

# Military Heritage Museum

LIBRARY & RESEARCH CENTER

## MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM RENOVATIONS TO BEGIN AT NEW FACILITY NEARBY

*New facility opening in Spring 2019*

**Punta Gorda, Fla., November 13, 2018** — The Military Heritage Museum is pleased to announce the historic lease signing on Wednesday, November 7, for its new facility located at 900 West Marion Avenue in Building B – the former location of the IMPAC University Campus.

The design and program offerings to be provided at the museum’s new 16,000 square foot facility represent a major transformation in the way the museum shares the stories behind its 20,000 artifacts and collection of veteran oral histories. Throughout the magnificent building, museum designers will leverage technology, graphics and audiovisual elements, along with inspiring veteran museum guides, to create exciting new interactive exhibits and programs portraying U.S. military history from pre-revolutionary to current conflicts. The museum’s 240-seat theater will be a showcase for museum members as it hosts re-enactments, movies and USO-style shows. Members will also experience exciting new immersive programs that incorporate simulators, apps, virtual reality and gaming.

The library and research center will offer unique and engaging experiences helping museum members better understand the contributions and various experiences of American servicemen and women throughout history. Designed to appeal to visitors and members of all ages, the new museum experiences will dramatically enhance its mission dedicated to remembering, honoring and sharing the legacy of our military men and women.

Additionally, the museum has launched a new, enhanced interactive website creatively designed to support the museum visitor and member experience. The new site is dedicated to all service members, their respective branches and eras of U.S. military service. Online visitors and museum members will not only better understand the museum’s mission and vision, they will also be able to explore the major attractions of the museum – including galleries, special exhibits, the theater, library and research center, and other exciting program offerings. The site provides a wealth of information and registration opportunities to help plan a visit, discover ongoing programs and events, museum hours of operation, directions and contact information.

As the Military Heritage Museum continues its expansion and relocation into its larger facility in the coming months, it hopes the new website redesign will drive further understanding of its commitment to our country’s rich history of military service. “It’s time to honor all who serve with a more deserving and reverent setting. Both the interior and exterior design treatments focus on inspiring a sense of respect and profound appreciation for all our veterans’ sacrifices. Additionally, the visitor experience will be significantly enhanced through the use of cutting-edge, high-tech applications ideally suited to advancing the museum’s fulfillment of its mission,” said Marilyn Smith-Mooney, President of the Military Heritage Museum.

“We want to encourage more visitors to take the time to learn about military history and heritage in our community and have a better understanding of the fact that freedom isn’t free,” said

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Smith-Mooney. “The new website – and soon our amazing new facility – will help visitors to connect with stories of service, discover the lasting legacies from our military history, and engage one-on-one with our dedicated core of veteran museum guides.”

Check out the new website at [www.freedomisntfree.org](http://www.freedomisntfree.org) to learn more about the museum and its ongoing efforts, or to make a contribution to its “Because Freedom Isn’t Free” capital campaign. Until its relocation, plan a visit to the Military Heritage Museum at its current location in Fishermen’s Village at 1200 West Retta Esplanade in Punta Gorda, Fla.

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