



**ARMY WAR COLLEGE FOUNDATION, INC.**  
122 Forbes Avenue, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013-5234

August 10, 2021

Alumni Affairs Committee  
Army War College Foundation, Inc.  
122 Forbes Ave.  
Carlisle, PA 17013

Dear Committee Members,

Enclosed are the four recommendations we have received for our Outstanding Alumnus Program this year. The nominations are in alphabetical order. All nominations are fully eligible.

Please review the nominations in accordance with the program description and as a committee, rank order them by merit based on the information provided in the nomination packets. The committee recommendations will be presented to the full Board of Trustees for final decision at this upcoming annual Trustee meeting. Approved nominees will be recognized in our Fall magazine and depending on COVID-mitigation in the coming months, also at a ceremony at the College in mid-November.

If you have any questions, or need additional information on any of the nominees, please advise ([ruth.collins@usawc.org](mailto:ruth.collins@usawc.org) or 717-243-1756).

Nomination Enclosures

1. LTG (Ret) Larry R. Ellis, RES '86
2. LTG (Ret) Lawson W. Magruder III, RES '86
3. COL (Ret) Ralph J. Puckett, Jr., RES '67
4. LTG (Ret) William E. 'Kip' Ward, RES '92

VR,

Ruth B. Collins  
Colonel, U.S. Army, Ret.  
President & CEO

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*"Not to promote war, but to preserve peace..."*

Elihu Root, Secretary of War, regarding the 1901 establishment of the U.S. Army War College

Office: (717) 243-1756 Fax: (717) 243-0859 Email: [info@usawc.org](mailto:info@usawc.org) Homepage: [www.usawc.org](http://www.usawc.org)

The Army War College Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt, publicly-supported organization under sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1) of the IRS Code. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State, by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## **US Army War College Outstanding Alumnus Award Program**

- **Purpose:** This memorandum establishes the award and provides the requirements, policy guidance, and procedures for the recognition of U.S. Army War College graduates as "Outstanding Alumnus, U.S. Army War College."

- **General:** This program is managed by the Army War College Foundation, Inc. The "Outstanding Alumnus Award" is established to provide a prestigious and visible means of honoring U.S. Army War College graduates who distinguished themselves through outstanding achievement to their community or country.

- **Eligibility:** To be eligible for designation as "Outstanding Alumnus, U.S. Army War College," individuals must:

1. Be listed in the **Directory of U.S. Army War College Graduates** as a "graduate."
2. Be retired for a minimum of one year from the government service that was the source of attendance at the U.S. Army War College.
3. Have made significant and lasting contributions through continued service to their community or country since the above mentioned retirement.

- **Nomination and Selection Procedure:**

1. Any U.S. Army War College Alumni Affairs member in good standing may nominate any U.S. Army War College graduate for designation as an "Outstanding Alumnus, U.S. Army War College." Nominations will be submitted in writing and will contain documentation of the individual's contributions and justification as to why the individual should be so honored. Nominations should be addressed to the Army War College Foundation, and mailed to 122 Forbes Ave., Carlisle, PA 17013-5248. Nominations may also be sent via email to [alumni@usawc.org](mailto:alumni@usawc.org) with appropriate attachments.

2. Nominations will be forwarded to the Alumni Affairs Committee of the Army War College Foundation Board of Trustees in person or via email. The Alumni Affairs Committee will review the nominations and make recommendations to the full Board of Trustees for final action.

- **Notification:**

1. Individuals approved for designation as "Outstanding Alumnus, U.S. Army War College" will be notified of their selection by official correspondence from the President of the Board.
2. The CEO of the Foundation will schedule an appropriate ceremony.
3. The Foundation will reimburse the recipient for round-trip travel expenses incurred from place of residence to Carlisle or other approved location for receipt of the award. Lodging and meal costs incurred during the travel are not reimbursable. However, meal costs at the award event for the awardee and one guest will be paid by the Foundation.

4. Privileges and Responsibilities: The designation "Outstanding Alumnus, U.S. Army War College" is primarily honorific and involves no increases in retirement annuity or other remuneration. Recognition of outstanding status includes:

- a. Invitations to special Foundation and Alumni Affairs events.
- b. Featured in a separate article of the *Foundation and Alumni News*.
- c. Notification to local newspapers of the selection for the award.
- d. Name and photo included in the Outstanding Alumnus digital display in Root Hall at the College.
- e. Presented with a certificate attesting to selection for this honor.
- f. An individual designated as "Outstanding Alumnus, U.S. Army War College" is authorized to use the title and privileges indefinitely.

5. Revocation: The title and privileges may be revoked upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees and approval of the President of the Board for conduct or actions no longer reflecting the high standards of integrity and ethical conduct appropriate for an outstanding, retired, graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

### **General Nomination Format** (modify as appropriate)

**Name of Individual Nominated:**

Address:

Phone:

War College Class Year:

Year Retired from Active Military/Federal Service:

**Narrative:** (Normally 3-4 paragraphs, but not a specified length.)

**Nominated by:**

Address:

Phone:

(  ) Check here if you want your identity as nominator kept confidential.



*Building Drug-Free Communities*

February 3, 2021

Army War College Foundation  
Alumni Affairs Committee  
122 Forbes Avenue  
Carlisle, PA 17013-5248

Dear Members of the Committee:

I write to nominate General (Retired) Larry R. Ellis for induction into the U.S. Army War College Outstanding Alumnus Program, Class of 2021.

Over the span of three and a half decades, General Larry R. Ellis' military career included positions of leadership around the globe with nearly half of his service overseas. In the Pacific theater of operations, he led troops as a platoon and company commander with the 101<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (ABN) in Vietnam and US Pacific Command as the Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Policy. In South Korea, he served as Assistant Division Commander with the 2d Infantry Division and Assistant Chief of Staff C3/J3/G3, United Nations Command/ Combined Forces Command/ US Forces Korea/ 8<sup>th</sup> US Army.

In the European theater of operations, General Ellis served in Germany and the Balkans, during the Cold War. He served with troops in the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (MECH), commanded a brigade with the 3d Infantry Division (MECH), commanded 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division and served as Commander Multi-National Division (North) and Task Force Eagle while deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the Continental United States, General Ellis served in command and senior staff positions. He commanded a company and served as battalion operations officer in the 82d Infantry Division (ABN). He commanded a battalion in the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (MECH) at Ft Polk. During four strategic assignments at the Pentagon, he served in key leadership roles. They entailed: Force Structure Analyst and Chief, Manpower & Force Structure Division, Office of the Army Chief of Staff; Deputy Director, Military Personal Management and the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff G-1 (where he directed multi-year programs and budgets in support of national strategic objectives; and Army Deputy Chief of Staff G-3, (overseeing plans, operations readiness and training to include ARSTAF oversight of the Army War College). Soon after the United States deployed to war with Iraq in 2001, General Ellis was promoted to Four Star General and served as Commander of US Army Forces Command – the Army's largest command.

[cadca.org](http://cadca.org)

625 Slaters Lane, Suite 300 | Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel: 703.706.0560 | Fax: 703.706.0565

*Encl 1*

After his Army retirement in 2004, General Larry Ellis joined the Board of 'Point Blank Solutions' rising to serve as its President and Chief Executive Officer. He was a Presidential appointee, to Commissioner, on the American Battle Monuments Commission and as Commissioner on the National Commission on the Future of the Army. Additionally, he was appointed to serve on the Congressionally authorized Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Advisory Committee. He served an eight-year term as a gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia; he is serving his third, five-year term as gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Regents for Morgan State University in Maryland. Currently, he serves as an advisor to the School of Public Health at Indiana University. General Ellis is active as a director of several not-for-profit organizations which includes the Armed Forces Benefit Association, in Arlington, Virginia that aids those who served our nation in the armed forces and as civilian first responders. In addition, the Shepherd Center, in Atlanta, Georgia that specializes in medical treatment, research and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. General Ellis is Chairman of the Board for High Impact Network of Responsible Innovators (HINRI) in Atlanta, Georgia that focuses on bringing servant leadership, compassion and innovation to solving the world's most difficult health challenges. He served as Chairman and now Director on the Board of the America Korea Friendship Society in Atlanta, Georgia – a community organization that fosters and strengthens the relationship between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Korea.

General Ellis' military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (w/OLC), the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (w/2 OLC), the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (w/2OLC), the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (w/OLC), the National Defense Service Medal (w/3 Stars), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry(w/Palm), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Korean Cheonsu Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the German Armed Forces Honor Cross (Gold) and the NATO Medal. General Ellis earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Senior Parachute Badge. He is authorized to wear the Office of Secretary of Defense Staff Identification Badge, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

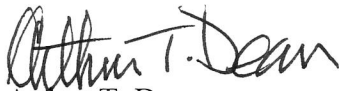
General Ellis earned a Master of Science in Public Health from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Morgan State University. General Ellis' honors include an Honorary Doctor of Laws, Army War College Honorary Master of Strategic Studies, the Indiana University Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the Morgan State University Distinguished Alumni Award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the USO Patriot Award, the NAACP National Service Award, the NAACP Frederick Douglass Leadership Medal, the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow Award, the Atlanta Rotary International Leadership Award, and the ROCK of the Year Award.

General Ellis and his wife, Jean, have been married for more than fifty years and have two adult daughters, one of whom is an Army Officer.

Enclosed are letters of support from Lieutenant General (Ret.) Arthur J. Gregg, Major General (Ret.) Thomas L. Prather, Jr. and Major General (Ret.) Hawthorne L. Proctor.

It is an honor for me to recommend General Ellis for induction as an Outstanding Alumnus, U.S. Army War College, Class of 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthur T. Dean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Arthur T. Dean

Major General, U.S. Army, Retired

Chairman and CEO Emeritus

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)

Enclosures

November 25, 2020

Army War College Foundation  
Alumni Affairs Committee  
122 Forbes Avenue  
Carlisle, PA 17013-5248

Dear Members of the Committee:

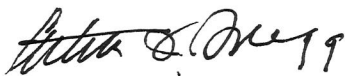
I write in full support of Major General [Retired] Arthur Dean's recommendation that General [Retired] Larry R. Ellis be selected as a U.S. Army War College Outstanding Alumnus.

I have known General Ellis for more than 25 years and have always been impressed by his presence, demeanor, and leadership. While on active duty, he held some of the Army's most critical and demanding positions, to include command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, G-3, and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces Command. In all these important assignments, and others, his performance was conspicuously outstanding,

Upon retiring from the Army in 2004, General Ellis was in high demand, and gave freely of his time and leadership to support multiple non-profit organizations. He accepted Presidential Appointments as a Commissioner on the American Battle Monuments Commission, and as a Commissioner on the National Commission on the Future of the U. S. Army. General Ellis also served as a Director on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations and commissions at the local, state, and national levels.

General Ellis' outstanding leadership and service to others are very conspicuous, and he clearly represents the best of the best graduates of the U.S. Army War College. I highly recommend that he be selected as an Outstanding Alumnus in 2021.

Sincerely,



ARTHUR J. GREGG  
LT. GEN., U.S. Army (Ret)

February 13, 2021

Army War College Foundation  
Alumni Affairs Committee  
122 Forbes Avenue  
Carlisle, PA 17013-5248

Dear Members of the Committee:

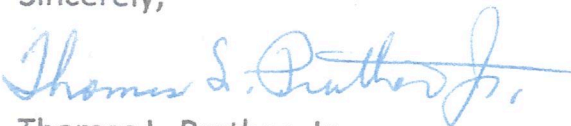
I fully support the recommendation of Major General Arthur Dean, U.S. Army Retired, that General Larry R. Ellis, U.S. Army Retired, be selected as a U.S. Army War College Outstanding Alumnus.

Over 30 years ago, I met Gen Ellis when he was a colonel assigned to The Military Personnel Center, as it was called then, directing the activities of promotion boards. His bearing and professional ethos made it obvious that he had the potential for roles of increased responsibility in our Army. His career reflects the caliber of officer who successfully commanded at every level culminating in his promotion to General and ultimately, as the Commanding General of the Army's largest command, U.S. Army Forces Command.

The level of trust, confidence and professional acumen is just as evident today in retirement as when he was in the active Army. He either leads or is a member of several boards and commissions of non-profit federal and state agencies and colleges and universities. He serves as a regent or advisor for universities in Maryland, Indiana and Georgia. He remains active in supporting our nation's national defense through membership in such organizations as the Armed Forces Benefit Association and the Association of the U.S. Army.

Gen Ellis' leadership and service to our nation is in keeping with highest traditions and characteristics of the best of graduates of the U.S. Army War College. I highly recommend his selection as an Outstanding Alumnus for 2021.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Prather, Jr.

Major General, U.S. Army Retired



Hawthorne L Proctor  
Major General, U.S. Army (Ret.)

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February 5, 2021

Army War College Foundation  
Alumni Affairs Committee  
122 Forbes Avenue  
Carlisle, PA 17013-5248

Dear Members of the Committee:

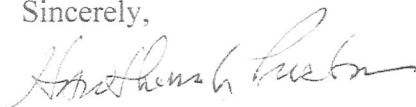
It gives me great pleasure in nominating General (Retired) Larry R. Ellis for induction into the U.S. Army War College Outstanding Alumnus Program, Class of 2021.

Having served this Nation in peace and war with distinction at every level, he has set a sterling example for others to follow. I had the pleasure of observing him and can attest to his exceptional service as a senior leader and his compassion for excellence in all with whom he led. As you look over General (Retired) Ellis' career, you can see that he was an astute leader, a caring and compassionate individual who excelled at any and all missions that he undertook. His illustrious career took him to the rank of four star General and in command of the largest Army formation as he organized and trained his forces for operations around the globe.

I recognize that this esteemed award is given in recognition of an individual's service upon retirement! In my mind, there is none better for the accomplishments that he has and is still accomplishing to make his community and this Nation a more perfect union. General (Retired) Ellis worked in a corporation as CEO and as I traversed the business community, his colleagues were quick to point out his impact on their organization as well as the communities surrounding the firm that he led. Having been appointed to several Commissions and Committees in support of our Nation, our Army, his community and his Alma Mater, Morgan State University, General Ellis served with care, compassion and with the focus that he would leave such organizations better than he found them. Additionally, he is currently serving on not for profit boards including the Armed Forces Benefit Association which provides support for our Nation's service members and civilian first responders.

In addition to the numerous awards that he earned on active duty, General Ellis has been awarded many civic, academic service and community awards! Therefore, I strongly recommend General Ellis for immediate selection as an Outstanding Alumnus in the US Army War College Class of 2021.

Sincerely,



Hawthorne L. Proctor  
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired  
Honorary Colonel, U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

## Recommendation for Army War College Outstanding Alumni 2021

### Name of Individual Nominated:

Lawson W. Magruder III

Lieutenant General, U.S. Army Retired

### Personal Information:

- Address: 11141 Monmouth San Antonio, Texas 78239
- Phone: 210-364-3978
- Army War College Class Year: 1986
- Year Retired from Active Military/Federal Service: 1 September 2001

### Narrative:

After commissioning as a distinguished military graduate from the University of Texas at Austin's Army ROTC program, Lawson W. Magruder III went on to have a highly successful career in the United States Army retiring as a Lieutenant General in 2001. Among his many leadership achievements:

- Successfully led soldiers in combat in Vietnam and Somalia accomplishing dangerous missions to the highest standard.
- As an infantry officer, 22 of his 32 years of service were in leadership (command) positions. He commanded at every level from platoon through division.
- Commanded an airborne rifle company in the 82d Airborne, was handpicked to serve as the class leader of his Infantry career course class (200 students), was the first B Company commander (175 Rangers) in the newly activated 2d Ranger Battalion, a Light Infantry Battalion commander (750 soldiers) in Alaska and a Light Infantry Brigade commander (2500 soldiers) in the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.
- As the Assistant Division Commander of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York, he deployed on two major humanitarian operations: Hurricane Andrew Relief in South Florida and Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. On both operations he was a key leader in the success of the missions. In Somalia he commanded Combined Joint Task Force Kismayo during a highly dangerous period. His forces were able to quell the clan violence and bring stability to the area so that the nongovernmental organizations could support the starving populace and reduce the suffering. The deployment became the standard for the US military in future peace enforcement operations like Kosovo, Bosnia, and Haiti.
- As the Commanding General of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, he and his team established a world-class training center for the U.S. Army's contingency forces and Air Force lift and close air support units. Based on his Somalia experience, he developed highly realistic live fire exercises and advanced realism on the training

battlefield. He and his team developed a realistic training program to prepare soldiers for deployment on peace enforcement operations worldwide.

- As the Commanding General of US Army South, he oversaw the turnover of military bases valued at over \$500 million to the government of Panama while providing outstanding quality of life for 12,000 soldiers, 3000 civilians and 10,000 family members. His team also developed training programs for leaders in 17 Latin American nations helping them reshape their national security strategies towards peacetime engagement with their neighbors. Of note, Army South provided valuable support to the implementation of a peace accord between Peru and Ecuador after their short war in 1995.
- As the Commanding General of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and Fort Drum, he oversaw the training, combat readiness for soldiers and the quality of life for the 11,000 soldiers and family members. Collective and leader training programs exploited state-of-the-art training devices and learning tools as soldiers prepared for deployment to Kosovo, Bosnia, and the Sinai Peninsula. Of note, in January 1998 the worst ice storm in modern history blasted Fort Drum and the surrounding counties. Under his command, the soldiers and civilians at Fort Drum were instrumental in supporting FEMA in response to the disaster. Their actions brought calm and services to the effected local communities. His team were lauded by the local, state, and federal government to included receipt of a congressional proclamation.
- As a Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff of US Army Forces Command, the Army's largest major command, he was responsible for the direct supervision of a staff of over 1600 federal employees. He oversaw an annual funding program of over \$4 billion and the resources for 20 subordinate Army installations and the combat readiness of over 400,000 soldiers in United States. He also oversaw the development of comprehensive strategic campaign plans that were effectively implemented after the attacks on our Nation on 9-11.
- He served for two years on the Board of Directors for the Army Air Force Exchange Service.
- He attended the Army War College from 1985-1986. He and three other students collaborated on a major study project resulting in a paper titled, *Excellence in Brigades*. It was widely publicized in the Army and was distributed at the Fort Leavenworth Pre-command course for several years.
- Among his many awards he is:
  - A member of the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame, US Army ROTC Hall of Fame, and is a Distinguished Member of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment.
  - Selected early for promotion to major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel. He was also the youngest officer selected for promotion to brigadier general in 1992.
  - His highest military awards include: Distinguished Service Medal (two awards), Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four awards), the Bronze Star

Medal (two awards), the Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Master Parachutist Badge.

- He was honored with peacetime awards from the Armies of El Salvador, Colombia, Venezuela, Belize, and Argentina.
- He and his spouse Gloria received the Aaron and Hur award from the Army's Chief of Chaplains for their strong support of our Catholic and other Faith communities.
- He was the first Lieutenant General (three stars) and one of only two in the 72-year history of Army ROTC at the University of Texas at Austin.
- Lawson's degrees and military courses he attended include:
  - 1969 -BBA in International Business from the University of Texas at Austin
  - 1979- MA in Management from Central Michigan University
  - 1979- US Army Command and General Staff College
  - 1986- US Army War College

Since retirement from the Army, Lawson has held a wide variety of positions in the security and leader development arenas.

- He has served as Vice President for National Security Programs for Battelle Memorial Institute. During his tenure with Battelle, he helped form its Office for Homeland Security.
- He served as the Executive Director for the University of Texas at San Antonio's Institute for the Protection of American Communities and the Associate Vice President for Research Alliances. He helped UTSA strengthen its relationships with the military commands in the San Antonio area. His efforts landed a large research grant from the State of Texas Emerging Technology Fund that fueled the emergence of UTSA as a national recognized leader in the cyber security area.
- He has served on the Board of Directors of the Franciscan Foundation and is currently a Director on the Army Residence Community Foundation Board.
- He is the Chairman of the Darrell K Royal Texas Memorial Stadium Veterans Committee appointed by the President of the University of Texas at Austin. Its mission is to lead the UT campus community in recognizing the courageous men and women who serve and have served our Nation.

Lawson's true passion is for leader development. It was fueled in various consulting positions prior to the formation of LWMIII Consulting LLC.

- He was an executive coach for FMI- a leader in consulting services for the construction industry.
- He was a senior mentor for several years for Active, National Guard and Army Reserve units preparing for deployment worldwide. He has also assisted units as they prepared for domestic disaster relief and homeland defense operations.

Lawson is the President and Principal Owner of LWMIII Consulting LLC, a highly respected, leader development company. He and his partner Byrd Baggett have developed True Growth, a world-class leader development model program recognized by the United States Army, FEMA, numerous commercial businesses, and academic institutions. Read more at: [www.truegrowthleadership.com](http://www.truegrowthleadership.com)

Lawson's company has been delivered the highest quality leader development programs across the Nation for the past 15-years. They have delivered impactful training and leadership coaching to more than 120 leader development programs, have trained more than 16,000 leaders, and have delivered more than 26,000 hours of one-on-one coaching.

Particularly noteworthy, he and his team of over 37 experienced senior leaders for over nine years helped over 11,000 future Army brigade and battalion commanders and command sergeants major gain better balance in their lives and become more authentic leaders as they deployed worldwide.

Lawson is also an author. In 2020, he published *A Soldier's Journey Living His "Why"*. It is a book of stories. Part autobiography, part memoir, the book is intended also, and perhaps most importantly, to be a primer of sorts for those interested in leadership. As you read the stories in the book you will find personal triumphs, and at times personal failures. Candor and frankness, as well as humility, and a willingness to admit shortcomings show how values are developed or sometimes discovered. Understanding one's purpose is key to answering most of life's other questions. From time to time, the stories will include a summary of life-changing leadership lessons and events that were significant crucibles and emotional experiences in Lawson's journey. Throughout, the narrative is at times serious, sober, but also often humorous and lighthearted. Read more at: [www.amazon.com/Soldiers-Journey-Living-His-Why/dp/B08HB68BXG](http://www.amazon.com/Soldiers-Journey-Living-His-Why/dp/B08HB68BXG)

This award is focused on LTG Magruder; however, it must be highlighted that he was supported every step of the way by his spouse of 52 years, Gloria. At every stop in their exciting journey in their beloved Army, she was an invaluable asset to her Army family. Some examples:

- In the Ranger Battalion she started the first family support group that cared for the spouses and families of Rangers of all grades. It became the model for units at Fort Lewis Washington.
- At Fort Benning Georgia she helped develop a company commanders spouse program that prepared spouses to assist their unit's families when their husbands were in command. At Benning, the Magruder family was spotlighted as the Family of the Year.
- In Alaska and Hawaii, she was the consummate community volunteer and leader of the family support groups for Lawson's units.
- In Lawson's general officer commands, Gloria became a highly respected community leader always focused on improving the quality of life for families. She worked closely

with the garrison staff at every stop. Of note, the Panama Community was recognized for two consecutive years and one of the highly selected Army's Communities of Excellence.

- In Panama, she was an ambassador for the command on sponsored trips with Lawson to numerous countries where she would introduce the senior spouses to the family support group concept and other US Army family action plans. She was also a very gracious hostess to numerous high-ranking delegations to Panama.
- Gloria received several official Army awards for her volunteer work and leadership in the community.
- Through 19 moves over 32 years, Gloria was the "hero at home" doing double duty as a parent when Lawson was deployed. She raised three loving children who along with their four grandchildren are now positively making a difference in this world.

**Nominated by:**

MG (Ret) Virgil (Duz) L. Packett II  
256.337.6526  
[duz.packett@gmail.com](mailto:duz.packett@gmail.com)

LTG (Ret) Ken Keen  
4498 Payton Oaks PL  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
786-271-7423  
[ken.keen@emory.edu](mailto:ken.keen@emory.edu)

## Recommendation for Army War College Outstanding Alumni 2021

### Name of Individual Nominated:

Ralph Puckett

Colonel, U.S. Army Retired

### Personal Information:

- Address: 236 Spring Harbor Drive, Columbus, GA 31904
- Phone: 706-324-3436 or 706-325-7300
- Army War College Class Year: RES 1967
- Year Retired from Active Military/Federal Service: 1971, 22 years of active service

### Narrative:

Colonel (Retired) Ralph Puckett graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1949 (where he captained the Army Boxing Team). Colonel Puckett has led a life of serving others, both in uniform for 22 years and since retirement in 1971. As a veteran he served his community and provided inspirational leadership to young people aspiring to be leaders in our Nation.

Ralph Puckett was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant, deployed to Japan, and immediately volunteered to be assigned with the Rangers. Those selecting the leaders of the newly forming 8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company in Korea was so impressed by Puckett's attitude that they gave him the company commander's position; a position normally reserved for Captains. On 11 October 1950, the Eighth Army Ranger Company entered the Korean War, conducting raids during both daylight and nighttime conditions.

Puckett led the Eighth Army Ranger Company during the Korean War. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on November 25, 1950, when his company of 51 Rangers was attacked by several hundred Chinese forces at the battle for Hill 205. *Upgraded to the Medal of Honor and awarded by Pres. Biden May 2021.*

Following the Korean War, Puckett served over two years in the U.S. Army Infantry School Ranger Department as commander of the Mountain Ranger Division. As the first Ranger Advisor in the U.S. Army Mission to Colombia, he planned and established the Colombian Army Escuela de Lanceros (Ranger School). Later, he commanded "B" and "C" teams in the 10th Special Forces Group in Germany. In 1967, then-Lieutenant Colonel Puckett commanded the 2d Battalion, 502d Infantry (Airborne) of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He was awarded a second Distinguished Service Cross for heroic leadership in August 1967. During a dire, night-long defense near Chu Lai, he inspired his Soldiers, who rallied to repel the attacking North Vietnamese. A rifle platoon leader preparing for a "last stand" recalled Colonel Puckett's effect on the nearly exhausted soldiers: "... word of Colonel Puckett's arrival spread like wildfire. We all stiffened up and felt that nothing bad could happen now because the Ranger was with us."

After retiring in 1971, he became the national programs coordinator of Outward Bound, Inc. He subsequently established Discovery, Inc. After several years of successful leadership at Discovery, Inc. in Herndon, Virginia, Puckett moved to Atlanta and began the Discovery Program at The Westminster Schools, which became known nationally in the adventure education community. In 1984, he became the executive vice president of MicroBilt, Inc., a soft- and hardware computer company. Puckett finally retired to Columbus, Georgia, where he has remained actively involved with serving the Columbus community and mentoring young officers attending the Infantry School and Ranger School at Fort Benning.

Puckett was an inaugural inductee into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame in 1992. He served as the Honorary Colonel for the 75th Ranger Regiment from 1996 to 2006 for which he was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Award. He speaks often at graduations and other functions at Ft. Benning and is an Honorary Instructor at The Infantry School. He was inducted into the Order of St. Maurice in 1998, and was the 1998 Ranger of the Year for the Ranger Infantry Companies of the Korean War. He was inducted into the USAF Gathering of Eagles in 1999. He was added to the Tifton, Georgia, Wall of Fame in 2004. Other honors include appointment as an Ambassador of Goodwill by the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, selection as a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Military Academy in 2004, and selection as the Infantry's Doughboy Award recipient in 2007. He is the author of Words for Warriors: A Professional Soldier's Notebook and numerous media articles.

For nearly 30 years, Colonel (Retired) Puckett has served as a mentor and inspirational leader to officers attending various schools at Fort Benning. He would meet the Infantry candidates after a 0600 run at the Ranger Memorial and give them a heavy dose of what it means to be an Infantryman and encourage them in their quest for the Ranger tab. He also met regularly with officers in the infantry basic course and candidates attending the Army's Officer Candidate School.

In recognition for his community service, Puckett has also earned many community awards for his leadership and character. He and his wife, Jeanie, were recipients of the Pastoral Institute's Servant Leadership Award. This is the highest recognition in the Columbus community for service. He also received the Boy Scout's Distinguished Citizen's Award and the Columbus Rotary Club's Mary Reed Award for Service above self.

He lives in Columbus, Georgia, with his wife, the former Jean Martin. They have two daughters (Jean & Martha), one son (Thomas), and six grandchildren (Lauren, Dixon, Martha Lane, Jean, Sarah, and Jack).

**Nominated by:**

LTG (Ret) Ken Keen  
4498 Payton Oaks PL  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
786-271-7423



February 5, 2021

Chairman, Alumni Affairs Committee  
The Army War College Foundation  
122 Forbes Avenue  
Carlisle, PA 17013-5248

Dear Mr./Mrs. Chairman:

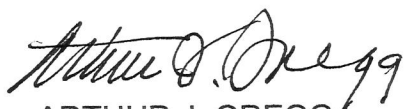
I am very pleased to recommend Lieutenant General [R] William E "Kip" Ward for selection as a 2021 United States Army War College Outstanding Alumnus. He is a 1992 graduate of the Army War College, and currently resides at 11990 Market Street, Unit 1201, Reston, VA 20190, telephone number: c:703-431-7483. General Ward retired from the Army in 2012 after an exceptionally long and distinguished career of 41 years. Since his retirement, he has been engaged in multiple Non-profit activities.

General Ward began his military career in 1971 following graduation from Morgan State University and completing the ROTC Program as a Distinguished Graduate. He entered active duty as an infantry officer and distinguished himself in a number of demanding command and staff positions from platoon to Combatant Command levels. His performance was consistently outstanding, and he gained a reputation of excellence which served him well while on active duty and in retirement.

Since his retirement from the Army, General Ward has been engaged in several military and non-military related activities. These included mentoring active-duty officers and ROTC cadets. He is strongly committed to helping our Army develop and maintain a high-quality officer corp. He is a life member of the Association of the US Army [AUSA], the U.S. Army War College [USAWC] Alumni Association, and the ROCKS, Inc. He is also a highly active member of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition's National Security Advisory Council, and frequently represents the Council at the US Congress. He is a frequent guest speaker at colleges and universities.

Attached is a summary of General Ward's most significant non-profit activities and a letter of recommendation from Major General Thomas Prather. General Ward's multi-tasking ability and leadership have allowed him to significantly impact many worthy activities, which are important to our Army. He has conspicuously represented the best of the War College graduates and I strongly recommend that he be selected as an Army War College Outstanding Alumnus for 2021.

Sincerely,



ARTHUR J. GREGG  
LT. GEN., U.S. Army (Ret)

February 4, 2021

Army War College Foundation  
Alumni Affairs Committee  
122 Forbes Avenue  
Carlisle, PA 17013-5248

Dear Members of the Committee:

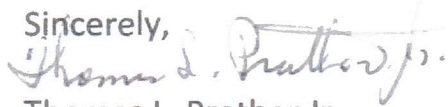
I fully support the recommendation of Lieutenant General Arthur J. Gregg, U.S. Army Retired, that Lieutenant General William E. Ward, U.S. Army Retired, be selected as a U.S. Army War College Outstanding Alumnus.

General Ward was a colonel and the Executive Officer to the Vice Chief of Staff, Army, when I first met him and observed his confident professional demeanor. It was obvious that he had unlimited potential and was destined for larger roles in the Army. He went on to be a distinguished commander from brigade through combatant command levels.

In retirement, he has been a tireless and selfless supporter of numerous non-profit and civic and community organizations. He remains active in Army related organizations such as the Association of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army War College. He frequently speaks to international audiences on security concerns and issues. He is a staunch supporter of his alma mater, Morgan State University, participating in student forums and the university's ROTC Program. He mentors ROTC cadets and follows their progression through commissioning and on to respective assignments. Additionally, he participates in a global mentoring network and leader development forum to enhance Army officers' professionalism.

General Ward's international and national impact and influences are above reproach and clearly represents the characteristics of the best of graduates of the U.S Army War College. I highly recommend his selection as an Outstanding Alumnus for 2021.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Prather Jr.

Major General, U.S. Army Retired

# **U.S. Army War College Outstanding Alumni Award Program**

**Name:** William E. Ward  
**Address:** 11990 Market St, Unit 1201  
Reston, VA 20190

**Phone:** C: 703-431-7483

**Class:** 1992

**Retired:** 2012

## **NARRATIVE**

Spanning four decades, Lieutenant General (R) William E. “Kip” Ward wore the cloth of our nation, serving our country as a dedicated Soldier and servant leader, commanding Infantry, Joint and Combined formations at every echelon from Platoon to Combatant Command. This service to nation was accomplished throughout the United States including Alaska and Hawaii, and around the globe in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa, in peace and in war. This Baltimore native, a 1971 Distinguished Military Graduate of Morgan State University, is renowned for the value he places on serving and giving back/paying forward. That was a characteristic trait of his uniformed days and equally so, it has characterized his days as a retired Soldier.

Upon retirement, General Ward joined SENTEL Corporation of Alexandria VA. At SENTEL, a company competing in the full and open government contracting space, as its president, Ward led the tremendous growth of this engineering and logistics company for five years. As SENTEL president, Ward oversaw company operations, human resource activities, standards and compliance issues, and growth activities among other operational aspects, all while having clear oversight for the company’s profit and loss aspects. In 2018, SENTEL was acquired by Vectrus Corporation of Colorado Springs, CO. Cognizant of the influence and leading role he had within the company along with the immense respect customers had for him, General Ward was invited to serve as the Strategic Adviser to Vectrus Corporation. Among a plethora of activities, to be discussed here, General Ward maintains this relationship with Vectrus today. As an independent consultant, he also advises Emagine IT, Inc. of Alexandria, VA.

## Ward - 2

**“Once a Soldier – Always a Soldier” and “Soldier for Life” are mottos we know well in describing our ethos. General Ward embodies this distinguishing character and, along with remaining very active in Army organizations, follows this sentiment in furthering his retired military, civic and community activities. As an Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) life member, he is active in AUSA events and programs. A former ROCK of the Year, he is a life member of The ROCKS, Inc, remaining dedicated to the professional development of the Army’s officer corps. He currently does this through participation in a robust mentoring network (global) and monthly leader professional development fora. Shortly after graduating from the U.S. Army War College (USAWC), he became a life member of the USAWC Alumni Association and continues to support its objectives. Very notably, General Ward is dedicated to mentoring cadets in the ROTC program at his Alma Mater. He is fully committed to this ideal and tracks newly commissioned lieutenants through their basic courses and skill schools. With a focus on increased participation by minority officers in combat arms, as aligned with Chief of Staff, Army goals and objectives, Ward is currently sponsoring newly commissioned infantry lieutenants. With one recent IBOLC, Airborne and Ranger graduate from Morgan presently assigned to the 82d Abn Division, he is now coaching another lieutenant just beginning IBOLC, to be followed by Airborne and Ranger school in 2021.**

**The relationship General Ward has been able to maintain with Morgan was further amplified when Morgan awarded him the prestigious honor of Alumnus of the Year. He and his wife, also a Morgan graduate, are generous lifetime members of Morgan’s Alumni Association.**

**General Ward brings his resolute concern for advancement to younger ages as well, with retirement affording him additional time for civic engagement opportunities. Through his fraternal organizations, Ward co-chairs two Mentoring committees involved with mentoring sixth to twelfth graders. In addition, another Fraternity committee (Fatherhood) is dedicated to empowering men to be better dads in the tradition of the old Army cliché, “being all they can be.” Resulting from General Ward’s enviable reputation for advancing U.S. national security interests as the inaugural commander of U.S. Africa Command, upon retirement he was asked to join the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition’s (USGLC) National Security Advisory Council. As one of its most active members, General Ward is a leading voice in promoting the value of development and**

## **Ward – 3**

**diplomacy alongside defense in achieving U.S. National Security interests. He frequently is the lead for USGLC engagements on Capitol Hill advocating for our development agenda overseas. In recognition of his effective role, General Ward was asked to introduce and present the non-partisan Freedom Caucus in Congress at USGLC’s pre-COVID annual recognition and awards dinner, December 2019. Additionally, Ward has been the security spokesperson on USGLC trips overseas in assessing the effectiveness of U.S. taxpayer dollars in achieving development objectives.**

**With the understanding and knowledge General Ward gained as an Assistant Professor at West Point earlier in his career, in retirement he is a highly sought guest lecturer for undergraduate and graduate level seminars. His advanced degree credentials and vast experiences emanating from interagency, joint and combined assignments are foundational. These experiences including his assignment as the U.S. Security Coordinator, Israel and Palestinian Authority reporting directly to the U.S. Secretary of State, underwrite his credibility to speak to audiences. He routinely delivers remarks at higher learning institutions across the U.S. Included in this set are the University of Washington, Naval Post Graduate School, Naval War College, Georgetown University, George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University. And, similar to Ward’s actions in supporting communities as a commander in Hawaii and Europe, his local civilian community frequently taps him for high school graduation baccalaureates.**

**Retirement (although Ward’s children say he has rewired, not retired) also finds General Ward routinely engaged in national security policy discussions as a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations and with the Brookings Institution and the Heritage Foundation. In addition, Ward is an active contributor to programming conducted by the Atlantic Council, regularly attending roundtables and seminars with notable foreign officials. Internationally recognized as well, General Ward is often asked to speak to international audiences on issues of security, such as being the guest presenter at the annual Ndayi Boubacar Lecture sponsored by the African Export-Import Bank in 2018.**

## **Ward - 4**

Since retiring General Ward has served on numerous boards and committees. The boards have represented non-profit and for-profit organizations. He was previously a Director on Redwood Global, Inc. and currently chairs the Systems Applications and Technologies Board of Directors. Further he is a former Director for Africare and currently is Vice-Chair for the Corporate Council on Africa Board of Directors. Other board appointments are with PoliHire Strategies and The HistoryMakers. As a member of the External Research and Advisory Panel at Morgan State University, General Ward has helped guide Morgan's increased participation in the Department of Defense grant and research program, including notable grants from the National Science Foundation.

Alongside his numerous military awards and decorations, General Ward has been recognized with Essence Magazine's Leadership Award, The Trumpet Award, 100 Black Men of America Lifetime Leadership Award, Presidential Award of Distinction from Morehouse College, Special Congressional Recognition by the U.S. House of Representatives, and he is a 2019 Omega Image Award Honoree.

General Ward holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Morgan State University in Baltimore and a Master of Arts in Political Science from The Pennsylvania State University in State College. He also has two Honorary Doctorate Degrees in Public Service.

General Ward and his wife Joyce will celebrate their 50-year wedding anniversary this spring, 2021. They are the proud parents of an adult son and daughter and have two grandchildren.

**Nominated by: Lieutenant General (R) Arthur Gregg**

**Address: 3659 Secret Grove Ct.  
Dumfries, VA 22026**

**Phone: 703-670-7197**