



The Sentinel

The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 25 – April 2025



Chairman's Message

Our first three and a half months of operation have been exciting and very rewarding. Besides having many visitors coming in from the local area and from other points on the compass, we have had field trips with local high school students. We have also hosted a couple of groups—in particular the Buick Club of Avon Park and the Sebring Reader Club—the ladies' book club of the Sebring Historical Society. The big highlight was the wonderful ceremony marking National Medal of Honor Day on 25 March. Over a hundred people attended this solemn ceremony honoring the twenty-four heroes on their special day. Look for photos of these events in this newsletter.

We continue to add new members on a very frequent basis. These memberships help us in our efforts to "keep the lights on." Obviously, we have expenses and every dollar counts. To that end, our new "best friend," Jordan Fairfield, is spearheading a fundraising golf tournament scheduled for 28 June at the Sun 'N Lake Golf Course. Please see the tourney flyer on the last page and as a separate attachment. Sign up, bring your clubs, and help support the Memorial.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman

**This newsletter is published quarterly:
Jan/Apr/Jul/Oct**



Calendar of Events

On-going:

Open Tuesday—Saturday
10:00 AM — 4:00 PM

28 June 2025
8:00 AM
Golf Tournament
Sun 'N Lake Golf Course

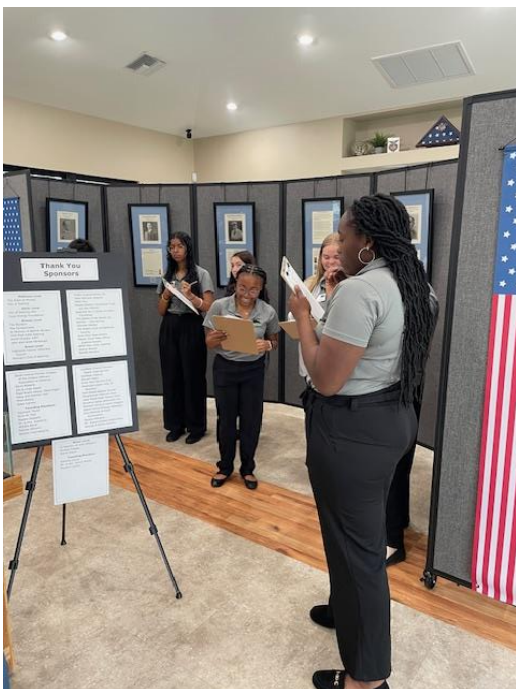
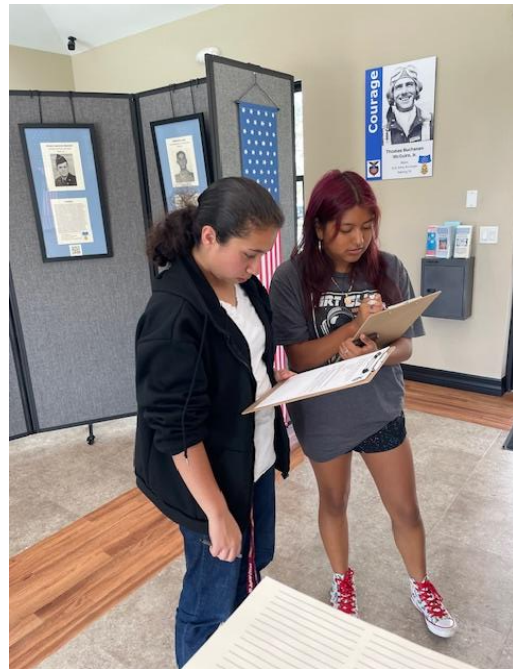
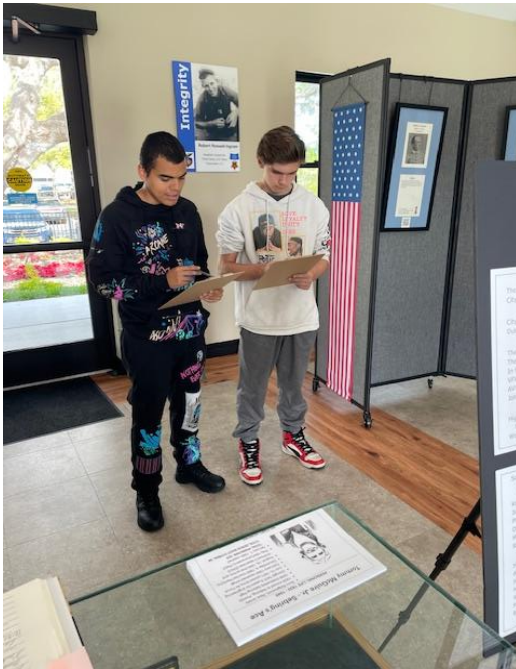


Funding Status

Fundraising is on-going.

Please support us with your donation. See the "How You Can Help" section on page 8 for more info.

The top two pictures show cadets from Sebring High School Air Force JROTC on one of their many field trips to our Memorial. The bottom two photos show the students from the Mason Smoak Foundation program—the best and brightest from all three local high schools: Avon Park, Lake Placid, and Sebring.



These pictures show the Sebring Reader Club—the ladies' book club of the Sebring Historical Society. Their book of the month was *The Last Great Ace*—a biography of Major Thomas B. McGuire—one of the twenty-four Florida Medal of Honor recipients. Major McGuire graduated from Sebring High School in 1938 and is our "hometown hero." Kenilworth Boulevard is memorialized in his honor.



The pictures on the next pages show some of the many scenes from the wreath-laying ceremony we conducted on 25 March—National Medal of Honor Day. Besides the laying of the wreath against the memorial, we lit flames of valor to mark the six values associated with the Medal of Honor: Patriotism, Integrity, Sacrifice, Courage, Commitment, and Citizenship. The names of our twenty-four heroes were read aloud by Sebring Mayor John Shoop, Highlands County Commissioners Arlene Tuck and Kevin Roberts, Highlands County Sheriff Paul Blackman, Highlands County Veterans Council President Ryan Hartwig, and Florida Medal of Honor Memorial Chairman Mike Borders. After each name, a bell was rung in their honor. Sebring High School Air Force JROTC presented the colors, Mrs. Becky McIntyre led us in the National Anthem, MSgt Alana Westley of Sebring High School AFJROTC led the Pledge of Allegiance, and VFW Post 4300's Honor Guard, led by Captain Mike Rogers, conducted the wreath-laying and played taps. (Photo Credits: Grady Lisk).







History of the Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor (MOH) is the United States Armed Forces' highest military decoration and is awarded to recognize American Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Guardians, and Coast Guardsmen who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor. The medal is normally awarded by the President of the United States (the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces) and is presented "in the name of the United States Congress." It is often incorrectly referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor.



There are three distinct variants of the medal: one for the Army, awarded to Soldiers; one for the Naval Service, awarded to Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen; and one for the Air and Space Forces, awarded to Airmen and Guardians. The Medal of Honor was introduced for the Naval Service in 1861, soon followed by the Army's version in 1862. The Air Force used the Army's version until they received their own distinctive version in 1965. The Medal of Honor is the oldest continuously issued combat decoration of the United States Armed Forces. The President typically presents the Medal of Honor during a formal ceremony at the White House intended to represent the gratitude of the American people, with posthumous presentations made to the primary next of kin.

As of April 1, 2025, there have been 3,547 Medals of Honor awarded, with over 40% awarded for actions during the American Civil War. A total of 911 Army medals were revoked after Congress authorized a review in 1917, and several Navy medals were also revoked prior to the turn of the century—none of these are included in this total except for those that were subsequently restored. In 1990, Congress designated March 25 annually as Medal of Honor Day.

Floridians have received 24 of the medals. Of these, 17 were posthumously awarded.



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 for, operating costs 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 – <https://shorturl.at/9YLCm>
- 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 Newest Members:

- Kevin Roberts
- John Shoop
- John Cecil
- Scott Kirouac
- Sebring Reader Club
- Donald Long, Sr.
- Robert Brooks
- Craig Smith
- Chris Day
- Peter Vande Walle
- Michael Perrotta
- Dana Orr
- Sylvia Beeks
- Michael Halloran
- Ricky & Mary Helms
- Samuel Stowers
- Alfred Nolton
- William & Deborah Fincke

Thank You!

How To Become a Member

Please consider becoming a member of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial. Members are invited to special previews, member-only activities, and are kept informed of special events via a newsletter, social media, and the website. There are three different membership levels: Annual, Five-Year, and Life. An application form is provided on Page 8.

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.

Website: www.flmohm.org

Mail: 442 S. Eucalyptus St., Sebring, Florida 33870

Telephone: 863.451.5862

Email: FLMOHM@gmail.org

Facebook: FLMOHMemorial

X: FLMOHM

Florida Medal of Honor Memorial (FLMOHM) Membership Application

Members are invited to special previews, member-only activities, and are kept informed of special events via a newsletter, social media, and the website.

Name: _____ Date: _____
(Last, First, MI) (dd-mm-yyyy)

Address: _____
Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone No.: _____

E-Mail: _____

Military Branch (If applicable) _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Present/Former Occupation: _____

Types of membership:

- ☐ Annual (\$25)
- ☐ Five-Year (\$100)
- ☐ Life (\$250)

Return this completed form with enclosed dues to any docent at the FLMOHM Visitors Center or mail it to: Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, 442 S. Eucalyptus St., Sebring, FL 33870. Questions: call 863.402.8292 or email FLMOHM@gmail.org.



(FLMOHM Use Only): Member No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____



SUN 'N LAKE
GOLF CLUB

Florida Medal of Honor Memorial

Greenskeeper's Revenge Golf Tournament



June 28, 2025

Saturday | 8:00am

18 holes like you have never played before!
Proceeds go to FL Medal of Honor Memorial.

Cash prizes and raffles!



Sponsorship Opportunities

Five-Star Sponsor: \$5,000 Top Gun Sponsorship **plus** 1 Additional Team Entry, Hole Signage at 2 Holes, Total of 8 Mulligan, and 32 Raffles Tickets

Top Gun Sponsor: \$3,000 Honor Guard Sponsorship **plus** Private Social Media Recognition, 4 Mulligan Tickets, 16 Raffle Tickets

Honor Guard Sponsor: \$2,000 Patriot Sponsorship **plus** Leader Board Display, Putting Green Signage, Awards Recognition

Patriot Sponsor: \$1,000 Victory Sponsorship **plus** a 1 Team Entry

Victory Sponsor: \$750 Business Signage and Logo, Social Media Shout Out, Check-in Signage, Option for Business Swag Bag Item

Meal Sponsor: \$500 Business Signage at Meal Table & Check-In

Hydration Sponsor: \$200 Business Name on Drink Coolers

Hole Sponsor: \$150 Business Signage and Logo

Snack Sponsor: \$125 Business Name for Snacks on the Course

Raffle Sponsor: \$50 - \$250 Gift item(s) for Raffle Prizes

Golf Team Registration: \$400 Team of 4 Players

(Includes Breakfast, Snacks, Lunch, Drinks, Golf Cart, and Swag Bag)

Register Now!

Sponsorship Level: _____

Name: _____

Business: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Golf Team (4 Players)

Name: _____ HDCP: _____

Name: _____ HDCP: _____

Name: _____ HDCP: _____

Name: _____ HDCP: _____

For More Information Contact

Harry Marsh 863-451-1027 flmohm@gmail.com

Checks payable to: Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, 442 South Eucalyptus Street Sebring, FL 33870