

## Pitsenbarger Memorial Fundraising Effort

The Miami Memorial Park Cemetery, in partnership with the Wright-Patterson AFB Top 3, is seeking to raise donations for the construction of a monument to honor Staff Sergeant Pitsenbarger.

- Pavers will be placed around the cemetery to direct patrons to the gravesite.
- Granite benches will be added on both sides of the monument on a cement foundation plaza.
- All donations above \$1000 will have the donor or donor organization's names included on the memorial site itself as a major contributor.

### Requested Support

- Increase memorial fundraising awareness through widespread dissemination to potential donors or interested parties.
- Help raise funds to achieve memorial construction goal of \$57,000.



### How to Donate

While the city of Piqua is the hometown of SSgt Pitsenbarger, he was laid to rest nearby in the Miami Memorial Park Cemetery in Covington, Ohio. Currently, there is no dedicated monument at the cemetery to honor Ohio's only Air Force recipient of the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.

Here are the ways to make a donation to support the memorial construction:

- Online at:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/william-hart-pitsenbarger-medal-of-honor-memorial>
- Send check to the Miami Memorial Park Inc., Attn: Lora Aleo, 7875 N. Crescent Rd., Covington, OH 45318

## William H. Pitsenbarger Memorial Fundraiser Request



*Staff Sergeant (SSgt) William H. Pitsenbarger  
USAF Pararescueman, Detachment 6,  
38<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue & Recovery Squadron,  
Bien Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam*

## MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION



Airman First Class Pitsenbarger distinguished himself by extreme valor on April 11, 1966 near Cam My, Republic of Vietnam, while assigned as a Pararescueman Crew Member, Detachment 6, 38<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron. On that date, Airman Pitsenbarger was aboard a rescue helicopter responding to a call for evacuation of casualties incurred in an on-going firefight between elements of the United States Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and a sizable enemy force approximately 35 miles east of Saigon. With complete disregard for personal safety, Airmen Pitsenbarger volunteered to ride a hoist more than one hundred feet through the jungle, to the ground, he organized and coordinated rescue efforts, cared for the wounded, casualties for evacuation, and insured that the recovery operation continued in a smooth and orderly fashion. Through his personal efforts, the evacuation of the wounded was greatly expedited. As each of the nine casualties evacuated that day were recovered, Pitsenbarger refused evacuation in order to get one more wounded soldier to safety. After several pick-ups, one of the two rescue

helicopters involved in the evacuation was struck by heavy enemy ground fire and was forced to leave the scene for an emergency landing. Airman Pitsenbarger stayed behind, on the ground, to perform medical duties. Shortly thereafter, the area came under sniper and mortar fire. During a subsequent attempt to evacuate the site, American forces came under heavy assault by a large Viet Cong force. When the enemy launched the assault, the evacuation was called off and Airman Pitsenbarger took up arms with the besieged infantryman. He courageously resisted the enemy, braving intense gunfire to gather and distribute vital ammunition to American defenders. As the battle raged on, he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to care for the wounded, pull them out of the line of fire, and return fire whenever he could, during which time, he was wounded three times. Despite his wounds, he valiantly fought on, simultaneously treating as many wounded as possible. In the vicious fighting which followed, the American forces suffered 80 percent casualties as their perimeter was breached, and Airman Pitsenbarger was finally fatally wounded. Airman Pitsenbarger exposed himself to almost certain death by staying on the ground, and perished while saving the lives of wounded infantrymen. His bravery and determination exemplify the highest professional standards and traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Air Force.

## Memorial Site Plans

