



The Sentinel

The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 18 – July 2024



Chairman's Message

More fantastic progress in July. The metal roof is on, the windows are in, the gables, soffits, and trim are up. The doors are in. All the concrete on the south side of the building is poured. Four of six flag poles are in place. And much, much more. Check out the photos later in the newsletter to see what wonderful progress we are making.

This month we were fortunate to have several cash donations as well as additional "In-Kind" donations. We really have a wonderful "whole of community" effort with our project. It seems that patriotic blood flows through the veins of our supporters. They understand that as we honor the twenty-four heroes, educate our youth and inspire our fellow citizens, we are collectively making a contribution to not only our local area, but also the state of Florida and our country.

As we move into August, we are getting close to our dedication ceremony set for September 11 at 10:00 AM. But there is still much to do: sheetrock, final work on plumbing, electrical, and A/C. Also the irrigation system to get ready for all the landscaping and the last iteration of the concrete on the north side of the building. This is all on schedule, but it sure can get crowded at times with the different craftsmen doing their thing. It is truly amazing to watch it in action.

Make sure to mark your calendar for September 11 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. Read more about Mr. Ingram in the Hero of the Month section. 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

August 2024:

Construction On-going

August 2024:

Construction Complete

September 11, 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: \$85,589

In-Kind Donations: \$335,459

These pictures show the regular windows on the front of the building, as well as the installation and look of the huge windows on the stage side. All were provided by Anderson Windows at approximately a 50% discount. The doors are the same on both sides of the building, are ADA compliant, and were provided by Central Florida Glass & Mirror of Sebring—also at a 50% discount.



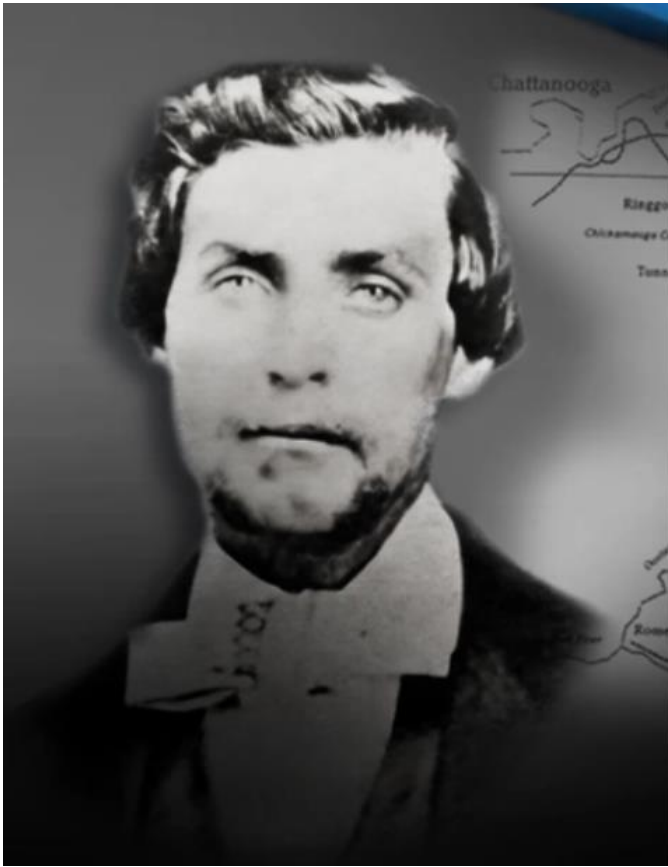
These pictures show the concrete work on the south side of the Visitors Center. The pumps were provided by RED-E Equipment, the concrete by Jahna Concrete, and the layout and detail work by TOMO Concrete. Local companies making major contributions to our project. Wet concrete—don't touch!!!!



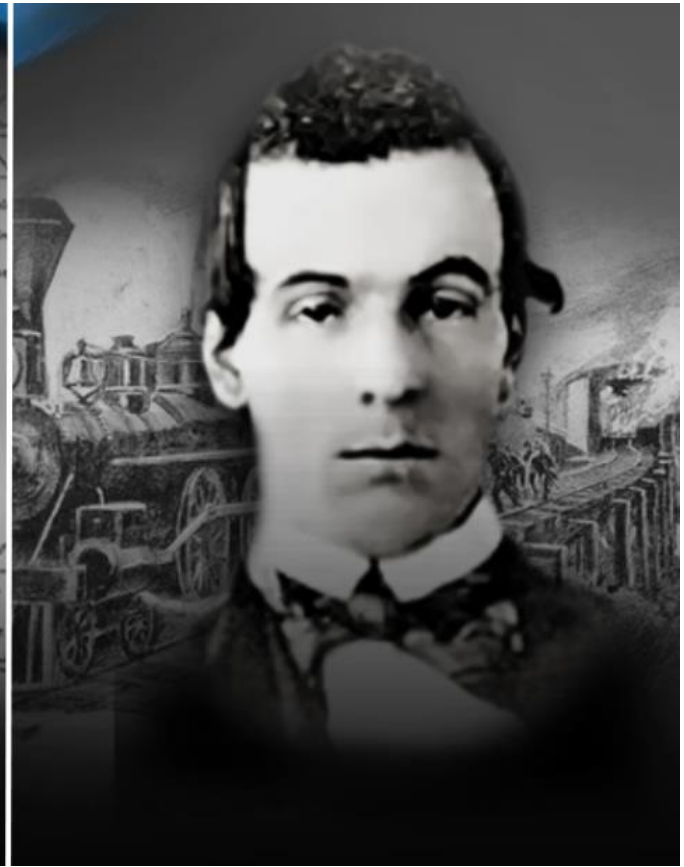
These pictures show the metal roof on the front and back of the Visitors Center. Please note that the Visitors Center front side (second picture) is just like the old Girl Scout log cabin that once stood on the site. The gables came out very pretty—they'll be painted later. And friend and volunteer Jim Kennedy (was in the USMC) helped paint fence columns and column caps.



Two New Recipients of the Medal of Honor (*not Floridians*)



Philip Shadrach



George Wilson

On July 13th, President Joseph Biden posthumously awarded Privates [Philip Shadrach](#) and [George Wilson](#) the Medal of Honor for going above and beyond the call of duty during the Civil War. Each Soldier's oldest living relative accepted the award during a ceremony at the White House. These recipients were added to six others who had been the very first Medal of Honor recipients during the Civil War. On April 5, 1862, Shadrach and Wilson, along with twenty-two other men (including two civilians), braved 200 miles through brutal terrain and weather conditions into enemy territory. Together, they captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, GA, in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta, which became known as the "Great Locomotive Chase" or "Andrews' Raid." The raid was popularized in a 1956 movie called the Great Locomotive Chase starring Fess Parker.

Hero of the Month

Robert Ronald Ingram

Hospital Corpsman Third Class, U.S. Navy
Clearwater, FL



Citation

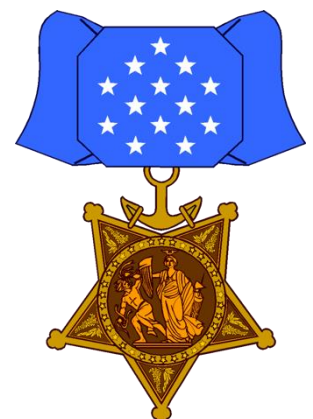
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Corpsman with Company C, First Battalion, Seventh Marines against elements of a North Vietnam Aggressor (NVA) battalion in Quang Ngai Province Republic of Vietnam on 28 March 1966. Petty Officer Ingram accompanied the point platoon as it aggressively dispatched an outpost of an NVA battalion. The momentum of the attack rolled off a ridge line down a tree covered slope to a small paddy and a village beyond. Suddenly, the village tree line exploded with an intense hail of automatic rifle fire from approximately 100 North Vietnamese regulars. In mere moments, the platoon ranks were decimated. Oblivious to the danger, Petty Officer Ingram crawled across the bullet spattered terrain to reach a downed Marine. As he administered aid, a bullet went through the palm of his hand. Calls for "CORPSMAN" echoed across the ridge. Bleeding, he edged across the fire swept landscape, collecting ammunition from the dead and administering aid to the wounded. Receiving two more wounds before realizing the third wound was life-threatening, he looked for a way off the face of the ridge, but again he heard the call for corpsman and again, he resolutely answered. Though severely wounded three times, he rendered aid to those incapable until he finally reached the right flank of the platoon. While dressing the head wound of another corpsman, he sustained his fourth bullet wound. From sixteen hundred hours until just prior to sunset, Petty Officer Ingram pushed, pulled, cajoled, and doctored his Marines. Enduring the pain from his many wounds and disregarding the probability of his demise, Petty Officer Ingram's intrepid actions saved many lives that day. By his indomitable fighting spirit, daring initiative, and unfaltering dedications to duty, Petty Officer Ingram reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

*Conflict: **Vietnam War***

*Location of Action: **Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam***

*Date of Action: **March 28, 1966***

*MOH Awarded: **July 10, 1998***





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
Moddie Desselle
Mr. & Mrs. Scardino
William Bond
Patricia Wilhelm
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**

Anderson Windows
Marmer Construction (est.)
Griffin's Carpet Mart (est.)
Quality Roofing

- **Bronze Level**

Crosson & Payne Tree & Land Service
Stidham's Rentals
Rick Perry

- **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

- **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. But we do have administrative and operational expenses 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. 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



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 1.800.435.7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State."



Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.

Website: www.flmohm.org

Mail: 7209 South George Blvd., Sebring, Florida 33875

Telephone: 863.402.8292

Email: FLMOHM@gmail.org

Facebook: FLMOHMemorial

X: FLMOHM