

CAROLINA MUSEUM OF THE MARINE

Meet the Marine. Be Inspired.

Fact Sheet

Official Public Opening:
June 8, 2026

Location:
Carolina Museum of the Marine
109 Montford Landing Road
Lejeune Memorial Gardens
Jacksonville, North Carolina

Overview

The **Carolina Museum of the Marine** is a new national destination dedicated to honoring the service, sacrifice, and legacy of **Carolina Marines and Sailors**. Opening to the public on **June 8, 2026**, the 25,000 square foot Museum tells the story of those who trained, served, and returned as citizens shaped by their military experience.

Unlike most military museums in the United States, which are typically established and operated as command museums, the Carolina Museum of the Marine is a **rare grassroots initiative**—built through decades of community leadership, private philanthropy, and broad public support.

Mission

The mission of Carolina Museum of the Marine is to honor the legacy of Carolina Marines and Sailors and to inspire future generations.

History

More than **25 years in the making**, the Carolina Museum of the Marine was created through the efforts of civic leaders, veterans, volunteers, and supporters committed to honoring the Marine Corps legacy in the Carolinas. From its inception, the Museum has been shaped by the community rather than by a single military command, ensuring a deeply personal approach to storytelling.

Location & Setting

The Museum is situated on a **27-acre site within Lejeune Memorial Gardens**, one of the most visited destinations in the Jacksonville area. The site lies on a portion of Camp Lejeune that was separated from the main installation by the U.S. 17 bypass and is home to several nationally recognized military memorials.

Exhibits & Visitor Experience

The Museum's galleries and interactive experiences depict:

- The history and impact of **Carolina Marines and Sailors**
- The training, deployments, and service that shaped their lives
- The transition from military service to citizenship and leadership beyond the uniform

Exhibits are designed to be immersive, educational, and accessible to visitors of all ages.

Leadership

President & Chief Executive Officer:

Major General Joe Shrader, USMC (Ret)

<https://www.museumofthemarine.org/about-us/our-leadership/majgen-joe-shrader/>

Media Briefing & Access

Credentialed media attending the January 27, 2026 briefing will have the opportunity to tour the Museum following formal remarks by the CEO. Media tours will highlight the building, galleries, and interpretive approach.

Media Contact

Glenn Hargett

910-358-1001