Airman 1st Class
William H. Pitsenbarger

Airman First Class Pitsenbarger distinguished himself by extreme valor on 11 April 1966 near Cam My, Republic of Vietnam, while assigned as a Pararescue Crew Member, Detachment 6, 38th 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 ongoing firefight between elements of the United States Army's 1st Infantry Division and a sizeable enemy force, approximately 35 miles east of Saigon. With complete disregard for personal safety, Airman Pitsenbarger volunteered to ride a hoist more than one hundred feet through the jungle, to the ground. As each of the nine casualties evacuated that day was recovered, Airman Pitsenbarger refused evacuation in order to get more wounded soldiers to safety and 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 infantrymen. 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 he was wounded three times. Despite his wounds, he valiantly fought on, simultaneously treating as many wounded as possible. In the vicious fighting that followed, the American forces suffered 80 percent casualties as their perimeter was breached, and Airman Pitsenbarger was fatally wounded. 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. On December 8, 2000, the Medal of Honor was presented posthumously to A1C William H. Pitsenbarger.

Pitsenbarger Memorial Dedication
October 15, 2025 10:30am
Miami Memorial Park

Master of Ceremonies ..... Mike Pitman-US Air Force

Invocation ..... Mike Pitman-US Air Force

National Anthem ..... Jim Rench

Flag Raising ..... Veterans Elite Tribute Squad (VETS)

Presentation of Memorial/Thank you ..... Lora Aleo, President Miami Memorial Park

Miami County Commissioners ..... Mr. Wade Westfall
Mr. Ted Mercer
Mr. Gregory Simmons

God Bless The USA ..... Jim Rench

Keynote Address ..... USAF PJ CMSgt. Dave Milsten

Honor Guard Gun Salute ..... Veterans Elite Tribute Squad (VETS)

Taps ..... Mike Ullery VETS Bugler, Dayton VA Honor Guard

Benediction ..... Mike Pitman-US Air Force

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
AT THE COVINGTON EAGLES, HOSTED BY PJ PARARESCUE FOUNDATION

USAF PARARESCUE
THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE