### Welcome to the Blanchard House Museum's

## Military Memorial Garden Dedication



#### **Garden Dedication Schedule**

10:00 A.M.

- Music by Charlotte High School Jazz Band
- Welcoming Remarks
- Posting of the Colors Charlotte High Naval
   Junior ROTC Honor Guard
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Dedication of the Garden
- Unveiling of the bronze bust
- Reception and tour the garden and museum



#### Lt Charles P. Bailey

Born in Punta Gorda, Florida, Charles was one of nine children of Archie and Josephine Bailey. He grew up and attended elementary and middle school in Punta Gorda. He graduated from Howard Academy, the high school in Ocala, and graduated from Bethune-Cookman College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. While in college, he enlisted in the Army Air Force and was selected to attend pilot

training as one of the original Tuskegee Airmen. He earned his wings and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant.

As a member of the 99th fighter squadron, he was sent to North Africa, Sicily and Italy where he flew P-40 and later P-51 fighter planes. He is credited with shooting down two German Focke-Wulfe 190 fighters. Lt Bailey flew a total of 133 combat missions, and was awarded a distinguished flying cross and the air medal with four oak leaf clusters.

After the war, he pursued a career as a funeral director and taught in the Florida school system for many years. He eventually established his own funeral home in DeLand, Florida. Charles married Bessie Lenora Fitch on June 30, 1946. To this union was born two sons, Charles P. Bailey, Jr. and James A. Bailey.

# Military Memorial Garden "In honor of those who so valiantly served our country"

A very special "Thank You" to our <u>SPONSORS</u>

Charlotte Community Foundation Charlotte Sun **Beverly Outlaw** Marilyn Smith-Mooney, Councilmember Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church **Butwell Stone & Soil** First Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Giovanny G. DeFreitas **Home Depot Team** K & B Construction, Inc. Kays-Ponger Funeral Home Newberry Landscaping, Inc. Powell's Nursery Punta Gorda Garden Club, Inc. Robertson Construction Service St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church St. Mary Primitive Baptist Church Towles Corporation of S. W. Florida True Holiness Church of the Living God

#### Our sincere thanks to

Mrs. Bessie Bailey and family for traveling all the way from Daytona Beach to be with us today.

Walkway Veterans

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