



# The Sentinel



The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.  
Issue 10– November 2023

## Chairman’s Message

We have the completed topographic survey thanks to our latest in-kind sponsor, SGIS Surveying. We have passed this to our civil engineering surveyor and those drawings are a *whisker* away from completion as of this writing. With those completed, we will be able to provide them to the City of Sebring. They were the only documents lacking for the building permits to proceed. Stand by!

The team recently set up the pop-up tent at two events: Veterans Day on Fireman’s Field and the Garden Show at the Agricultural Center. Both were great opportunities to get the word out as well as take in small donations from the public. Getting the word out is key to our efforts. I appreciate the various teammates who helped set up or staff the booth. I also had the opportunity to speak to the Republican Party of Highlands County as well as the Sebring Chamber of Commerce. I am happy to say that Down and Dirty janitorial services offered to do our future housecleaning at no charge for life. What a great contribution that will save us so much over the years!

I also spoke to the Tanglewood Veterans Association about our project, and they donated \$1,000 to our cause. Another speaking engagement at the Lake Placid Noon Rotary Club resulted in a \$500 donation. These all help us get across the finish line and are greatly appreciated.

The continued efforts of our team, along with the great support we have received from the community in cash donations, in-kind services, materials, and labor all go into the mix to make the project a reality. We cannot say enough to thank everyone who has reached out to support our efforts.

Our guiding principles are to honor the twenty-four true heroes—eighteen of whom

got it the “hard way,” and to educate our youth on the cost of freedom. We will begin to achieve that end by opening this coming summer. We’ll see you there!

## **Thank you.**

Sincerely,  
Michael R. Borders  
Chairman



## Calendar of Events

### **November 2023:**

Site Prep/Design On-going

### **December 2023:**

Memorial Build Begins

### **December 2023:**

Visitors Center Build Begins

### **Spring 2024:**

Work Complete

### **Summer 2024:**

Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Opening



## Funding Status

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

**Private Donations:** \$56,553

**In-Kind Donations:** \$298,400

We participated in the Veterans Day activities at Fireman's Field, and were able to participate in the parade through downtown Sebring. Here is Mike in his car passing by the corner of the site.



Mike and Marie Milia staffed the pop-up tent at the Garden Show activity at the Agricultural Center in Sebring on 18 November. Mark Milia joined us later. A great opportunity to get the word out and take in some small donations.



Hero of the Month

# David McCampbell

Commander, U.S. Navy

West Palm Beach, FL



# Citation

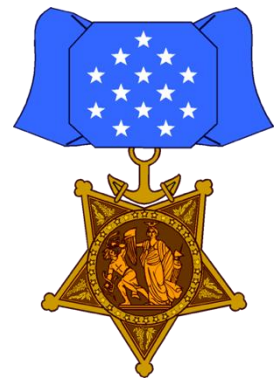
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commander, Air Group Fifteen, during combat against enemy Japanese aerial forces in the First and Second Battles of the Philippine Sea. An inspiring leader, fighting boldly in the face of terrific odds, Commander McCampbell led his fighter planes against a force of eighty Japanese carrier-based aircraft bearing down on our Fleet on June 19, 1944. Striking fiercely in valiant defense of our surface force, he personally destroyed seven hostile planes during this single engagement in which the outnumbering attack force was utterly routed and virtually annihilated. During a major Fleet engagement with the enemy on October 24, Commander McCampbell, assisted by but one plane, intercepted and daringly attacked a formation of sixty hostile land-based craft approaching our forces. Fighting desperately but with superb skill against such overwhelming airpower, he shot down nine Japanese planes and, completely disorganizing the enemy group, forced the remainder to abandon the attack before a single aircraft could reach the Fleet. His great personal valor and indomitable spirit of aggression under extremely perilous combat conditions reflect the highest credit upon Commander McCampbell and the United States Naval Service.

*Conflict: **World War II***

*Location of Action: **Battle of the Philippine Sea &  
Battle of Leyte Gulf, Philippine  
Islands***

*Date of Action: **October 24 – 25, 1944***

*MOH Awarded: **January 10, 1945***



## Extraordinary Facts

David McCampbell is the United States Navy's all-time leading flying ace (called *Ace of the Aces*) and top F6F Hellcat ace with a total of 34 aerial victories. He was the third-highest American scoring ace of World War II and the highest-scoring American ace to survive the war. He also set a United States single mission aerial combat record by shooting down nine enemy planes in one mission, on October 24, 1944, at the beginning of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, in the Philippines.



### **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.

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 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 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  
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



### **How You Can Help**

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



## **Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.**

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