

Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 11:21:59 Eastern Standard Time

Subject: General Cedric Wins

Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 11:20:52 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: damccownphd@aol.com

To: Wyatt, William J, Jr., 'Bill', Tyree, Matthew R, 'Matt'

Members of the Board:

I write in support of General Wins. My family connections to the Institute are deep: my father graduated (with General Shell) in 1931; my brother Lee graduated in 1958; Lee's son, Derek, graduated in 1989; Derek's son Jack graduated, with Honors, last May and now is in the Marine Corps; Lee has another grandson, Jefferson, who will graduate in December; my son Allen graduated in 2011 and was class agent for ten years following his graduation; I graduated in 1973, and so recently celebrated our 50th reunion. In short, the Institute means a lot to me.

Several times each year our family tailgates on the parade ground. We usually manage to have cadets, sometimes eight or nine, join us. I am a Clinical Psychologist and am not reluctant to ask questions. I often ask cadets about the Institute, about life in barracks, about a cadet's major field of study. I consistently have found the cadets to be intelligent, quite willing to speak openly, candidly, about their experiences at VMI, and interested in talking about VMI. In discussions with them, which sometimes last forty minutes or so, I have found that the current cadets are well-informed, passionate about VMI, and proud to be cadets. I am convinced that much of the above can be linked to the leadership provided by General Wins and his staff.

Our academic programs have never been stronger. I have spoken with various faculty members, and when asked directly about his leadership, they have been very positive. One professor noted to me that, shortly after he began his tenure, General Wins made it a point to visit all of the professors in her department; this tenured professor stated that "he listened." My sense is that General Wins has widespread support from the faculty. The data on our cadets, with regard to research and academics in general, indicate that as an academic institution, VMI now is regarded more favorably than it ever has been.

The current climate in our country has made the position of President, or in our case Superintendent, remarkably difficult. General Wins has managed this chaos well. He consistently has taken actions which, in my view, reflect a fundamental respect for, and love of, the Institute. I have never been prouder to be an alumnus. General Wins is providing excellent leadership, and I hope that the Board will recognize this.

Respectfully,

David A. McCown, Ph.D.