



The Sentinel

The Newsletter of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Inc.
Issue 21 – October 2024



Chairman's Message

We are so very happy with the progress at the memorial and Visitors Center. In fact, all we need to finish the Visitors Center is put on another coat of paint, affix the baseboards, and hang the doors, plus a few odds and ends. The lettering is on the sign, and soon we'll have the markers ready to put along the sides of the memorial. The landscaping has come along beautifully—it survived Hurricane Milton (as did everything else) without losing a single plant!! The ceiling in the building is beautiful—it was the floor in the old Girl Scout cabin. And the flooring put in by Griffin's Carpet Mart is a perfect tie-in to the ceiling.

I must mention all the great work done by Griffin's Carpet Mart. They graciously donated the materials and labor for the floor in the main room and did all the tiling in the bathroom. It is truly beautiful. My hat is also off to Bowman Steel. John Bowman really kicked in so much to help us, in particular the beautiful lettering on the main sign at the corner of Commerce and S. Eucalyptus.

Bottom Line: we are on track for our grand opening on 12 December at 10:00 AM. Please mark your calendars for what promises to be a wonderful ceremony.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Michael R. Borders
Chairman

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



Calendar of Events

October 2024:

Construction On-going

November/December 2024:

Final Tweaks

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: \$86,389

In-Kind Donations: \$399,844

These pictures show a front view from the left gate with the logos on the fence posts that Erik Christensen did on his 3D printer. Also, the windows trimmed in black, and a view of the beautiful flooring put in by Griffin's Carpet Mart, plus the ceiling—made with Dade County Pine flooring from the old Girl Scout cabin.



These pictures show the office cabinets, two views of the wet bar/kitchen, and our new faucet. Also shown are the doors which were painted in a pretty satin black. Black trim is a common theme throughout the Visitors Center.



These pictures show the Xfinity tech putting in our internet, and a view of the memorial painted white along with the painter—Joe of Serious Concrete. They also did our stage surface and the surface on the sign. Also shown is Rodney and his crew from Bowman Steel—they did the lettering for the sign.



Clyde Everett Lassen

Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

Jacksonville, FL



Citation

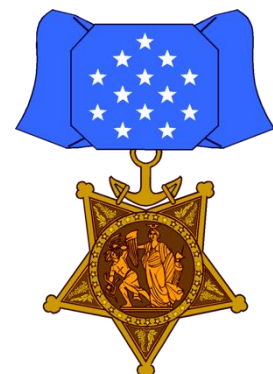
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as pilot and aircraft commander of a search and rescue helicopter, attached to Helicopter Support Squadron 7, during operations against enemy forces in North Vietnam. Launched shortly after midnight to attempt the rescue of 2 downed aviators, Lt. (then Lt. (J.G.)) Lassen skillfully piloted his aircraft over unknown and hostile terrain to a steep, tree-covered hill on which the survivors had been located. Although enemy fire was being directed at the helicopter, he initially landed in a clear area near the base of the hill, but due to the dense undergrowth, the survivors could not reach the helicopter. With the aid of flare illumination, Lt. Lassen successfully accomplished a hover between 2 trees at the survivors' position. Illumination was abruptly lost as the last of the flares were expended, and the helicopter collided with a tree, commencing a sharp descent. Expertly righting his aircraft and maneuvering clear, Lt. Lassen remained in the area, determined to make another rescue attempt, and encouraged the downed aviators while awaiting resumption of flare illumination. After another unsuccessful, illuminated rescue attempt, and with his fuel dangerously low and his aircraft significantly damaged, he launched again and commenced another approach in the face of the continuing enemy opposition. When flare illumination was again lost, Lt. Lassen, fully aware of the dangers in clearly revealing his position to the enemy, turned on his landing lights and completed the landing. On this attempt, the survivors were able to make their way to the helicopter. En route to the coast he encountered and successfully evaded additional hostile anti-aircraft fire and, with fuel for only 5 minutes of flight remaining, landed safely aboard USS Jouett (DLG-29).

*Conflict: **Vietnam War***

*Location of Action: **Republic of Vietnam***

*Date of Action: **June 19, 1968***

*MOH Awarded: **January 16, 1969***





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
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- **Founding Members**

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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
Denise Williams

In-Kind Sponsors

- **Platinum Level**

Highlands County
North American Fence Contractor's Assn.

- **Gold Level**

Buddy Hopson

- **Silver Level**

Andersen Windows
Marmer Construction (est.)
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Coastal Canvas

- **Bronze Level**

Crosson & Payne Tree & Land Service
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Frames and Images

- **Brass Level**

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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
Phoenix Metals
Bernie's House Painting (est.)
Duda Sod Farms (est.)

- **Founders' Level**

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

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.



Links

- The Florida MOH Memorial flmohm.org
- Congressional MOH Society cmohs.org
- National MOH Museum mohmuseum.org
- Medal of Honor: Stories of Courage podcasts



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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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