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## **The Regional Military Museum to Open New Expansion**

The Regional Military Museum of Houma, LA will open the doors on a major new expansion on July 4, 2014. The new 12,000 square foot facility will house real, working military jeeps, weaponry, and a true-to-size World War II Avenger Torpedo Bomber model that once hung in the National World War II Museum.

CJ Christ, founder of the Regional Military Museum and veteran of the Korean conflict, began working on the museum in the early 2000's. After meeting with local veterans and collecting a large amount of memorabilia, the museum first opened its doors in 2008. The museum quickly became a home for not only artifacts but for the stories of many military families. Today, more than 4,000 items have been collected including uniforms, metals, weapons, photos, and President Dwight Eisenhower's Air Force One plane.

The new three stories tall, glass-and-steel building, located at 1154 Barrow Street, will provide much needed space for new exhibits, displays, and a library of military history. Mr. Christ says that one of the goals of the Regional Military Museum is to preserve our military history so that future generations can understand and respect the sacrifices of those who have fought for American freedom. "Our museum is dedicated to the brave men and women throughout our country's history who have defended our great nation" Christ says. "Our museum is not a static, but a living history. Our vehicles really run, our weapons really fire, our library acts as a place of research for both family military history as well as educational instruction."

The museum may be reached by phone (985-873-8200) or by email ([regionalmilitarymuseum@triparish.net](mailto:regionalmilitarymuseum@triparish.net)) for more information on the newly expanded facility, its collections, or to plan a visit.

The Houma Area Convention and Visitors Bureau works year-round to promote Terrebonne Parish as a visitors destination. Commonly called the Houma CVB, it was established in 1986, replacing its former name, The Houma Tourist Commission. Headquartered in Gray, the Houma CVB employs one part-time and seven full-time staff members.

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