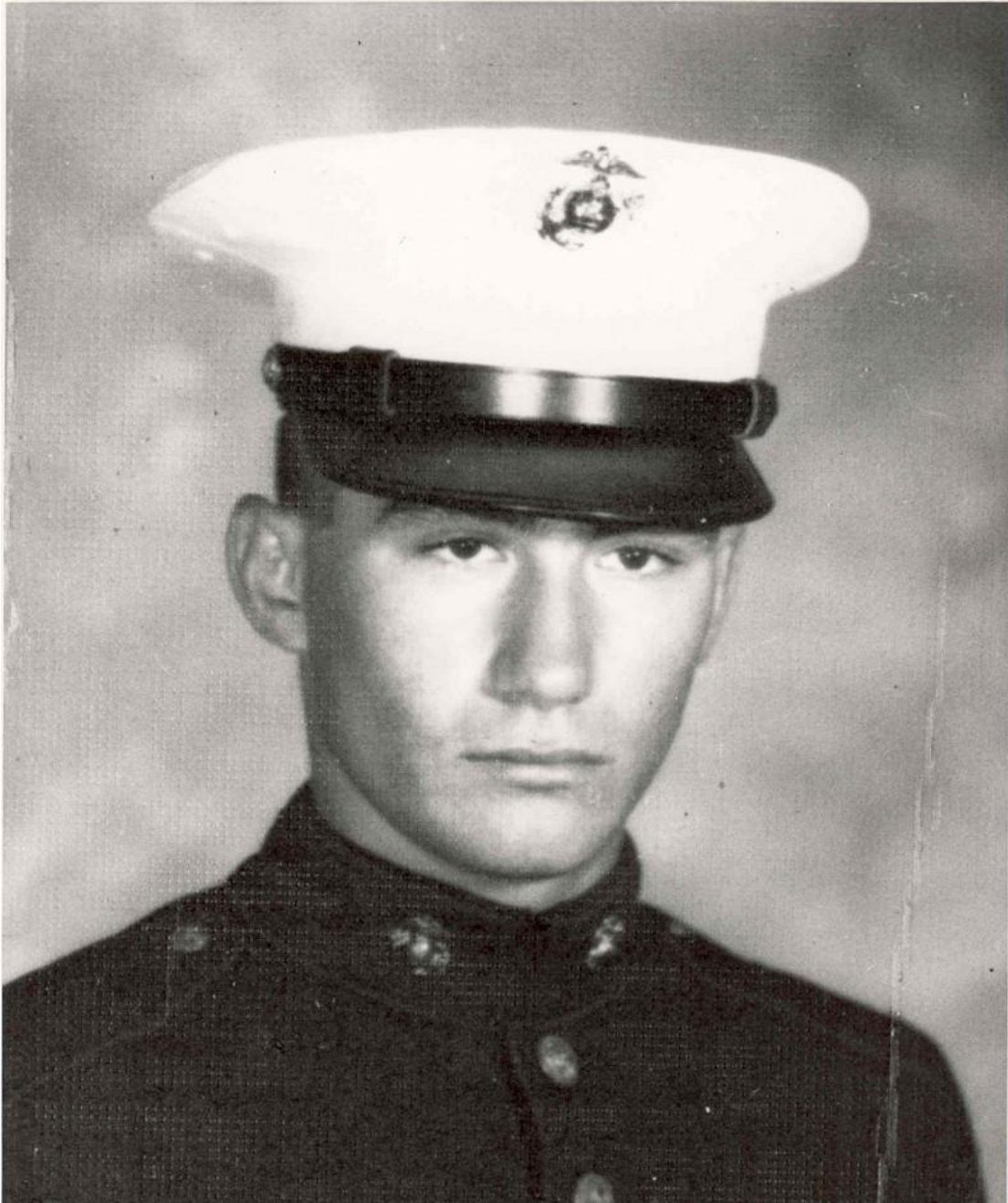


Hero of the Month

# **Bruce Wayne Carter**

Private First Class, U.S. Marine Corps

Jacksonville, FL



# Citation

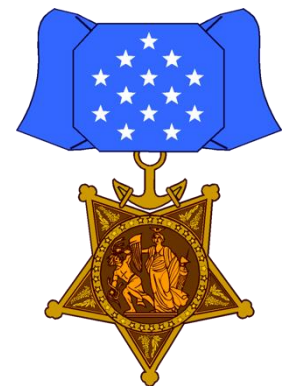
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as grenadier with Company H in connection with combat operations against the enemy. Pfc. Carter's unit was maneuvering against the enemy during Operation Idaho Canyon and came under a heavy volume of fire from a numerically superior hostile force. The lead element soon became separated from the main body of the squad by a brush fire. Pfc. Carter and his fellow marines were pinned down by vicious crossfire when, with complete disregard for his safety, he stood in full view of the North Vietnamese Army soldiers to deliver a devastating volume of fire at their positions. The accuracy and aggressiveness of his attack caused several enemy casualties and forced the remainder of the soldiers to retreat from the immediate area. Shouting directions to the marines around him, Pfc. Carter then commenced leading them from the path of the rapidly approaching brush fire when he observed a hostile grenade land between him and his companions. Fully aware of the probable consequences of his action but determined to protect the men following him, he unhesitatingly threw himself over the grenade, absorbing the full effects of its detonation with his body. Pfc. Carter's indomitable courage, inspiring initiative, and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

*Conflict: Vietnam War*

*Location of Action: Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam*

*Date of Action: August 7, 1969*

*MOH Awarded Posthumously: September 9, 1971*



Buried at the **Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA**  
(Reinterred from **Vista Memorial Gardens, Hialeah, FL**),



## 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](http://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

## 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  
Duke Energy Foundation

### • **Bronze Level**

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

## • **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

## **In-Kind Sponsors**

### • **Platinum Level**

Highlands County (\$50K)  
North American Fence Contractor's Assn.

### • **Gold Level**

Buddy Hopson (\$25K)

### • **Silver Level**

Anderson Windows  
Marmer Construction (est.)  
Griffin's Carpet Mart (est.)  
Quality Roofing

### • **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)  
Richard Siver  
Red E Equipment Services  
Gadd & Associates, LLC  
Sunbelt Rentals  
Heartland Exterminating

### • **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 on donations and fund

raising. Our staff is all volunteer. But we do have administrative and operational expenses 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. 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.



## **Links**

- The Florida Medal of Honor Memorial [www.flmohm.org](http://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 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.**

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Facebook: [FLMOHMemorial](https://www.facebook.com/FLMOHMemorial)

X: [FLMOHM](https://twitter.com/FLMOHM)