



The Sentinel

The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 19 – August 2024



Chairman's Message

At our July Board of Directors meeting, we made the difficult, but right decision to delay our formal dedication ceremony until 12 December. This was for a variety of reasons, most of which were simply beyond our control. Unanticipated delays in a couple of areas pushed our schedule back. But there is goodness in the delay: we will still have Mr. Robert R. Ingram, the sole living Florida recipient as the keynote speaker. We will be at 100% of project completion. The weather will be cooler. So, we are still excited and moving forward with our planning for what promises to be a fantastic ceremony. Stay tuned!!

More fantastic progress in August. The insulation is in, the electrical and HVAC is roughed in, the dry wall is up and painted, the stage steps are in, all six flag poles are in, exterior painting and gutters are done, the irrigation system is in, plants and mulch are in, and all but one small section of sidewalk is poured. And much, much more! Check out the photos later in the newsletter to see what wonderful progress we are making. As we move into September, there remains much to do. But we are really on the home stretch now. You can see progress everywhere you look in all aspects of the project. If you are in town, drop by and take a look.

Make sure to mark your calendar for December the 12th at 10:00 AM.

Our dedication ceremony will feature as keynote speaker Mr. Robert R. Ingram, the only living Florida recipient of the Medal of Honor. This is something you don't want to miss!

Thanks to you all for your continued support and encouragement!

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman



Calendar of Events

September 2024:

Construction On-going

September/October 2024:

Construction Complete

December 12th, 2024, 10:00 AM:

Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Opening



Funding Status

State of Florida: \$250,000

Highlands County: \$93,000

Sebring CRA: \$20,000

Duke Energy: \$20,000

Private Donations: \$85,689

In-Kind Donations: \$365,459

These pictures show the Florida State Tree: the Cabbage Palm, the delivery of mulch from Scott's Miracle Gro (Palmdale) by Bowman Steel, and the beautiful black mulch in the gardens, perfectly accenting the fence and fence post caps.



These pictures show plastering of the memorial star and drywall work by Gourley Plastering, as well as exterior and interior painting by members of Bernie's House Painting team.



These pictures show a member of Jeff Fultz' A/C team putting in A/C vents, the insulation on the underside of the roof, and members of the Sabre Electric team working on roughing in the wiring and main panel.



These pictures show the left side of the entry sidewalk to the Visitors Center; the concrete was provided by Jahna and the concrete work was done by TOMO. It also shows the interior doors put in by Danny Parker's team (they will be painted black), and work by Russell McIntyre's team from Premier Irrigation & Water Treatment to install the sprinkler system in the gardens.



Hero of the Month

Robert Miller McTureous, Jr.

Private, U.S. Marine Corps

Altoona, FL



Citation

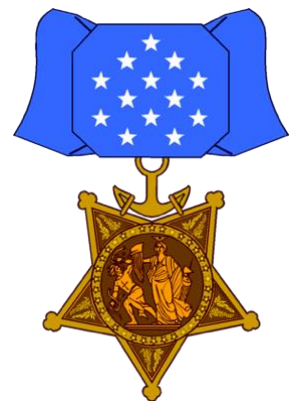
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 3d Battalion, 29th Marines, 6th Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa in the Ryukyu Chain, 7 June 1945. Alert and ready for any hostile counteraction following his company's seizure of an important hill objective, Pvt. McTureous was quick to observe the plight of company stretcher bearers who were suddenly assailed by slashing machine-gun fire as they attempted to evacuate wounded at the rear of the newly won position. Determined to prevent further casualties, he quickly filled his jacket with hand grenades and charged the enemy-occupied caves from which the concentrated barrage was emanating. Coolly disregarding all personal danger as he waged his furious one-man assault, he smashed grenades into the cave entrances, thereby diverting the heaviest fire from the stretcher bearers to his own person and, resolutely returning to his own lines under a blanketing hail of rifle and machine-gun fire to replenish his supply of grenades, dauntlessly continued his systematic reduction of Japanese strength until he himself sustained serious wounds after silencing a large number of the hostile guns. Aware of his own critical condition and unwilling to further endanger the lives of his comrades, he stoically crawled a distance of 200 yards to a sheltered position within friendly lines before calling for aid. By his fearless initiative and bold tactics, Pvt. McTureous had succeeded in neutralizing the enemy fire, killing six Japanese troops, and effectively disorganizing the remainder of the savagely defended garrison. His outstanding valor and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice during a critical stage of operations reflect the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service.

*Conflict: **World War II***

*Location of Action: **Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands***

*Date of Action: **June 7, 1945***

*MOH Awarded Posthumously: **August 7, 1946***





Our Mission

To honor and preserve the legacy of Florida Medal of Honor recipients through education, leadership, and inspiring displays, ensuring their courage and sacrifice are never forgotten.

Our Vision

To inspire all generations to embody the six character traits of Medal of Honor recipients, fostering a deeper appreciation and commitment to the values of courage, sacrifice, and patriotism.

Our Goals

- Construct the Memorial and Visitors 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

Additional funds and help are needed to complete the construction, outfitting, and maintenance of this unique and special facility.

Volunteer

- Be a museum docent
- Assist with the K-12 educational outreach program.

Donations

Tax-deductible donations accepted:

- Online – 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

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
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
Jim and Linda Sacco
Pipal Realty Group (Sara Pipal)
Doug and Patricia Tait
Mike Oakley

- **Founding Members**

Haywood Taylor
Alvin W. Pals
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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
Gayle Parker/Melissa Middleton
Eric Martinez & Heidi Fonrondona

In-Kind Sponsors

- **Platinum Level**

Highlands County
North American Fence Contractor's Assn.

- **Gold Level**

Buddy Hopson

- **Silver Level**

Andersen Windows
Marmer Construction (est.)
Griffin's Carpet Mart (est.)
Quality Roofing
Sabre Electric (est.)
Premier Irrigation (est.)
Jeff Fultz A/C Inc.

- **Bronze Level**

Crosson & Payne Tree & Land Service
Stidham's Rentals
Rick Perry
Scott's Miracle Gro (est.)
Frames and Images

- **Brass Level**

Sunset Drafting
SGIS Surveying-Will Pyle
Chem-Crete-Larry Mroz
SGIS Surveying
Richard Siver
Red E Equipment Services
Gadd & Associates, LLC
Sunbelt Rentals
Heartland Exterminating
LOCINOX
Heartland Crane
K & M Site Services (est.)
SOS Septic & Sewer (est.)
Gettle & Associates (est.)
Excavation Point
Bernie's House Painting (est.)

- **Founders' Level**

Junctions-Selvin Walker
Liberty Flagpoles
Blue Steel Fabrication, LLC
Central Florida Insulation

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. We have expenses such as property/liability insurance, power, water, sewage, IT/telecom, maintenance costs, etc. 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 MOH Memorial flmohm.org
- Congressional MOH Society cmohs.org
- National MOH Museum mohmuseum.org
- Medal of Honor: Stories of Courage podcasts



Board of Directors & Other Volunteers

Chairman: Michael R. Borders

Vice Chairman: C. Raymond McIntyre

Junior Vice Chairman: Byron Oakley

Treasurer: Harry Marsh

Comptroller: Erik Christensen

Construction Project Mgr.: Donald Laycock

Secretary/Asst. Const. Project Mgr.: Judy Laycock

Marketing: Moddie Desselle

Marketing: Heather Oakley

IT: Shawn Nickel

Chaplain: Denise Williams

Master Gardeners: 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."



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