
NEWS RELEASE

Louisiana
Department of State



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SECRETARY DARDENNE ANNOUNCES MUSEUM NAME CHANGE

Secretary of State Jay Dardenne is holding a news conference at the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum in Monroe at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, to announce the museum's name change in honor of military hero Gen. Claire Lee Chennault. The museum, formerly known as the Aviation and Military Museum of Louisiana, exhibits historical items from all branches of the military and showcases Chennault and astronaut Jim Halsell.

"Gen. Chennault is a hero in both America and China," Secretary Dardenne said. "It is appropriate that this wonderful museum, which salutes so many north Louisiana military figures, now bears the name of one of Louisiana's finest."

Chennault was born in Commerce, Texas, on Sept. 6, 1893, and raised and educated in Louisiana. He spent three years at Louisiana State University and one year at Louisiana Normal College in Natchitoches, where he graduated eligible to teach. Chennault is most famous for leading the Flying Tigers in China during World War II. He received at least 17 medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster. He died in Washington, D.C. on July 27, 1958. Nell Calloway, Chennault's granddaughter, became the museum's director on May 12, 2008.

For more information about Chennault Aviation and Military Museum and the Secretary of State's Museums Division, visit our Web site at www.sos.louisiana.gov/museums.

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