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HOMECOMING CONVOCATION
AND
RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

Hall of Fame Ceremony

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1988
11:05 a.m.

AUDITORIUM OF HARRISON H. FERRELL BUILDING
WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE
INSTITUTE, WEST VIRGINIA

A SHORT HISTORY OF ROTC AT WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE

West Virginia State College was founded in 1891 as one of sixty Land Grant Colleges in the United States. As provided in section four of the Morrill Act, military training was a requirement. With this authorization, in addition to agriculture, mechanical arts, etc., Military Tactics was taught. The ROTC Department of West Virginia State College, as we now know it today, began shortly after with the establishment of a military corps in 1899.

While provisions for military training were not specifically included in the language of the West Virginia State Legislative Act establishing West Virginia Colored Institute, training was conducted during the school's first year in existence.

This tacit agreement marked the first organized military activity at present day West Virginia State College (WVSC). Military training continued at the college with the exception of temporary suspension during the years of 1907-1916 and 1920-1942.

Much of the credit for the establishment of the present ROTC program goes to Mr. Daniel P. Lincoln, a former registrar, and Professor Daniel L. Ferguson, (both deceased) for whom the ROTC building was named. Their success in conducting military training on a voluntary basis early in World War II laid the ground work for the War Department's recognition of the college's desire to continue with the ROTC program.

In 1942, a Senior ROTC Unit was established at West Virginia State College providing instruction in Field Artillery. This Unit was the only one of its kind in the country approved by the War Department for a Negro College. Artillery, as a subject, was taught until 1956 when the department was redesignated as a General Military Science Program. This meant that cadets could receive General Military Instruction with emphasis on fundamentals common to all branches of the Army, and that graduates could be commissioned in any of its eighteen branches.

The Military Science Department acquired an elective status in 1970 and ceased to be a mandatory program for which all male students were required to enroll. The military science program at West Virginia State College has, traditionally been an integral part of the College's existence since its founding.

PROGRAM

Harry V. Scott, Presiding
Vice-President, Academic Affairs

PRELUDE—Manatee Lyric Overture *Robert Sheldon*
West Virginia State College Wind Ensemble
David Williams, Conductor

POSTING OF COLORS ROTC Color Guard
Vicki Pope, Cadet Commander, Class of 1991

NATIONAL ANTHEM—

INVOCATION Samuel Allmond
Second Lieutenant, Class of 1988
Mr. 'State' 1988-89

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS Quewanncoi C. Stephens
Lieutenant Colonel, Professor of Military Science

PRESENTATION OF INDUCTEES AND RESPONSE—

Bernice McGhee, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), Class of 1952
presented by Bessie Moore, Cadet Captain

C. Milton Kates, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), Class of 1952
presented by James Donahue, Cadet Major

Alphonso W. Nabors, Colonel (Retired), Class of 1954
presented by Ruben Noles, Cadet Captain

Edwin A. Wilkerson, Colonel, Class of 1959
presented by John Shawkins, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel

MUSICAL SELECTION—The Black Horse Troop March . . *John Philip Sousa*
West Virginia State College Wind Ensemble

RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS

PRESENTATIONS Quewanncoi C. Stephens

SPECIAL PRESENTATION Willie McCrary
Colonel, Class of 1966

CLOSING REMARKS Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
President, West Virginia State College

ALMA MATER—

BERNICE MCGHEE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, RETIRED

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BERNICE MCGHEE IS A 1952 GRADUATE OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE. SHE ENLISTED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE IN 1954 AS A MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS SPECIALIST AND RECEIVED A DIRECT COMMISSION AS A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, AEROSPACE MEDICAL LABORATORY, WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO, IN 1958.

WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY, COLONEL MCGHEE SERVED AS ASSISTANT CHIEF, AIRMAN AND OFFICER PERSONNEL DIVISION, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE SPECIAL WEAPONS CENTER, KIRKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO; CHIEF, PERSONNEL DIVISION, UNITED STATES LOGISTICS GROUP, ANKARA, AIR STATION, TURKEY; DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, HEADQUARTERS, CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS REGION, TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OKLAHOMA; DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, HEADQUARTERS SPANISH COMMUNICATIONS REGION, TORREJON AIR FORCE BASE, SPAIN; AND CHIEF, CONSOLIDATE RESERVE PERSONNEL OFFICE, HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND, ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND. COLONEL MCGHEE ALSO SERVED AS LIAISON OFFICER FOR CONGRESSIONAL MATTERS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, MANPOWER AND ORGANIZATION, HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, THE PENTAGON.

COLONEL MCGHEE'S MILITARY HONORS INCLUDE THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL WITH TWO OAK LEAF CLUSTERS, AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH ONE OAK LEAF CLUSTER, AND THE NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL. SHE WAS THE FIRST WOMAN SELECTED BY THE AIR FORCE TO ATTEND THE ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE AND THE INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES.

SINCE RETIREMENT, SHE SPENDS HER TIME AS AN AVID READER, BOWLER AND INTERIOR DECORATOR.

C. MILTON KATES

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, RETIRED

LIEUTENANT COLONEL C. MILTON KATES IS A 1952 ROTC GRADUATE OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE. AFTER GRADUATION, HE ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE FIELD ARTILLERY.

WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY, COLONEL KATES ATTENDED ARTILLERY OFFICER BASIC COURSE, THE ADVANCED ARTILLERY COURSE, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL, COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE, AND THE LOGISTICS EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT COURSE.

COLONEL KATES HAS SERVED HIS COUNTRY PROUDLY FOR OVER 25 YEARS IN THE ACTIVE ARMY AND IN THE ARMY RESERVES. WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY, HE HAD MANY SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS TO INCLUDE FIELD ARTILLERY BASIC TRAINING INSTRUCTOR, FORT CHAFFEE, ARKANSAS; COMBAT DUTY AS A BATTERY EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN I CORPS ARTILLERY KOREA; AND INSTRUCTOR AT I CORPS ARTILLERY SCHOOL, KOREA. UPON ENTERING THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVES, HE CONSCIENTIOUSLY FURTHERED HIS MILITARY EDUCATION AND SERVED AS AN OFFICER IN THE OHIO 83RD DIVISION ARTILLERY.

COLONEL KATES' MILITARY HONORS INCLUDE THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL, THE UNITED NATIONS MEDAL AND THE KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL.

A NATIVE OF BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA, HE AND HIS WIFE EDNA HAVE TWO SONS, STEPHEN AND DWAYNE. COLONEL KATES ALSO CONTINUES TO PURSUE A SUCCESSFUL CIVILIAN CAREER AS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE SOLAR DISTRIBUTION COMPANY.

ALPHONSO W. NABORS

COLONEL, RETIRED

COLONEL ALPHONSO W. NABORS, DISTINGUISHED MILITARY GRADUATE OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE ARMY ROTC IN 1954, RETIRED FROM THE ARMY RESERVE IN 1980 BUT NOT FROM THE ARMY. HE IS STILL SERVING HIS COUNTRY AS A DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CIVILIAN.

WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY, COLONEL NABORS ATTENDED THE FIELD ARTILLERY OFFICER BASIC COURSE, THE FIELD ARTILLERY OFFICER ADVANCED COURSE AND COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE.

COLONEL NABOR'S CAREER HAS SPANNED MORE THAN 30 YEARS DURING WHICH TIME HE HAS OCCUPIED HIGH-LEVEL POSITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND OVERSEAS. HIS ASSIGNMENTS TOOK HIM TO FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA; FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS; GERMANY; AND KOREA. HIS MILITARY HONORS INCLUDE THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL WITH TWO OAK LEAF CLUSTERS, THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL, AND THE UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL.

FOR THE PAST 21 YEARS, COLONEL NABORS HAS SERVED AS AN ARMY RESERVE TECHNICIAN. HE IS CURRENTLY THE SUPERVISORY STAFF ADMINISTRATOR TO THE 1,200 MEMBER ARMY RESERVE GROUP HEADQUARTERED IN CROSS LANES, WEST VIRGINIA.

HE AND HIS WIFE ALICE ARE THE PARENTS OF ONE SON AND THREE DAUGHTERS, ONE OF WHOM IS ALSO A WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE GRADUATE AND ANOTHER WHO IS CURRENTLY A JUNIOR HERE.

EDWIN A. WILKERSON

COLONEL

COLONEL EDWIN A. WILKERSON, A 1959 GRADUATE OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE, IS A NATIVE OF GARY, WEST VIRGINIA. HE ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY IN JULY OF THAT YEAR AND LATER ATTENDED THE INFANTRY OFFICER BASIC COURSE, AIRBORNE, RANGER, AND JUMP MASTER COURSES.

HIS SIGNIFICANT ASSIGNMENTS THUS FAR INCLUDE PLATOON LEADER AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AIRBORNE RIFLE COMPANY, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY; COMMANDER, 1ST BATTALION, 2D BRIGADE, FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA; INFANTRY REGIMENT AND BATTALION ADVISOR, VIETNAM; COMMANDER, 1ST BATTALION, 39TH INFANTRY, 2D BRIGADE, 8TH INFANTRY DIVISION, GERMANY; COMMANDER, ARMED FORCES ENTRANCE AND EXAMINING STATION, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND; AND SENIOR ARMY ADVISOR, US ARMY RESERVE, 91ST DIVISION, FORT BAKER, CALIFORNIA. COLONEL WILKERSON IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE 83D USAR COMMAND, COLUMBUS, OHIO. HE IS A GRADUATE OF THE ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE AND THE US ARMY WAR COLLEGE.

COLONEL WILKERSON'S MILITARY HONORS INCLUDE THE SILVER STAR, BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH OAK LEAF CLUSTER, MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL WITH FOUR OAK LEAF CLUSTERS, AIR MEDAL, JOINT SERVICE COMMENDATION MEDAL, ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL, ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL AND VIETNAM GALLANTRY CROSS WITH SILVER STAR. HE HAS EARNED THE COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE AND THE EXPERT INFANTRY BADGE.

COLONEL WILKERSON AND HIS WIFE AMBER HAVE ONE DAUGHTER, LORETTA. IN HIS LEISURE TIME HE ENJOYS SPORTS, WOODWORKING AND AUTO RACING.

ROTC HALL OF FAME

The West Virginia State College ROTC Hall of Fame was created to recognize the accomplishments of its graduates from the program who have excelled in their chosen fields. Previous inductees are listed below:

1980

Major General (Ret) Edward Greer
Major General (Ret) Charles C. Rogers
Major General (Ret) Harvey D. Williams
Brigadier General (Ret) Dallas C. Brown

1981

Colonel (Ret) Frank C. Bacon
Colonel (Ret) George E. Peters, Jr.
Colonel (Ret) Robert L. Peters
Colonel (Ret) Vincent E. Reed

1982

Colonel (Ret) Grover A. DuBose
Colonel (Ret) James M. Garrison, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Nelson R. Bickley

1983

Brigadier General Robert L. Stephens, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Preston A. Davis
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Haywood H. Martin

1984

Brigadier General Joseph E. Turner (USAR)
Colonel Charles E. Stokes, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Richard V. White
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Howard L. Wilson

1985

Brigadier General (Ret) Walter F. Johnson, III
Colonel Thomas E. Carter, M.D.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Thomas D. Carter, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) James L. Hill

1986

Colonel (Ret) Paul H. Easley, Sr.
Colonel (Ret) Roscoe A. Swann, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) John E. Baker
Major (Ret) James W. Hawkins, Jr.

1987

Colonel (Ret) Vandy L. Miller
Colonel Herman H. Jones
Colonel James W. Vallandingham
Colonel (Ret) James W. Reed

PROFESSORS OF MILITARY SCIENCE

Lieutenant Colonel Payton Winlock	1942-1944
Lieutenant Colonel Benote H. Lee	1944-1946
Lieutenant Colonel Leon Lavoie	1946-1948
Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Wesner	1948-1951
Lieutenant Colonel Orion Page	1951-1954
Major Robbin Washington	1954-1956
Lieutenant Colonel John Woodruff	1956-1958
Lieutenant Colonel Howard Bartholomew	1958-1959
Lieutenant Colonel Howard Hinkson	1959-1964
Lieutenant Colonel Joseph C. Hill	1964-1967
Lieutenant Colonel Marvin E. Billups	1967-1971
Lieutenant Colonel Louis J. Weil	1971-1973
Colonel Lawrence M. Sevdý	1973-1974
Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Goldsmith	1974-1976
Lieutenant Colonel Edward Robertson	1976-1979
Lieutenant Colonel Charles T. Ledbetter	1979-1983
Lieutenant Colonel Douglas W. Richmond	1983-1984
Lieutenant Colonel Quewanncii C. Stephens	1984-

ALMA MATER

Of West Virginia State College

ERNEST WADE '30

MARTHA SPENCER '31

1. There is a place we love so dear. Its name we'll ever praise and re-vere. 'Tis West Vir-gin-ia State we love. Just one more step from there is heav'n a - bove. West Vir- gin - ia's praise we'll sing. Lift our voic-es 'til heav-ens ring. As we gal - ly march a-long. We'll sing a song for Al-ma Mater How we love her pride of all our loy-al hearts. From her we will nev-er part. Thoughts of thee will ne'er be few. Al-ma Ma-ter we love you.

We'll love her more as days go by,
 And send her praises to the sky;
 To place her over all the rest,
 And keep her e'er the dearest and the best

Shadowed 'neath a deep blue sky:
 Is State for whom we'll live and we'll die—
 Arise! O men of God and sing:
 We're loyal, and to her we'll always cling