



The Sentinel



The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 1 – February 2023

Chairman’s Message

This is a very exciting time for the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial project. The City of Sebring granted us a prime piece of property in the heart of the downtown, at the corner of Eucalyptus and Commerce streets. The property was formerly the site of the “Stepping Stones” Girl Scout cabin. During the “deed transfer” ceremony, Mayor John Shoop handed the deed to me. A legal requirement caused us to pay the city \$10 for the property, valued at over \$150,000. The mayor generously handed me a \$10-dollar bill to cover the cost!

From there we continued to work with the Florida Department of Education to process the \$250,000 appropriation that was sponsored by our Florida Representative Kaylee Tuck. On the morning of our “golden shovel” groundbreaking ceremony, the 29th of November, we received our first check for \$62,500. That was the real green light to begin preparing the property.

Prior to the demolition of the Girl Scout Cabin and picnic pavilion, we worked with Habitat for Humanity who were able to take a dozen windows, the HVAC system, and more for their use. We then proceeded to strip out items that we could use, such as the flooring, bricks from the hearth, and more. Trees had to be cut or trimmed, silt barriers erected, and a thousand tasks completed prior to the demolition in mid-February.

We are on the way with plans of all description, from the landscaping to how the sign will look—a Boy Scout Eagle project. We look to a 25th of March 2024 grand opening ceremony. Our monument and visitors center will help us honor the brave 24 Medal of Honor recipients from the state of Florida. We will inform and educate our fellow citizens, especially our youth, on the cost of freedom and ensure that they understand

what valor, sacrifice, and courage mean. 18 of the 24 received the Medal of Honor posthumously, making the ultimate sacrifice—*above and beyond the call of duty*.

Two final points: First, many, many thanks to our multiple sponsors and donors. We wouldn’t get across the finish line without them. Second, to highlight Black History Month, our hero of the month is Army Sergeant First Class Alwyn Cashe, the most recent Florida recipient. See his photo and citation on page 7.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman



Calendar of Events

25 March 2022:

Deed Transfer Ceremony

29 November 2022:

Groundbreaking Ceremony

1 December 2022:

Site Prep Begins

13-14 February 2023:

Demolition of Existing Structures

25 March 2024:

Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Opening



Funding Status

Primary Source: \$250,000 State of Florida

Private Donations: \$36,801





Our Mission

To construct and maintain a perpetual memorial and museum 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 Museum
- 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
- **Brass Level**
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Publix Supermarkets Incorporated
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The Battle of the Bands Incorporated
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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

In-Kind Sponsors

• **Platinum Level**

Highlands County

• **Silver Level**

Buddy Hopson

• **Bronze Level**

Crosson & Payne Tree & Land Service
Stidham’s Rentals

• **Brass Level**

Junctions--Selvin Walker
Liberty Flagpoles

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
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- 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
- 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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Recent Events and Activities

Deed Transfer Ceremony on 25 March 2022



Left to Right: Mike Borders, Brilyn Sell, Dana Orr, Kaylee Tuck, Raymond McIntyre



Chairman Mike Borders addresses the crowd



The crowd looks on as Chairman Mike Borders speaks



Sebring Mayor John Shoop speaks to the assembly



Attendees look at the project design



Representative Kaylee Tuck addresses the attendees

Groundbreaking Ceremony on 29 November 2022



A view of the gold shovels



VIPs breaking ground



Heartland Christian Academy Color Guard



Chairman Mike Borders speaks to the attendees



Representative Kaylee Tuck speaks to the crowd



Sebring Mayor John Shoop addresses the assembly

Cutting Trees and "Stripping" the Old Girl Scouting Cabin



Alwyn Crendall Cashe

Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army
Oviedo, FL

Citation

Sergeant First Class Alwyn C. Cashe distinguished himself by acts of gallantry above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Platoon Sergeant with Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division in Salah Ad Din Province, Iraq, on October 17th, 2005. While on a nighttime mounted patrol near an enemy-laden village, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle which Sergeant First Class Cashe was commanding was attacked by enemy small-arms fire and an improvised explosive device, which disabled the vehicle and engulfed it in flames. After extracting himself from the vehicle, Sergeant First Class Cashe set about extracting the driver, who was trapped in the vehicle. After opening the driver's hatch, Sergeant First Class Cashe and a fellow soldier extracted the driver, who was engulfed in the flames. During the course of extinguishing the flames on the driver and extracting him from the vehicle, Sergeant First Class Cashe's fuel-soaked uniform, ignited and caused severe burns to his body. Ignoring his painful wounds, Sergeant First Class Cashe then moved to the rear of the vehicle to continue in aiding his fellow soldiers who were trapped in the troop compartment. At this time, the enemy noted his movements and began to direct their fire on his position. When another element of the company engaged the enemy, Sergeant First Class Cashe seized the opportunity and moved into the open troop door and aided four of his soldiers in escaping the burning vehicle. Having extracted the four soldiers, Sergeant First Class Cashe noticed two other soldiers had not been accounted for and again he entered the [vehicle] to retrieve them. At this time, reinforcements arrived to further suppress the enemy and establish a Casualty Collection Point. Despite the severe second-and third-degree burns covering the majority of his body, Sergeant First Class Cashe persevered through the pain to encourage his fellow soldiers and ensure they received needed medical care. When medical evacuation helicopters began to arrive, Sergeant First Class Cashe selflessly refused evacuation until all of the other wounded soldiers were evacuated first. Sergeant First Class Cashe's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty were keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



Conflict: War on Terrorism (Iraq)

Location of Action: Salah Ad Bin Province, Iraq

Date of Action: October 17, 2005

MOH Awarded Posthumously: December 16, 2021





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