

**V** **Veterans**  
**M** **Memorial**  
**P** **Park**  
*of Jackson County, Inc.*  
Scottsboro, Alabama

***Patriots Walkway Dedication***  
***October 15, 2022***



## **VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK OF JACKSON COUNTY**

The Veterans Memorial Park of Jackson County was created to:

- Honor the men and women from Jackson County who served and sacrificed their lives to preserve our freedoms.
- Recognize and honor all service men and women of the Armed Forces: Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and Space Force.
- Honor and remember Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA) veterans.
- Educate our citizens, with an emphasis on our children, on US military history and the military conflicts that have been fought to preserve our freedoms.

### ***Park History***

In early 2014 the vision for a Memorial Park to honor our veterans began with the placement of a military tank at the Park. In October 2017, prior to the placement of the first concrete at the Park, a ceremony was held to bury soil collected from foreign battlefields at the point where the star is now located in the center of the memorial. In May 2018, a ceremony was held to raise the Park's three flags for the first time: the American flag, the POW-MIA flag and the Alabama state flag.

On Memorial Day weekend 2019, a special dedication ceremony was held for the Honor Wall which lists those from Jackson County who died fighting for our country. At the same time, the five service monuments and the POW-MIA monument were dedicated to recognize the military services of the United States and also remember those service members who became prisoners of war or are missing in action.

The pavilion, designated as the Brotherhood Pavilion, was dedicated on August 13, 2020.

The Park was officially dedicated on November 14, 2020.

Additional military displays have been added throughout the construction period. More military displays are in the planning phase.

**PATRIOTS WALKWAY:** In the fall of 2021, construction began on the Patriots Walkway along the entire back area of the Park. The Walkway connects to the city walking trails to the north and recreational facilities to the south. Its purpose is to honor all patriots who love our country and especially those who earned our nation's highest military honor for heroic actions on the battlefield. Ten Medal of Honor recipients from Alabama are recognized on panels along the Walkway.

# PATRIOTS WALKWAY

The ***PATRIOTS WALKWAY*** is dedicated to those who love our country and are devoted to boldly support, and if necessary, answer the call to defend it.

There is no greater ***PATRIOT*** than a recipient of the ***MEDAL OF HONOR***.

The Medal of Honor is the most prestigious military decoration awarded by the United States of America. It is awarded by the President to a member of the Armed Forces for valor in combat and for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty".

There have been over 3,500 recipients of the Medal of Honor, including 25 who were born in Alabama. Ten of the recipients of the Medal of Honor from the State of Alabama are recognized on the Patriots Walkway.

There are three variations of the Medal of Honor for the different Armed Forces branches. Out of respect for those who have earned it, its appearance has remained largely unaltered in over 150 years.



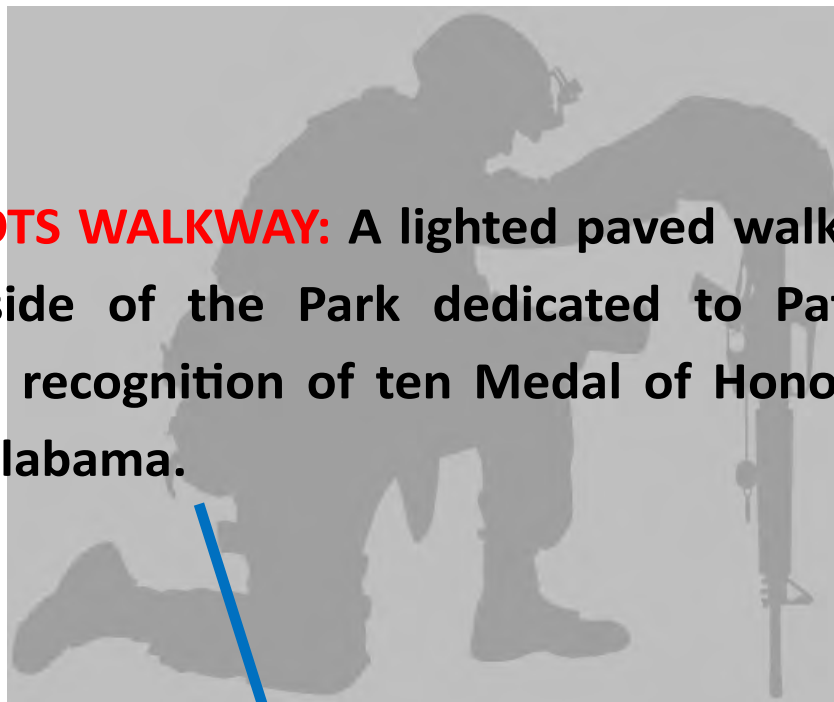
**Medal of Honor  
Army**

**Medal of Honor  
Navy  
Marine Corps  
Coast Guard**

**Medal of Honor  
Air Force  
Space Force**

Construction of the Patriots Walkway was made possible by a generous donation from the Bynum Foundation and extensive construction support from the City of Scottsboro.

**PATRIOTS WALKWAY:** A lighted paved walkway on the back side of the Park dedicated to Patriots, with special recognition of ten Medal of Honor recipients from Alabama.



# PAUL LUTHER BOLDEN



**U.S. ARMY    WORLD WAR II**  
**COMPANY I    120TH INFANTRY**  
**30TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

**DATE OF ACTION: DECEMBER 23, 1944**  
**BORN: JUNE 15, 1922, HOBBS ISLAND, AL**

**BURIAL: MOON CEMETERY, OWENS CROSSROADS, AL**



He voluntarily attacked a formidable enemy strongpoint in Petit-Coo, Belgium, on 23 December 1944, when his company was pinned down by extremely heavy automatic and small-arms fire coming from a house 200 yards to the front. Mortar and tank artillery shells pounded the unit, when SSgt. Bolden and a comrade, on their own initiative, moved forward in a hail of bullets to eliminate the ever-increasing fire from the German position. Crawling ahead to close with what they knew was a powerfully armed, vastly superior force, the pair reached the house and took up assault positions, SSgt. Bolden under a window, his comrade across the street where he could deliver covering fire. In rapid succession, SSgt. Bolden hurled a fragmentation grenade and a white phosphorous grenade into the building; and then, fully realizing that he faced tremendous odds, rushed to the door, threw it open, and fired into 35 SS troopers who were trying to reorganize themselves after the havoc wrought by the grenades. Twenty Germans died under fire of his submachine gun before he was struck in the shoulder, chest, and stomach by part of a burst which killed his comrade across the street. He withdrew from the house, waiting for the surviving Germans to come out and surrender. When none appeared in the doorway, he summoned his ebbing strength, overcame the extreme pain he suffered, and boldly walked back into the house, firing as he went. He had killed the remaining 15 enemy soldiers when his ammunition ran out. SSgt. Bolden's heroic advance against great odds, his fearless assault, and his magnificent display of courage in reentering the building where he had been severely wounded cleared the path for his company and insured the success of its mission.

# HOWARD WALTER GILMORE



**U.S. NAVY    WORLD WAR II  
COMMANDER  
U.S.S. GROWLER**



**DATE OF ACTION: JAN. 10 - FEB. 7, 1943**

**BORN: SEPTEMBER 29, 1902, SELMA, AL**

**BURIAL: A.B.M.C. MANILA CEMETERY (WALL OF THE MISSING)**

**REMAINS NOT RECOVERED, MANILA, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**

For distinguished gallantry and valor above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. Growler during her fourth war patrol in the southwest Pacific from 10 January to 7 February 1943. Boldly striking at the enemy in spite of continuous hostile air and anti-submarine patrols, Comdr. Gilmore sank one Japanese freighter and damaged another by torpedo fire, successfully evading severe depth charges following each attack. In the darkness of night on 7 February, an enemy gunboat closed range and prepared to ram the Growler. Comdr. Gilmore daringly maneuvered to avoid the crash and rammed the attacker instead, ripping into her port side at 17 knots and bursting wide her plates. In the terrific fire of the sinking gunboat's heavy machine guns, Comdr. Gilmore calmly gave the order to clear the bridge, and refusing safety for himself, remained on deck while his men preceded him below. Struck down by the fusillade of bullets and having done his utmost against the enemy, in his final living moments, Comdr. Gilmore gave his last order to the officer of the deck, "Take her down." The Growler dived; seriously damaged but under control, she was brought safely to port by her well-trained crew inspired by the courageous fighting spirit of their dead captain.

# ROSS FRANKLIN GRAY



**U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE WORLD WAR II  
COMPANY A, 1ST BATTALION**

**25TH MARINES**

**4TH MARINE DIVISION**

**DATE OF ACTION: FEBRUARY 21, 1945**

**BORN: AUGUST 1, 1920, MARVEL VALLEY, AL,**

**BURIAL: ADA CHAPEL CEMETERY, WEST BLOCTON, AL**



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a platoon sergeant attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 21 February 1945. Shrewdly gaging the tactical situation when his platoon was held up by a sudden barrage of hostile grenades while advancing toward the high ground northeast of Airfield No. 1, Sgt. Gray promptly organized the withdrawal of his men from enemy grenade range, quickly moved forward alone to reconnoiter, and discovered a heavily mined area extending along the front of a strong network of emplacements joined by covered trenches. Although assailed by furious gunfire, he cleared a path leading through the minefield to one of the fortifications, then returned to the platoon position and, informing his leader of the serious situation, volunteered to initiate an attack under cover of three fellow marines. Alone and unarmed but carrying a huge satchel charge, he crept up on the Japanese emplacement, boldly hurled the short-fused explosive, and sealed the entrance. Instantly taken under machine-gun fire from a second entrance to the same position, he unhesitatingly braved the increasingly vicious fusillades to crawl back for another charge, returned to his objective, and blasted the second opening, thereby demolishing the position. Repeatedly covering the ground between the savagely defended enemy fortifications and his platoon area, he systematically approached, attacked, and withdrew under blanketing fire to destroy a total of six Japanese positions, more than 25 troops, and a quantity of vital ordnance gear and ammunition. Stouthearted and indomitable, Sgt. Gray had singlehandedly overcome a strong enemy garrison and had completely disarmed a large minefield before finally rejoining his unit. By his great personal valor, daring tactics, and tenacious perseverance in the face of extreme peril, he had contributed materially to the fulfillment of his company's mission. His gallant conduct throughout enhanced and sustained the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

# ROBERT LEWIS HOWARD



**U.S. ARMY VIETNAM WAR**  
**5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE)**  
**1ST SPECIAL FORCES**  
**DATE OF ACTION: DECEMBER 30, 1968**  
**BORN: JULY 11, 1939 OPELIKA, ALABAMA**  
**BURIAL: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**



1st Lt. Howard (then Sfc) distinguished himself while serving as platoon sergeant of an American-Vietnamese platoon which was on a mission to rescue a missing American soldier in enemy-controlled territory in the Republic of Vietnam. The platoon had left its helicopter landing zone and was moving out on its mission when it was attacked by an estimated two-company force. During the initial engagement, 1st Lt. Howard was wounded and his weapon destroyed by a grenade explosion. 1st Lt. Howard saw his platoon leader had been wounded seriously and was exposed to fire. Although unable to walk, and weaponless, 1st Lt. Howard unhesitatingly crawled through a hail of fire to retrieve his wounded leader. As 1st Lt. Howard was administering first aid and removing the officer's equipment, an enemy bullet struck one of the ammunition pouches on the lieutenant's belt, detonating several magazines of ammunition. 1st Lt. Howard momentarily sought cover and then realizing that he must rejoin the platoon, which had been disorganized by the enemy attack, he again began dragging the seriously wounded officer toward the platoon area. Through his outstanding example of indomitable courage and bravery, 1st Lt. Howard was able to rally the platoon into an organized defense force. With complete disregard for his safety, 1st Lt. Howard crawled from position to position, administering first aid to the wounded, giving encouragement to the defenders and directing their fire on the encircling enemy. For three and one half hours 1st Lt. Howard's small force and supporting aircraft successfully repulsed enemy attacks and finally were in sufficient control to permit the landing of rescue helicopters. 1st Lt. Howard personally supervised the loading of his men and did not leave the bullet-swept landing zone until all were aboard safely. 1st Lt. Howard's gallantry in action, his complete devotion to the welfare of his men at the risk of his life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army



# **WILLIAM ROBERT LAWLEY JR.**



**U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE      WORLD WAR II**  
**364TH BOMB SQUADRON 305TH BOMB GROUP**  
**40TH COMBAT WING, 1ST AIR DIVISION**  
**8TH AIR FORCE**



**DATE OF ACTION: FEBRUARY 20, 1944**

**BORN: AUGUST 23, 1920, LEEDS, AL**

**BURIAL: GREENWOOD CEMETERY, MONTGOMERY, AL**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty, 20 February 1944, while serving as pilot of a B-17 aircraft on a heavy bombardment mission over enemy-occupied continental Europe. Coming off the target he was attacked by approximately 20 enemy fighters, shot out of formation, and his plane severely crippled. Eight crewmembers were wounded; the copilot was killed by a 20-mm shell. One engine was on fire, the controls shot away, and 1st Lt. Lawley seriously and painfully wounded about the face. Forcing the copilot's body off the controls, he brought the plane out of a steep dive, flying with his left hand only. Blood covered the instruments and windshield and visibility was impossible. With a full bomb load the plane was difficult to maneuver and the bombs could not be released because the racks were frozen. After the order to bail out had been given, one of the waist gunners informed the pilot that two crewmembers were so severely wounded that it would be impossible for them to bail out. With the fire in the engine spreading, the danger of an explosion was imminent. Because of the helpless condition of his wounded crewmembers 1st Lt. Lawley elected to remain with the ship and bring them to safety if it was humanly possible, giving the other crewmembers the option of bailing out. Enemy fighters again attacked but by using masterful evasive action he managed to lose them. One engine again caught on fire and was extinguished by skillful flying. First Lt. Lawley remained at his post, refusing first aid until he collapsed from sheer exhaustion caused by loss of blood, shock, and the energy he had expended in keeping control of his plane. He was revived by the bombardier and again took over the controls. Coming over the English coast one engine ran out of gasoline and had to be feathered. Another engine started to burn and continued to do so until a successful crash landing was made on a small fighter base. Through his heroism and exceptional flying skill 1st Lt. Lawley rendered outstanding distinguished and valorous service to our nation.

# MATTHEW LEONARD



**U.S. ARMY VIETNAM WAR**  
**COMPANY B, 1ST BATTALION, 16TH INFANTRY**  
**1ST INFANTRY DIVISION**  
**DATE OF ACTION: FEBRUARY 28, 1967**  
**BORN: NOVEMBER 26, 1929, EUTAW, AL**  
**BURIAL: FORT MITCHELL NATIONAL CEMETERY**  
**FORT MITCHELL, AL**



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. His platoon was suddenly attacked by a large enemy force employing small-arms, automatic weapons, and hand grenades. Although the platoon leader and several other key leaders were among the first wounded, P/Sgt. Leonard quickly rallied his men to throw back the initial enemy assaults. During the short pause that followed, he organized a defensive perimeter, redistributed ammunition, and inspired his comrades through his forceful leadership and words of encouragement. Noticing a wounded companion outside the perimeter, he dragged the man to safety but was struck by a sniper's bullet which shattered his left hand. Refusing medical attention and continuously exposing himself to the increasing fire as the enemy again assaulted the perimeter, P/Sgt. Leonard moved from position to position to direct the fire of his men against the well-camouflaged foe. Under the cover of the main attack, the enemy moved a machine gun into a location where it could sweep the entire perimeter. This threat was magnified when the platoon machine gun in this area malfunctioned. P/Sgt. Leonard quickly crawled to the gun position and was helping to clear the malfunction when the gunner and other men in the vicinity were wounded by fire from the enemy machine gun. P/Sgt. Leonard rose to his feet, charged the enemy gun, and destroyed the hostile crew despite being hit several times by enemy fire. He moved to a tree, propped himself against it, and continued to engage the enemy until he succumbed to his many wounds. His fighting spirit, heroic leadership, and valiant acts inspired the remaining members of his platoon to hold back the enemy until assistance arrived. P/Sgt. Leonard's profound courage and devotion to his men are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and his gallant actions reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.

# SIDNEY EARNEST MANNING



**U.S. ARMY WORLD WAR I  
COMPANY G, 167TH INFANTRY  
42D DIVISION**

**DATE OF ACTION: JULY 28, 1918**

**BORN: JULY 17, 1892, BUTLER COUNTY, AL,**

**BURIAL: LITTLE ESCAMBIA CEMETERY, FLOMATON, AL**



When his platoon commander and platoon sergeant had both become casualties soon after the beginning of an assault on strongly fortified heights overlooking the Ourcq River, Cpl. Manning took command of his platoon, which was near the center of the attacking line. Though himself severely wounded he led forward the 35 men remaining in the platoon and finally succeeded in gaining a foothold on the enemy's position, during which time he had received more wounds and all but seven of his men had fallen. Directing the consolidation of the position, he held off a large body of the enemy only 50 yards away by fire from his automatic rifle. He declined to take cover until his line had been entirely consolidated with the line of the platoon on the front when he dragged himself to shelter, suffering from nine wounds in all parts of the body.

# ALFORD LEE MCLAUGHLIN



**U.S. MARINE CORPS    KOREAN WAR  
COMPANY L, 3D BATTALION  
5TH MARINES  
1ST MARINE DIVISION**



**DATE OF ACTION: SEPTEMBER 4, 1952  
BORN: MARCH 18, 1928, LEEDS, ALABAMA  
BURIAL: MOUNT HEBRON CEMETERY, LEEDS, AL**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner of Company L, in action against enemy aggressor forces on the night of 4-5 September 1952. Volunteering for his second continuous tour of duty on a strategic combat outpost far in advance of the main line of resistance, Pfc. McLaughlin, although operating under a barrage of enemy artillery and mortar fire, set up plans for the defense of his position which proved decisive in the successful defense of the outpost. When hostile forces attacked in battalion strength during the night, he maintained a constant flow of devastating fire upon the enemy, alternately employing two machine guns, a carbine, and hand grenades. Although painfully wounded, he bravely fired the machine guns from the hip until his hands became blistered by the extreme heat of the weapons and, placing the guns on the ground to allow them to cool, continued to defend the position with his carbine and grenades. Standing up in full view, he shouted words of encouragement to his comrades above the din of battle and, throughout a series of fanatical enemy attacks, sprayed the surrounding area with deadly fire, accounting for an estimated 150 enemy dead and 50 wounded. By his indomitable courage, superb leadership, and valiant fighting spirit in the face of overwhelming odds, Pfc. McLaughlin served to inspire his fellow marines in their gallant stand against the enemy and was directly instrumental in preventing the vital outpost from falling into the hands of a determined and numerically superior hostile force. His outstanding heroism and unwavering devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

# **OLA LEE MIZE**



**U.S. ARMY      KOREAN WAR**  
**COMPANY K, 15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**  
**3D INFANTRY DIVISION**

**DATE OF ACTION: JUNE 10 TO 11, 1953**

**BORN: AUGUST 28, 1931 ALBERTVILLE, ALABAMA**

**BURIAL: CRESTWOOD MEMORIAL CEMETERY**  
**EAST GADSDEN, ALABAMA**



Sgt. Mize, a member of Company K, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. Company K was committed to the defense of "Outpost Harry", a strategically valuable position, when the enemy launched a heavy attack. Learning that a comrade on a friendly listening post had been wounded he moved through the intense barrage, accompanied by a medical aid man, and rescued the wounded soldier. On returning to the main position he established an effective defense system and inflicted heavy casualties against attacks from determined enemy assault forces which had penetrated into trenches within the outpost area. During his fearless actions he was blown down by artillery and grenade blasts three times but each time he dauntlessly returned to his position, tenaciously fighting and successfully repelling hostile attacks. When enemy onslaughts ceased he took his few men and moved from bunker to bunker, firing through apertures and throwing grenades at the foe, neutralizing their positions. When an enemy soldier stepped out behind a comrade, prepared to fire, M/Sgt. Mize killed him, saving the life of his fellow soldier. After rejoining the platoon, moving from man to man, distributing ammunition, and shouting words of encouragement he observed a friendly machine gun position overrun. He immediately fought his way to the position, killing 10 of the enemy and dispersing the remainder. Fighting back to the command post, and finding several friendly wounded there, he took a position to protect them. Later, securing a radio, he directed friendly artillery fire upon the attacking enemy's routes of approach. At dawn he helped regroup for a counterattack which successfully drove the enemy from the outpost. M/Sgt. Mize's valorous conduct and unflinching courage reflect lasting glory upon himself and uphold the noble traditions of the military service.

# WILLIAM WAYNE SEAY



**U.S. ARMY VIETNAM WAR**  
**7TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION**  
**48TH TRANSPORTION GROUP**  
**DATE OF ACTION: AUGUST 25, 1968**  
**BORN: OCTOBER 24, 1948 BREWTON, ALABAMA**  
**BURIAL: WEAVER CEMETERY BREWTON, AL**



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Seay distinguished himself while serving as a driver with the 62d Transportation Company, on a resupply mission. The convoy with which he was traveling, carrying critically needed ammunition and supplies from Long Binh to Tay Ninh, was ambushed by a reinforced battalion of the North Vietnamese Army. As the main elements of the convoy entered the ambush killing zone, they were struck by intense rocket, machine-gun, and automatic-weapons fire from the well-concealed and entrenched enemy force. When his convoy was forced to stop, Sgt. Seay immediately dismounted and took a defensive position behind the wheels of a vehicle loaded with high-explosive ammunition. As the violent North Vietnamese assault approached to within 10 meters of the road, Sgt. Seay opened fire, killing two of the enemy. He then spotted a sniper in a tree approximately 75 meters to his front and killed him. When an enemy grenade was thrown under an ammunition trailer near his position, without regard for his own safety he left his protective cover, exposing himself to intense enemy fire, picked up the grenade, and threw it back to the North Vietnamese position, killing four more of the enemy and saving the lives of the men around him. Another enemy grenade landed approximately three meters from Sgt. Seay's position. Again Sgt. Seay left his covered position and threw the armed grenade back upon the assaulting enemy. After returning to his position he was painfully wounded in the right wrist, however, Sgt. Seay continued to give encouragement and direction to his fellow soldiers. After moving to the relative cover of a shallow ditch, he detected three enemy soldiers who had penetrated the position and were preparing to fire on his comrades. Although weak from loss of blood and with his right hand immobilized, Sgt. Seay stood up and fired his rifle with his left hand, killing all three and saving the lives of the other men in his location. As a result of his heroic action, Sgt. Seay was mortally wounded by a sniper's bullet. Sgt. Seay, by his gallantry in action at the cost of his life, has reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.