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OUR OPINION

Congrats to Basham on career, promotion

Apr 28, 2019

Our city has a proud military tradition.

We are very fortunate to have a large number of veterans from Warren County who have served our country admirably in far-away lands, in combat and in peacetime. Some of those paid the ultimate sacrifice in doing their duties as soldiers in combat. Some who returned to the states decided to start their own businesses or go into business, while others decided to make a career out of the military.

Lt. Gen. Steven Basham is one of those local men who decided to make a career out of the military. Basham grew up in Bowling Green, attended Bowling Green High School and graduated from Western Kentucky University in 1987 with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering technology before joining the Air Force.

Through the years, Basham put his time in and climbed the ranks. In 2016, he was promoted to the two-star rank of major general and worked at the Pentagon as director and legislative liaison to the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force – essentially the bridge between Congress and the Air Force.

On March 28, Basham’s promotion to lieutenant general was confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Next month, Basham will set up a new home in Germany near Ramstein Air Base, where he’ll serve as deputy commander for U.S. Air Forces in Europe – Air Force Africa, which provides air support to European and African nations.

This is quite a big deal, and Basham and his family should be extremely proud of it. This is a prime example of what can be achieved by pursuing your goals: it garners results, as evidenced by his recent promotion to lieutenant general.

On April 18, Basham shared his combat experiences with several dozen current and former military officers with the Cumberland Trace Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.

Basham told the group the story of his first time flying a “combat mission” on a B-2 stealth bomber. After two months of training, he remained in the air during a 31-hour mission. After hours lingering above Serbia unnoticed, his aircraft dropped 15 bombs on the Balkan country below. He flew home at sunrise – the third he had seen during the mission – and climbed into a chair with a beer to watch CNN. On the screen, he saw the coverage of the target he hit in Serbia.

This had to be a very surreal experience for Basham, not only flying a B-2 stealth bomber on a 31-hour mission, but then seeing the targets that he had hit on television.

We are very proud of Basham’s promotion and his dedication to duty and our country. He is a true patriot and someone we should all look up to and respect.

Congratulations, Lt. Gen. Basham.

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