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Homecoming Convocation

and

Reserve Officers Training Corps

Hall of Fame Ceremony

Thursday, 2 October, 2003

3:30 p.m.

**P.A. Williams Auditorium
Harrison H. Ferrell Building**

Historical Sketch of West Virginia State College ROTC

The second Morrill Act of 1890 made training in agriculture and mechanical arts available to African-American citizens. Section four of the Morrill Act required military training as part of the curriculum. West Virginia responded on March 17, 1891 by enacting legislation to create a special land-grant institution for Blacks. Federal funds provided \$3,000 for faculty salaries, and the West Virginia Legislature appropriated \$10,000 to purchase a farm and build a school building upon it. The institution was founded as the West Virginia Colored Institute.

Although not specifically included in the West Virginia Legislative Act, military training was conducted during the school's first year. The ROTC Department opened shortly after the establishment of a military corps in 1899. In 1915, West Virginia Colored Institute was renamed the West Virginia Collegiate Institute. It assumed its present name in 1929. Military training continued at the college from 1899 until present, with the exception of temporary suspensions from 1907-1916 and 1920-1942.

From its beginnings until 1915, the institution offered the equivalent of a high school education, with a curriculum devoted primarily to agriculture, trades, and teacher education. In 1915, the school was given the authority to award college degrees requiring instruction in mathematics, chemistry, French, and English. The first college degrees were awarded in 1919.

Much of the credit for establishing the present Senior ROTC program goes to Mr. Daniel P. Lincoln and Professor Daniel L. Ferguson. Their success in conducting voluntary military training early in World War II kept alive the War Department's recognition of the college's desire to continue the ROTC program.

In 1942, LTC Payton Winlock established a Senior ROTC unit to provide instruction in Field Artillery. Artillery was taught until 1956, when the department was designated a General Military Science Program. Graduates could now be commissioned into any of the Army's eighteen branches of service.

With the 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, West Virginia State College was propelled from a small Black college to a racially integrated one. Program offerings expanded, and new ones developed as the College kept pace with the demands of students and the needs of the larger community. In 1970, the Military Science Department acquired elective status and ceased to be a mandatory program for all male students.

Program

LTC George A. Nelson, Presiding
Professor of Military Science, WVSC ROTC Yellow Jacket Battalion

PRELUDE: "You're A Grand Old Flag" George M. Cohan
The West Virginia State College Marching Band
Jim Florkevich, Director

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY LTC George A. Nelson

POSTING OF COLORS Capital High Color Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM Francis Scott Key

INVOCATION Mr. Don Gresby

WELCOME & INTRODUCTORY REMARKS LTC George A. Nelson
Lieutenant Colonel, Air Defense, Professor of Military Science

RECOGNITION OF CADET SILVERA Col (Ret) James A. Manning

PRESENTATION OF INDUCTEES AND RESPONDENTS

Jesse L. Haynes, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), Class of '56 Presented by Cadet LTC Michael A. V. Hicks
Cadet Battalion Commander

Clarence O. Hill, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), Class of '53 Presented by Cadet Major Heather L. Heppner
Cadet Battalion Executive Officer

Harvey C. Johnson, Jr., Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), Class of '56 Presented by Cadet Captain Reginald D. Adams
Cadet Battalion Assistant S3

Mexion O. Prewitt, Major (Retired) (Posthumous), Class of '50 Presented by Cadet CSM Wayne A. Klotzbach
Cadet Battalion Command Sergeant's Major

MUSICAL SELECTION: "God Bless The USA" Lee Greenwood
West Virginia State College Marching Band

RECOGNITION OF HONORED GUESTS LTC George A. Nelson

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

ALMA MATER Spencer/Wade

ARMY SONG & RECESSIONAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

POSTLUDE: "God Bless America" Irving Berlin
West Virginia State College Marching Band

**Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)
Jessie L. Haynes**



Lieutenant Colonel Jesse L. Haynes was born in Charleston, West Virginia, December 25, 1934. He graduated from Garnet High School in 1952 and from West Virginia State College in 1956.

He received a commission in the United States Army and was branched Infantry June 19, 1956. He had the normal assignments of a company grade officer in operations, logistics, and personnel while serving with the Third Infantry Division, First Cavalry Division, and the Defense Atomic Support Agency.

Lieutenant Colonel Haynes served as Executive Officer and instructor for Military Science IV at Dartmouth College for three years before being assigned to the first Logistics Command in Vietnam. There he served as Civil Affairs Officer for the Saigon Support Command.

After two years in the Office of the Chief of Information, he attended the Command and General Staff College, the Institute for Military Assistance, and the Defense Language Institute to study Spanish. Upon completing the language course, he was assigned to the U.S. Military Group in Uruguay as a Joint Plans Officer. His terminal assignment was Chief of the Regional Affairs Division, U.S. Southern Command in Panama. He was a member of the Foreign Area Officer Program specializing in Latin America.

Since retiring from the Army, he has been employed by the West Virginia Department of Transportation as an EEO Division Director. He was a District One Administrator Overseeing the counties of Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Mason, and Putnam. He is currently Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Highways. He initiated the Charleston Urban Youth Corp, the Disadvantaged Business Institute, and the Summer Transportation Institute at West Virginia State College.

Among his decorations and awards are: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service, Army Commendation, Vietnam Medal of Honor 1st Class, 1991 Federal Highway Administration Outstanding Business Enterprise Award, South Charleston Lion's Club Citizen of the Year Award, and Distinguished West Virginian Award.

**LTC (Retired)
Clarence O. Hill**



Clarence Hill graduated from West Virginia State College in 1953. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, entered active duty, and was assigned to an Air Defense Artillery Battalion in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

During a military career of almost twenty-one years, he served in high level command and staff positions, and also attended various military and civilian schools.

Noteworthy assignments include: Commander of the 558th Artillery Group, in Greece, and Battery Commander 1st Cavalry Division Artillery in Korea. During this command, he received the General ID White Leadership award as the outstanding company grade officer in the Far East.

LTC Colonel Hill also commanded Air Defense Artillery batteries in the United States and overseas. He also served as Executive Officer of Headquarters Company, 7th US Army, which at that time was the largest company sized unit in the United States Army.

Other significant assignments were: in the Pentagon as Staff Assistant to an Assistant Secretary of Defense; a Staff Officer in the Operations Directorate Headquarters, US Army Europe; and Intelligence Officer II Field Force Artillery, Vietnam.

He was selected and attended the Armed Forces Staff College and Artillery Officer Career and Guided Missile Unit Commander courses. He also attended The University of Southern California and received a Master of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering & Systems Management.

LTC Colonel Hill's decorations and awards include: Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with "V" and Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Oak leaf Cluster, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and a Meritorious Unit Citation.

After retiring from the Army, LTC Hill joined Rockwell International Corporation. He held management positions in the Space Shuttle and Global Positioning System programs prior to retirement.

He remains active in his church, the school district, library foundation, museum board, affordable housing corporation, and other civic activities. He has three adult children and four grandchildren. LTC Colonel Hill and his wife Gloria live in Fullerton, California.

LTC (Retired)
Harvey C. Johnson, Jr.



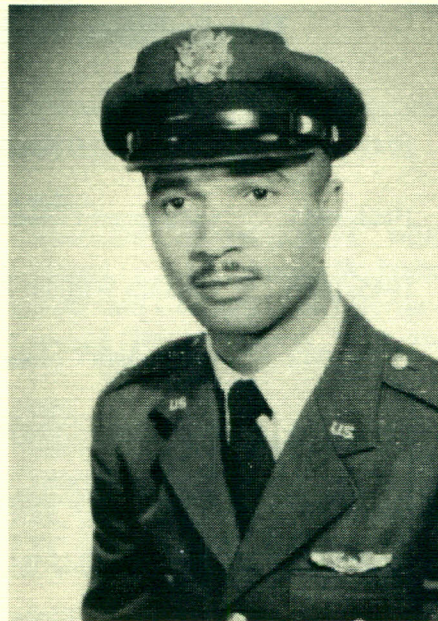
Harvey C. Johnson, Jr. was born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He attended public and private schools in Tuscaloosa County and Tuscaloosa City Systems. He graduated from Industrial High School in May 1952, later to become Druid High School. His major goal in life after completing high school was to become a professional musician. He attended West Virginia State College at Institute, West Virginia, where he graduated in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in instrumental music. He also was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army at that time.

On July 27, 1956, he reported for active duty with the United States Army, where he held a variety of leadership positions while serving in the United States, Europe, and Southeast Asia. He served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded several combat medals. After twenty-two years of service in the active army, he retired in 1978 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He began his second career in education as a Junior ROTC Instructor and later served as a School System Coordinator, a Counselor, an Assistant Principal, and Principal. After serving twenty-one years in the field of education, he retired with forty-three total years of service to his country and community.

His educational background includes degrees from West Virginia State College, Western Kentucky University, and the University of Alabama. He is married to Shirley Clay Johnson, and they have five children, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

**Major (Retired)
Mexion O. Prewitt
(Posthumous)**



Major (Retired) Mexion O. Prewitt was born April 26, 1923 in Corona, Alabama and spent his formative years in Beckley, West Virginia. He was a graduate of Byrd Prillerman High School, which he continued to support and cherish until his death.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps with service that spanned over 29 years. After initial basic training, he was assigned to Tuskegee Institute, where he began preliminary flight training and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Flight Officer after completing advanced twin-engine training. Major Prewitt was a veteran of three wars: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

When the war ended in August 1945, Major Prewitt, who had been serving as a B-25 pilot with the 617th Bombardment Squadron, was separated from active duty. In May 1946, he returned to West Virginia to resume his college education at West Virginia State College (WVSC). While at West Virginia State, he was initiated in the campus chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., which he supported for many years. He also was a member of the Student Council, the WVSC Men's ROTC Glee Club, and the WVSC Players.

He received a BS degree in Biology and Chemistry (pre-med) in 1950. He was ordered to active duty as a second lieutenant in the winter of 1953 during the Korean War and served with distinction in the United States Air Force for the next twenty years. Major Prewitt also graduated from Oklahoma University in 1964 with a BS degree in Engineering.

Major Prewitt had assignments as an instructor, training supervisor, and base operations officer at James Connally AFB, in Texas. He also performed development engineer duties with the Aeronautical System Division, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio; he flew combat re-supply missions in Vietnam as a C-130 aircraft commander, and had security analysis staff assignments at Lawrence Hanscom Field in Massachusetts.

Among his numerous awards and decorations were the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air medal for outstanding airmanship and courage under extreme hazardous conditions, WWII Victory Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and an Outstanding Unit Award Medal.

Following his military retirement, Major Prewitt lived in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where he worked as a security and fire safety consultant. He later moved to Orlando, Florida, where in 1992 he retired from Lockheed-Martin as an Aerospace Engineer.

Major Prewitt departed this life September 29, 2002 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by three daughters: Karen Spencer of Alpharetta, Georgia; Leslie Helms, of Pine Island, Florida; and Janice Prewitt, of Northfield, Michigan; three grandsons: Talmadge Mexion, of Yellow Springs, Ohio; Justin Lamare of Vacaville, California; and Cameron Douglas of Alpharetta, Georgia.

Professors of Military Science

1942-1944	Lieutenant Colonel Payton Winlock
1944-1945	Lieutenant Colonel Benote H. Lee
1945-1946	Captain William J. Gray
1946-1948	Lieutenant Colonel Leon Lavoie
1948-1951	Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Wesner
1951-1954	Lieutenant Colonel Orion Page
1954-1956	Major Robbin Washington
1956-1958	Lieutenant Colonel John Woodruff
1958-1959	Lieutenant Colonel Howard Bartholomew
1959-1963	Lieutenant Colonel Howard Hinkson
1963-1967	Lieutenant Colonel Joseph C. Hill
1967-1969	Lieutenant Colonel Marvin E. Billups
1969-1971	Lieutenant Colonel Louis J. Weil
1971-1974	Colonel Lawrence M. Sevdý
1974-1976	Lieutenant Colonel Stanley Goldsmith
1976-1979	Lieutenant Colonel Edward Robertson
1979-1983	Lieutenant Colonel Charles T. Ledbetter
1983-1984	Lieutenant Colonel Douglas W. Richmond
1984-1989	Lieutenant Colonel Qewanncoii C. Stephens
1989-1993	Lieutenant Colonel Willie C. Lucas
1993-1996	Lieutenant Colonel Herbert E. Lattimore
1996-1999	Lieutenant Colonel Raphael P. Deegan
1999-2000	Lieutenant Colonel Robert T. Kleppinger
2000-2003	Lieutenant Colonel John M. Horn, Sr.
2003-	Lieutenant Colonel George A. Nelson

ROTC Hall of Fame

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

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

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

1982

Colonel (Ret.) Grover A. DuBose
Colonel (Ret.) James M. Garrison, Jr. M.D.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Nelson R. Bickley
Dr. William J.L. Wallace (H*)
Dr. Prince A. Williams (H*)

1983

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

1984

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

1985

Brigadier General (Ret.) Walter F. Johnson, III
Colonel (Ret.) 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 (Ret.) Herman H. Jones
Colonel (Ret.) James W. Vallandingham
Colonel (Ret.) James W. Reed

1988

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) C. Milton Kates
Colonel (Ret.) Alphonso W. Nabors
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Bernice McGhee
Colonel (Ret.) Edwin A. Wilkerson

1989

Major General (Ret.) Kenneth D. Gray
Colonel William P. Greene, Jr.
LTC (Ret.) Stephen S. Whisiker*
LTC (Ret.) John L. Whitehead*

1990

Brigadier General (Ret.) James W. Monroe
Brigadier General (Ret.) Jack Yeager
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Acie McGhee, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Ronald E. McLeod
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) George S. Roberts

1991

Colonel Ronald E. Townsend
Colonel (Ret.) Kenneth A. Ingram
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Henry R. Bellinger
Commissioner Earl E. Jones

1992

Colonel (Ret.) James Manning
Colonel (Ret.) John Mackey
Colonel Donald Townsend
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Dennis Neighbors
BG Roscoe Cartwright (H*)
LTC (Ret.) Samuel Kelly (H*)
Dr. John W. Davis (H*)
Mr. James Evans (H*)

1993

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Ronald H. Poole
LTC (Ret.) Rodney I. McCormick*
First LT Beny J. Primm, M.D.
Dr. Thomas D. Boston

1994

Colonel Frankie D. Hoskey
Brigadier General(P) Terry L. Tucker
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Lazelle Free, Sr.
Major (Ret.) George L. Rich, Jr.

*Deceased

ROTC Hall of Fame

(Continued)

1995

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Keith Sovine
Captain John Willis Hill Gravely
First Lieutenant Herbert Henderson
First Lieutenant Edward Scott
Sidney Taylor Brown

1996

Lieutenant Colonel Lew G. Tyree
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Thomas E. Haggins
Captain A. Dayton Carpenter

1997

Brigadier (Ret.) General Earl M. Simms
Lieutenant Colonel Carolyn L. Maddox
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Clifford Hill
Captain Jerry L. Hatcher

1998

Brigadier General John E. Barnette
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Ferguson B. Meadows
LTC (Ret.) Fransciso B. Newman

1999

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) John F. Hailey
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Herbert L. Lawrence
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Charles E. Wilson
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Frank E. Duncan
Lieutenant Colonel Timothy A. Boyles (Posthumous)*

2000

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Howard G. Hicks, Jr.
Colonel (Ret.) Cardell S. Hunter
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Frederick C. Franklin
Major (Ret.) Charles S. Corprew, Jr.

2001

Justice Leander J. Shaw, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Osborne E. Reaves
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Robert H. Meggison
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Len O. Witcher

2002

Colonel Terry L. Melton
Lieutenant Colonel Edward E. Dickerson
Major (Ret.) Stephen T. Reaves
Judge Booker T. Stephens (H)
Judge Herman G. Canady (H)
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Charles T. Ledbetter (H)
Colonel David G. Shaddrix (H)

2003

LTC (Ret.) Jesse L. Haynes
LTC (Ret.) Clarence O. Hill
LTC (Ret.) Harvey C. Johnson
Major (Ret.) Mexion O. Prewitt (Posthumous)*

*Deceased

ROTC Hall of Fame Honorary Members

The West Virginia State College ROTC Hall of Fame was created to recognize the accomplishments of its graduates who have excelled in their chosen fields. Honorary members are normally inducted once each decade. Honorary inductees include:

1982

Dr. William J.L. Wallace
Dr. Prince A. Williams*

1995

Mrs. Sidney Taylor Brown

1992

Brigadier General Roscoe Cartwright
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Samuel Kelly
Dr. John W. Davis*
Mr. James Evans

2002

Judge Booker T. Stephens
Judge Herman G. Canady
Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Charles T. Ledbetter
Colonel David G. Shaddrix

West Virginia State College ROTC 14 Decorated General Officers

Name	Year of Graduation
Major General (Ret) Kenneth D. Gray	1966
Major General (Ret) Edward Greer	1948
Major General (Ret) James W. Monroe	1963
Major General (Ret) Charles C. Rogers*	1951
Major General (Ret) Joseph E. Turner	1961
Major General (Ret) Harvey D. Williams	1950
Major General Terry L. Tucker	1972
Brigadier General (Ret) Frank C. Bacon*	1951
Brigadier General John E. Barnette	1969
Brigadier General (Ret) Dallas C. Brown	1954
Brigadier General (Ret) Walter F. Johnson, III	1961
Brigadier General (Ret) Earl M. Simms	1968
Brigadier General (Ret) Robert L. Stephens	1962
Brigadier General (Ret) Jack Yeager	1965

*Deceased

Alma Mater

Ernest Wade '30

Martha Spencer

There is a place we love so dear—
Its name we'll ever praise and revere
'Tis West Virginia State we love—
Just one more step from there is Heav'n above.

REFRAIN

West Virginia's praise we'll sing—
Lift our voices 'til heavens ring—
As we gaily march along—
We'll sing a song—
For Alma Mater
How we love her
Pride of all our loyal hearts—
From her we will never part—
Thoughts of thee will ne'er be few
Alma Mater 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.