



The Sentinel



The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 8- September 2023

Chairman's Message

Things continue to progress for our project. All plans have been submitted to the City of Sebring for the needed building permits. This is due largely to the great efforts of our friends at Marmer Construction. Much is happening behind the scenes to get our ducks in a row so that we can begin actual construction. We expect to pour concrete in October. Is this exciting or what?!!

Our interior decorating committee met twice with Kelly Griffin Cosgrave to go over details for the flooring, the paint colors, and more. Kudos for their dedicated efforts. Due to Mark and Marie Milia's efforts, we met with the leadership of Home Depot and they will be making major contributions in materials and labor, primarily in the landscaping, but in other areas as well.

Don also worked with Quality Roofing of Sebring to design and detail the metal roof that we will have. And major news there - Quality Roofing will donate all materials and labor for...wait for it, FREE!! We really thank them for their support.

We also met with the Fred Jahna family at Jahna Concrete. He and his brother David are working the details with Don for our concrete requirements. All our concrete will come from Jahna.

I also want to thank Fort Meade Baptist Church for its generous donation of \$430 and give an additional shout out to the Avon Park Noon Rotary Club for its generous donation of \$1,000. These donations help us cover expenses for those goods and services that we are not allowed to use State of Florida monies. THANKS SO MUCH!!

Finally, we had the opportunity to update the Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency

(CRA) and later met with the Executive Director, Kristie Vazquez to explore ways that the CRA can support our project. More to follow on that process and effort.

We are so grateful for the support from our partners, new and old. We would not be able to make this happen without that support.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman



Calendar of Events

September 2023:

Site Prep/Design On-going

Oct 2023:

Memorial Build Begins

October 2023:

Visitors Center Build Begins

1 March 2024:

Work Complete

23 March 2024:

Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Opening



Funding Status

Primary Source: \$250,000 State of Florida

Private Donations: \$50,929

In-Kind Donations: \$99,400

Don Laycock (L) and Mike Borders (R) receiving a donation of \$1000 from Keith Bentley (C), president of the Avon Park Noon Rotary Club



Hero of the Month

Francis Edward Ormsbee, Jr.

Chief Machinist's Mate, U.S. Navy

Pensacola, FL



Citation

For extraordinary heroism while attached to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., 25 September 1918. While flying with Ens. J.A. Jova, Ormsbee saw a plane go into a tailspin and crash about three-quarters of a mile to the right. Having landed nearby, Ormsbee lost no time in going overboard and made for the wreck, which was all under water except the two wing tips. He succeeded in partially extricating the gunner so that his head was out of the water, and held him in this position until the speedboat arrived. Ormsbee then made a number of desperate attempts to rescue the pilot, diving into the midst of the tangled wreckage although cut about the hands, but was too late to save his life.

*Conflict: **World War I***

*Location of Action: **Pensacola, Florida***

*Date of Action: **September 25, 1918***

*MOH Awarded: **Date Unknown***



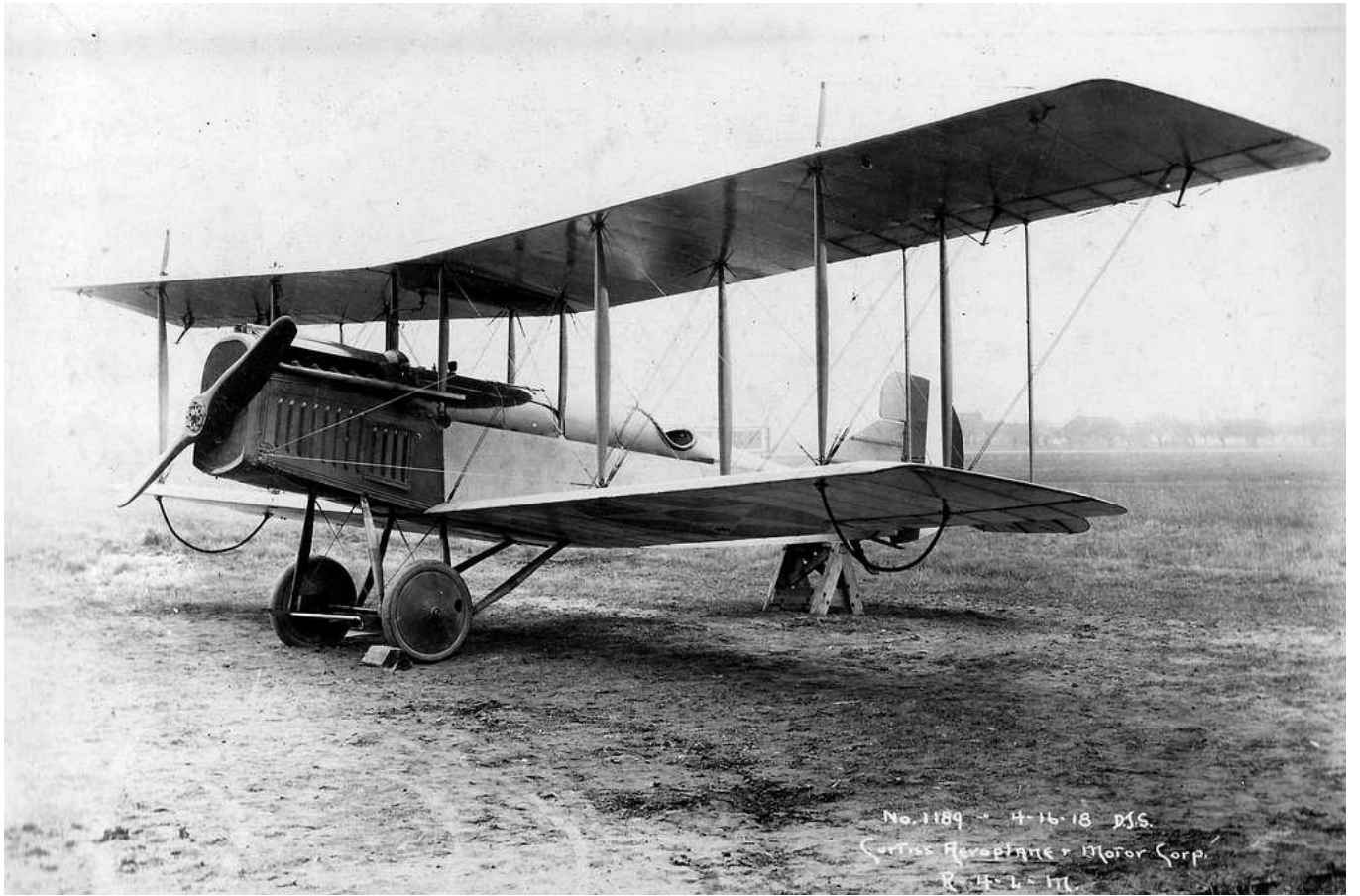
AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY: No

BORN: April 30, 1892, Providence, RI

DIED: October 24, 1936, Ardmore, OK

BURIED: St. Francis Cemetery, Pawtucket, RI

CONNECTION TO FLORIDA: Entered the service in Pensacola, 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/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 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

• **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

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

• **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)
Sunset Drafting (\$1,000)

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.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
- 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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