



The Sentinel



The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 7 - August 2023

Chairman's Message

It has been quite a busy month working on the details of the design with our friends at Marmer Construction, led by Marty Wohl. Willem Badenhorst and Krystal Ramsey are amazing folks—professional and diligent. They will get things moving within a couple of weeks and submit all plans to the City of Sebring so we can get our building permits and start construction. It is very exciting to say the least!

We can also announce that Graybar Electric is not only helping with the lighting design requirements, but they have also worked to donate all the lights that will go inside the Visitors Center. And they continue to work to be able to donate all cable, wiring, outlets, etc. This will represent a major cost savings to us.

I also want to give a shout out to Anderson Windows. They have given us the entire window package at half the retail price. Instead of \$33K we are getting the windows for \$18.6K, and they are giving us an additional \$3K donation. This is another huge savings for us.

Finally, our newest partner and supporter is Griffin's Carpet Mart of Sebring. They are going to provide all of the flooring for the Visitors Center along with the installation at no cost to us. WOW! Yet another huge savings. We met with Tom Griffin and his sister Kelly Griffin Cosgrave on the 23rd of August to discuss the many aspects of the interior of the building. Kelly is an interior decoration guru and will help our "decorating committee" with all those aspects. Again, this represents a substantial savings for us.

I have made presentations at the American Legion Post 25 in Lake Placid, and they are doing a fund-raiser for us. On the 6th of September, I will be speaking to the Avon

Park Noon Rotary Club. They have expressed an interest in helping us and we sure can use it.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman



Calendar of Events

August 2023:

Site Prep/Design On-going

Oct 2023:

Memorial Build Begins

October 2023:

Visitors Center Build Begins

1 March 2024:

Work Complete

25 March 2024:

Ribbon-Cutting and Grand Opening



Funding Status

Primary Source: \$250,000 State of Florida

Private Donations: \$49,400

In-Kind Donations: \$99,400

Florida Medal of Honor Visitors Center

Preliminary DRAFT – Subject to Change



FLORIDA MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL

442 SOUTH EUCALYPTUS STREET, SEBRING, FL 33870



**ULTIMATE DESIGN WIND SPEEDS
(Vult) FOR CATEGORY II BUILDINGS**

DESIGN PARAMETERS	
BUILDING CODE	IRC 2020
DESIGN WIND SPEED (ULTIMATE)	139 MPH
RISK CATEGORY	II
PROPOSED HEIGHT	28' PSF
CONSTRUCTION TYPE	0
ENCLOSURE CLASS	ENCLOSURE 20 PSF
WINDBORNE DEBRIS REGION	NO

DESIGN PARAMETERS	
INTERNAL PRESSURE COEFFICIENT	+/- .18 PSF
MEAN ROOF HEIGHT	14'-0"
TOP CHORD LIFE LOAD	20 PSF
BOTTOM CHORD LIFE LOAD	10 PSF
TOP CHORD DEAD LOAD	10 PSF
BOTTOM CHORD DEAD LOAD	10 PSF

DRAWING SCHEDULE	
SHEET DATE	DESCRIPTION
0-1 10/22/2023	COVER SHEET
1-1 10/22/2023	SET PLAN
2-1 10/22/2023	FOUNDATION PLAN
3-1 10/22/2023	FOUNDATION PLAN
4-1 10/22/2023	FRAMING PLAN
5-1 10/22/2023	ELECTRICAL, LIFE SAFETY
6-1 10/22/2023	FOUNDATION PLAN
7-1 10/22/2023	MANDATORY PLAN
8-1 10/22/2023	STRUCTURAL DETAILS

THIS BUILDING STRUCTURE HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2020 FLORIDA BUILDING CODE. THE DESIGN STRUCTURAL ENGINEER HAS TAKEN THE RESPONSIBLE CHARGE OF RECORDING A CHECK. THE ENGINEER'S PROFESSIONAL OPINION IS LIMITED TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED. THE ENGINEER DOES NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION OR FOR ANY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT. THE ENGINEER'S PROFESSIONAL OPINION IS LIMITED TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED. THE ENGINEER DOES NOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY OTHER INFORMATION OR FOR ANY OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT.

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MARIMER CONSTRUCTION
3970
1378
66
2814
AIR CONDITIONED
TOTAL

FLORIDA MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL - VISITORS CENTER
442 SOUTH EUCALYPTUS STREET, SEBRING, FL 33870

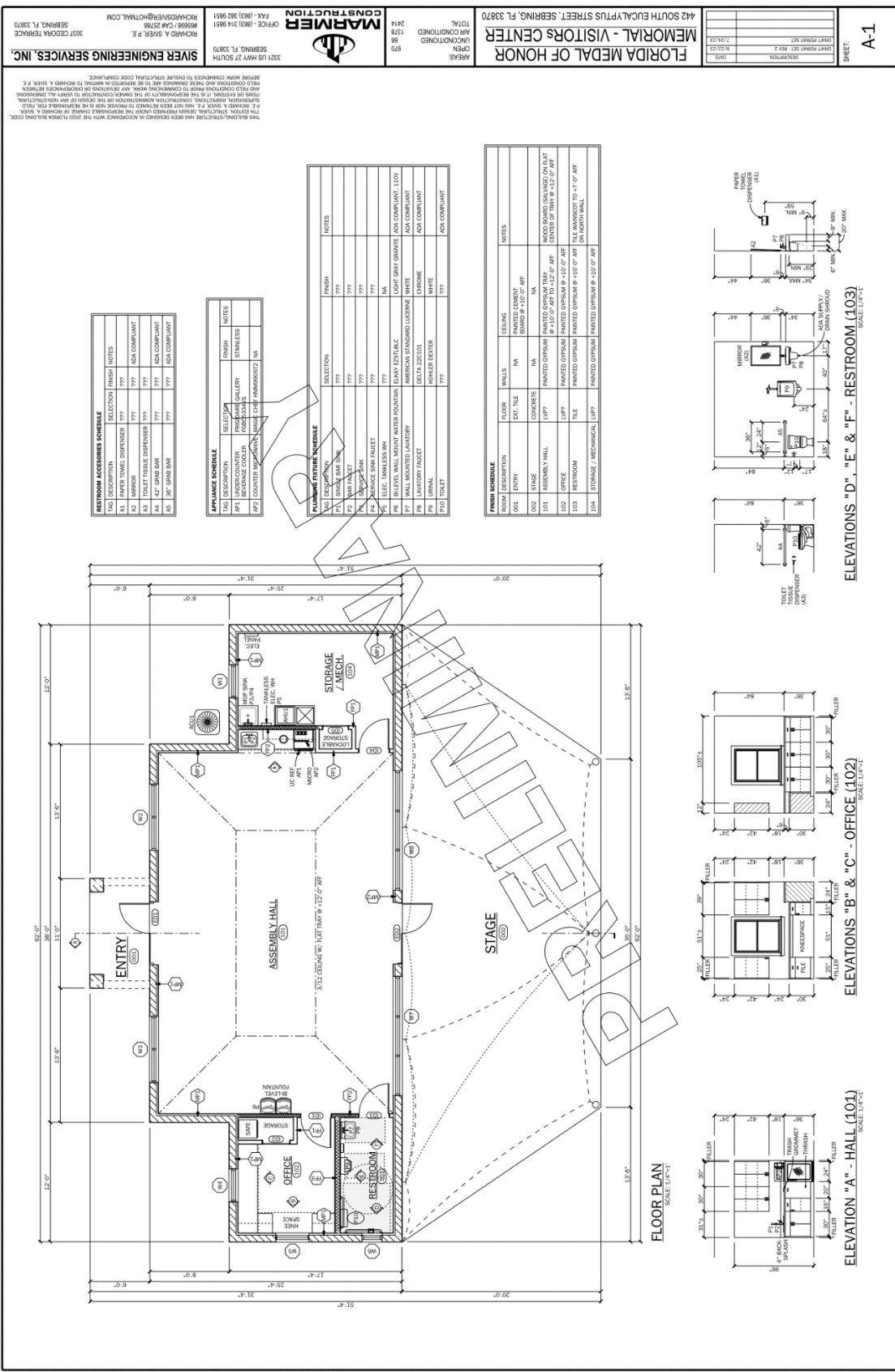
FLORIDA MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL - VISITORS CENTER
442 SOUTH EUCALYPTUS STREET, SEBRING, FL 33870

G-1

DATE: 10/22/23
DRAWN BY: [blank]
CHECKED BY: [blank]
APPROVED BY: [blank]

Florida Medal of Honor Visitors Center

Preliminary DRAFT – Subject to Change



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3027 CEDARA TERRACE
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MARMER CONSTRUCTION
 2414
 859
 56
 UNCONDITIONED
 TOTAL
 970
 442 SOUTH EUCALYPTUS STREET, SEBRING, FL 33870

FLORIDA MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL - VISITORS CENTER

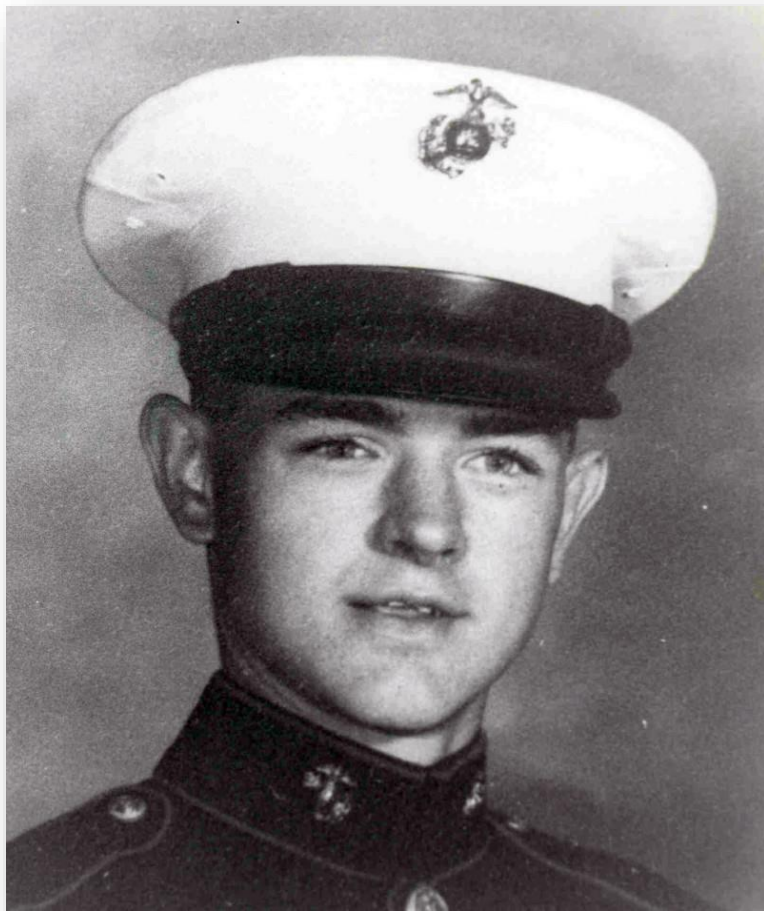
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	ISSUED FOR PERMIT SET	7/24/23
2	ISSUED FOR PERMIT SET	7/24/23

Hero of the Month

Larry Eugene Smedley

Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps

Orlando, FL



Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a squad leader with Company D, in connection with operations against the enemy. On the evenings of 20 and 21 December 1967, Cpl. Smedley led his six-man squad

to an ambush site at the mouth of Happy Valley, near Phouc Ninh (2) in Quang Nam Province. Later that night an estimated 100 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army regulars, carrying 122-mm rocket launchers and mortars, were observed moving toward Hill 41. Realizing this was a significant enemy move to launch an attack on the vital Da Nang complex, Cpl. Smedley immediately took sound and courageous action to stop the enemy threat. After he radioed for a reaction force, he skillfully maneuvered his men to a more advantageous position and led an attack on the numerically superior enemy force. A heavy volume of fire from an enemy machine-gun positioned on the left flank of the squad inflicted several casualties on Cpl. Smedley's unit. Simultaneously, an enemy rifle grenade exploded nearby, wounding him in the right foot and knocking him to the ground. Cpl. Smedley disregarded this serious injury and valiantly struggled to his feet, shouting words of encouragement to his men. He fearlessly led a charge against the enemy machine-gun emplacement, firing his rifle and throwing grenades, until he was again struck by enemy fire and knocked to the ground. Gravely wounded and weak from loss of blood, he rose and commenced a one-man assault against the enemy position. Although his aggressive and singlehanded attack resulted in the destruction of the machine gun, he was struck in the chest by enemy fire and fell mortally wounded. Cpl. Smedley's inspiring and courageous actions, bold initiative, and selfless devotion to duty in the face of certain death were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country

Conflict: Vietnam War

Location of Action: At the Mouth of Happy Valley, near Phouc Ninh (2), Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam

Date of Action: December 20-21, 1967

MOH Awarded Posthumously: June 20, 1969

AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY: Yes

PRESENTATION DATE & DETAILS: June 20, 1969 at the White House,
presented by President Richard M. Nixon to
his family

BORN: March 4, 1949, Front Royal, Virginia

DIED: December 21, 1967, Republic of Vietnam

BURIED: Arlington National Cemetery (MH) (31-6486)

CONNECTION TO FLORIDA: Entered the service in Orlando, Florida



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 - Automated Petroleum & Energy Company, 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
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

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.)
- **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
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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