

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT L. STEPHENS JR., U.S. ARMY RETIRED

Robert L. "Steve" Stephens Jr. was born in Welch, W.V., and graduated from West Virginia State University, where he majored in education. In 1962, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry and assigned to the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

He served in the Army for more than 30 years in every leadership position, from infantry rifle platoon leader to assistant division commander of an Infantry Division. Highlights of his military career include serving as a Special Forces "A Team" leader in Latin America, commanding two companies during combat in Vietnam, and commanding an Infantry Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington. He also commanded a one-of-a-kind forward deployed Separate Infantry Brigade in the Republic of Panama, where, as a Spanish speaker, he led the Army's first Joint Task Force to find and destroy drug laboratories in Bolivia. Gen. Stephens commanded the Joint United States Military Advisory Group in Bangkok, Thailand. His last military assignment was as director of the Joint Armed Forces Inaugural Committee that planned and conducted ceremonial activities for the first inauguration of President Bill Clinton.

Gen. Stephens retired from the U.S. Army in 1993 and was appointed the director of personnel for the State of West Virginia. In 1997, he was appointed deputy commissioner of the Georgia Merit System of Personnel Management. From July 2000 to July 2002, he was a project manager for Eagle Group International, directing a command post exercise program for the U.S. Army Reserves. From 2004 to 2012, he served as a student advisor in the School of Business, vice president for External Relations, and executive assistant to the president at Clayton State University.

He is included in "Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges" and "Who's Who in America", and he is a fellow in the National Council of State Governments' Toll Fellowship Program. He has been designated a Kentucky Colonel and recognized twice as a Distinguished West Virginian.

In 1996, Gen. Stephens was selected to serve on a U.S. Congressional Commission for Veterans Transition Programs. He is an emeritus member and past chairman of the Board of Directors of the West Virginia State University Foundation as well as a life member of the Board of Trustees at Alfred University. His fraternal affiliations include Sigma Pi Phi and Alpha Phi Alpha, and he is a member of Saint Luke's Episcopal Church of Atlanta. Stephens' military autobiography is entitled, "When In Charge, Take Charge".

Gen. Stephens holds a Master of Science degree in Education from Alfred University. He is a graduate of the National War College, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Department of Defense Language Institute, and more than a dozen other military schools. He has completed Harvard University's Senior Managers in Government Course, Duke University's Strategic Leadership Course, and the prestigious Leadership at the Peak Course at the Center for Creative Leadership in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In addition, he has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities by Bluefield State College.

He is married to the former Delores Olivia Bennett. They have a son, two daughters, and four grandchildren. Their daughter Stephanie Stephens and son-in-law Kevin Henderson are members of the Woodward Academy faculty, and granddaughter Olivia Henderson '19 is an alumna.

WOODWARD ACADEMY



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

All Veterans please visit the Campus Store to receive a small gift from the Academy.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
& GUEST OF HONOR
BRIGADIER
GENERAL ROBERT L.
STEPHENS JR.,
U.S. ARMY RETIRED



This Veterans Day program was made possible by the Tyler H. Brown '96 Leadership Speaker Series Endowment Fund. First Lieutenant Brown died fighting for his country on September 14, 2004, at age 26, when his Army unit was attacked in Ramadi, Iraq. Tyler's legacy lives on at Woodward and beyond. He was posthumously inducted into the Georgia Tech Greek Hall of Fame, and a Veterans of Foreign Wars post at Bobby Jones Golf Course has been named in his memory.



Selected Prelude _____ Jason Montague, Academy Organist
Presentation of Colors _____ Woodward Academy Honor Guard
Invocation _____ Chaplain Katie O'Dunne
Welcome _____ President F. Stuart Gulley, Ph.D.
Keynote Address _____ Brigadier General Robert L. Stephens Jr.
(U.S. Army Retired)
Presentation of Fallen Alumni _____ Video Presentation
Retire Colors _____ Woodward Academy Honor Guard
Monument Wreath Placement _____ Woodward Academy Honor Guard
National Anthem & Taps _____ Dan Cathy '71
Closing Remarks _____ President F. Stuart Gulley, Ph.D.

The Honor Guard is under the direction of Peter J. Fritts '83,
Woodward Academy faculty member.

Since the school's inception in 1900, countless
GEORGIA MILITARY ACADEMY AND WOODWARD ACADEMY GRADUATES
have gone on to serve our country in various wars and conflicts. At Woodward,
we are grateful for our alumni, current faculty and staff, retired faculty and staff, and all other
community members who have served. We are humbled by your sacrifice and
immeasurably proud to have so many of you as part of our community.



WE TAKE THIS DAY TO
REMEMBER AND HONOR
YOUR SERVICE.



CURRENT FACULTY AND STAFF VETERANS

Steven Boston, **Navy**
George Bradshaw, **Marine Corps**
Octavius Chatman, **Army**
Josh Comprosky, **Army**
Lee Conner, **Air Force**
Nolan English, **Army**

Nathan Grau, **Army**
Kevin Henderson, **Army**
John Lane, **Army**
Gregory Mooneyham, **Air Force**
Raymond Bernard Norton, **Army**
Tom Owenby, **Marine Corps**

Stephanie Stephens, **Army**
Robert Taylor, **Navy**
Hudie Toles, **Army**
Daniel Wages, **Army**
Adam Williams, **Army**
Glenn Young, **Army**

Please let the Alumni Office know of anyone who was inadvertently omitted from the list at alumni@woodward.edu.