

Charles Steenburgh

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To the VMI Board of Visitors:

I urge you to reappoint Major General Cedric Wins '85 as Superintendent.

You're well acquainted with General Wins' accomplishments under challenging circumstances at VMI. In any normal situation, his reappointment would be a no-brainer.

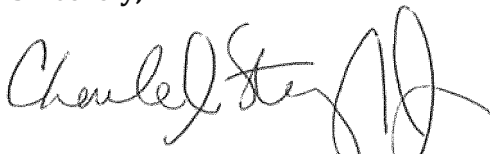
Sadly, this is not a normal situation. The Institute has been seized – partly due to the actions of its own alumni – in political debates that should have nothing to do with the Institute. I know all of you are personally affected by this in your role as board members. I do not envy you.

By reappointing General Wins, you have an opportunity to end the tit-for-tat politics that have so hurt VMI over the past few years.

Some years ago, I had the high honor to serve as VMI's director of government relations. My mentor in that role, a distinguished alumnus who would be well known to you, used to counsel me that VMI needed political friends of both parties in Richmond. Collectively, our board, alumni and staff cultivated a broad, non-partisan coalition of support for the Institute that brought us great dividends.

That has been lost. Whether it was avoidable in the current national political climate is an open question. I'd like to think we could return to that broad coalition someday. But replacing a good man in the Superintendent's office because of politics is not the way to get there.

Sincerely,



Charles J. "Chuck" Steenburgh
VMI Class of 1986