



# The Sentinel

The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.  
Issue 23 – December 2024



## Chairman's Message

**We DID IT!!!** At long last, we achieved our goal of conducting the dedication ceremony of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial—we are open for business!!

As you will see in the picture gallery, we conducted a first-class ceremony to commemorate the grand opening. It was our distinct honor to have with us the sole living Florida recipient, Mr. Robert R. Ingram. He was gracious, humble, and dedicated to making the ceremony even more special. We had the Sebring High School band, the honor guard from VFW Post 4300, Mrs. Becky McIntyre singing the National Anthem, and Lyndsay Naranjo singing *God Bless the USA*. Several volunteer groups helped such as Sebring High School AFJROTC, the Young Americans for Freedom, the Civil Air Patrol, the Girl Scouts, and more. The City of Sebring and County of Highlands also supported in a variety of ways such as traffic control, escort duty, and fire and EMS support. It was a wonderful demonstration of the entire community coming together to "make it happen." We had some 500 people in attendance for a beautiful ceremony. Thanks to all who contributed to making it such a wonderful event.

Sincerely,  
Michael R. Borders  
Chairman

## Special Dedication Ceremony Edition



### Calendar of Events

**December 12, 2024:**  
Dedication Ceremony

**On-going:**  
Open Tuesday—Saturday  
10:00 AM — 4:00 PM



### Funding Status

Fundraising is on-going.

**Please support us with your donation. See the "how you can help" section for more info.**

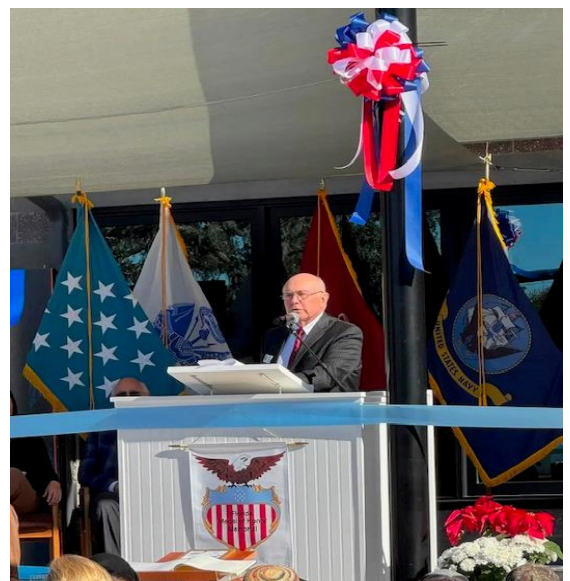
These pictures show the dumpster leaving for the last time, the removal of the second CONEX container, the re-blackening and line painting of the parking lot by the CPS crew, and the final look of the stainless steel on the monument.



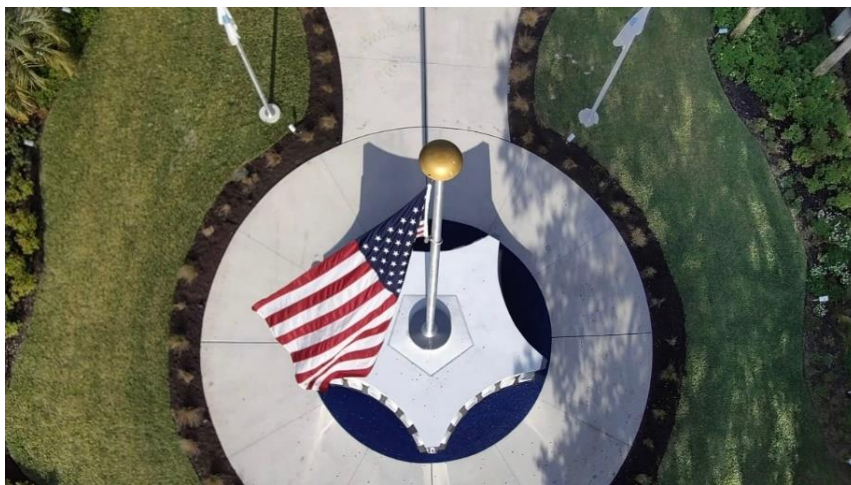
These pictures show the Tommy McGuire display case donated by Andrea Davide—a result of her excavation of Tommy McGuire’s crash site in the Philippines. Also shown is Tommy McGuire’s Medal of Honor along with other medals on loan from the Sebring Historical Society. Don is shown with Nathan who built the beautiful display case from the wood from the old Girl Scout cabin floor. Finally Mike presents Andrea Davide with our challenge coin.



Mr. Robert Ronald Ingram, Florida's only living Medal of Honor recipient poses with the entire FLMOHM, Inc. team, as well as being shown speaking to the assembled crowd. Also shown is our State Representative Kaylee Tuck—she was responsible for getting us the initial \$250,000 appropriation. Finally, Mike speaks to the crowd and reviews the scope of the project, the history, and the mission we have.



These pictures show the Sebring High School Band—they played the National Anthem. Sebring VFW Post 4300's Honor Guard presented the colors and played Taps. The crowd was estimated at 500. The Sebring Fire Department was out in force with great support. Finally, a view of the monument from above.



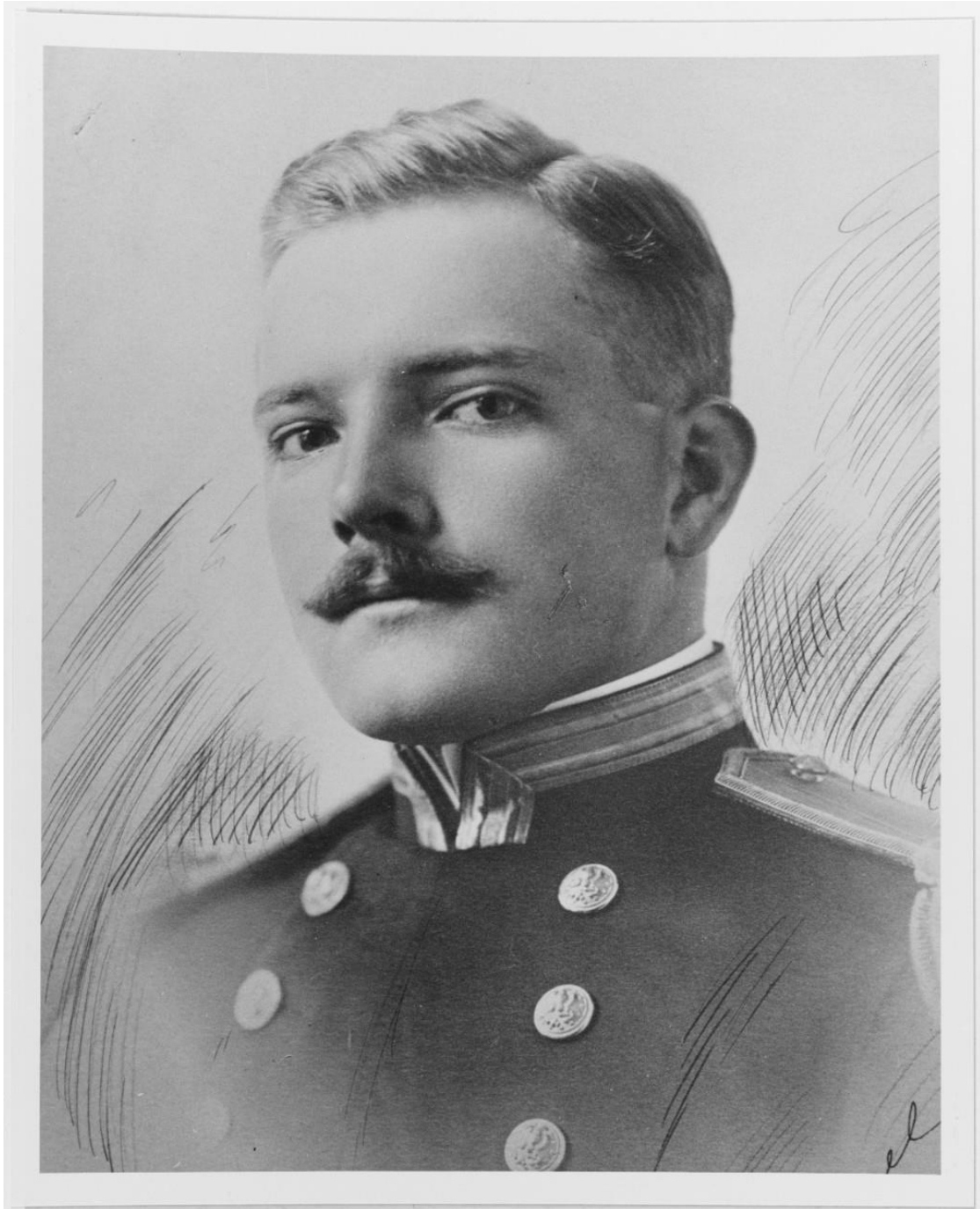
These pictures show Sebring Mayor John Shoop presenting Mr. Ingram with a proclamation making it Mr. Robert R. Ingram Day in the City of Sebring, along with the "Key to the City." Also shown is the Highlands County Chair of the Board of County Commissioners Arlene Tuck presenting Mr. Ingram with a county-wide proclamation making it Mr. Robert R. Ingram Day in the county. Finally, Mike, Kaylee Tuck, and Mr. Ingram both cut the ribbon and the ceremonial cake, formally marking the dedication.



*Hero of the Month*

**William Merrill Corry, Jr.**

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy  
Quincy, FL



# Citation

For heroic service in attempting to rescue a brother officer from a flame-enveloped airplane. On 2 October 1920, an airplane in which Lt. Comdr. Corry was a passenger crashed and burst into flames. He was thrown 30 feet clear of the plane and, though injured, rushed back to the burning machine and endeavored to release the pilot. In so doing he sustained serious burns, from which he died 4 days later.

*Conflict: **Interim 1920 - 1940***

*Location of Action: **Near Hartford, Connecticut***

*Date of Action: **October 2, 1920***

*MOH Awarded Posthumously*



Accredited To: **Quincy, Florida**

Born: **October 5, 1889, Quincy, FL**

Died: **October 6, 1920, Hartford, CT**

Buried: **Eastern Cemetery (PM), Quincy, FL**



## **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**

- Maintain 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](http://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  
Highlands County Board of County Commissioners  
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 & Janet Harbaugh  
Chapter 601 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart
- **Brass Level**  
Highlands County Veterans Council  
Woman's Club of Sebring  
Publix Supermarkets Inc.  
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 Inc.  
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 & Linda Sacco  
Pipal Realty Group (Sara Pipal)  
Doug & Patricia Tait

Mike Oakley  
Robin Carney  
In Memory of Artie Williams  
Michael Oakley  
Home Depot

- **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 & Karen Wiggins  
Gayle Parker & Melissa Middleton  
Eric Martinez & Heidi Fonrondona  
Denise Williams  
Mr. Robert Brooks Posthumous  
George & Nancy Hensely  
Amanda Gorut  
Mr. & Mrs. James Wood  
Rosalyn Layton

### **In-Kind Sponsors**

- **Platinum Level**

Highlands County North American Fence  
Contractor's Assn.  
Jahna Concrete

- **Gold Level**

Buddy Hopson

- **Silver Level**

Andersen Windows  
Marmer Construction  
Griffin's Carpet Mart  
Quality Roofing & Sheet Metal  
Sabre Electric Inc.  
Premier Irrigation  
Jeff Fultz A/C Inc.  
Coastal Canvas & Awning  
Josh Lewis  
Buxton & Bass Funeral Home  
Andrea Davide

- **Bronze Level**

Crosson & Payne Tree & Land Service  
Stidham's Rentals  
Rick Perry  
Scott's Miracle-Gro

Frames and Images  
Harry & DJ Marsh  
Graybar Electric Company Inc.  
Scott Oakley Lawn Care

- **Brass Level**

Sunset Drafting  
Chem-Crete-Larry Mroz  
SGIS Surveying  
Richard Siver  
Red E Equipment Services  
Gadd & Associates, LLC  
Sunbelt Rentals  
Heartland Exterminating  
Locinox USA, LLC  
Heartland Crane  
K & M Site Services  
SOS Septic & Sewer  
Gettle & Associates  
Excavation Point Inc.  
Phoenix Metals Co.  
Bernie's House Painting  
Duda Sod Farms  
Envision Lighting Systems  
South Florida State College  
Highlands County Sheriff's Office  
Down N Dirty Cleaning Services, LLC  
Brandon's Affordable Painting  
Cantex Inc.  
Summit Fire & Security  
James Lange, JTL Engineering  
Brooker Fence Company Inc.  
Home Depot  
McPhails Car Sales  
Bernie Little Distributors  
Doug Kern, Universal Window Coverings  
Classic Pavement Services

- **Founders' Level**

Junctions-Selvin Walker  
Liberty Flagpoles  
Steel Blue Fabrication, LLC  
Central Florida Insulation  
Howerton Services, LLC  
Alan Jay Corporate Office  
Maureen Collins  
Jim Kennedy  
Taylor Rental Sebring  
Sharion Hudson  
Inn On The Lakes  
Jimmy's Flower Shop  
Classic Caladiums Inc.  
Patriot Welding Supply, LLC  
Don Eldreth  
Emil McCoy  
Tammy Oakley & Gary Frame

### **How to Become a Sponsor**

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit/ non-profit, we rely on donations and fund raising. Our staff is all volunteer. We have a full range of expenses. Donations can be 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.



### **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 & 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.



## **Florida Medal of Honor Memorial Inc.**

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