



**WKU**<sup>®</sup>  
**Board of Regents**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**June 21, 2019**

*Jody Richards Hall / Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room*

---

**HONORARY NAMING REQUEST FOR  
COL. GARY A. “MICKEY” RIGGS**

---

**REQUEST:**

Approval of the honorary naming of room 1509 in E.A. Diddle Arena as the Col. Gary A. “Mickey” Riggs Military Science Office in recognition of his distinguished career in the U.S. Army and his devotion as a WKU alumnus.

**FACTS:**

Col. Gary A. Riggs (Ret), of Bowling Green Ky., died March 21, 2019. “Mickey” was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Ann Riggs, to whom he was married for 59 years. A retired U.S. Army officer with 30 years of active duty as a command officer, a Green Beret and a highly decorated combat veteran of the Vietnam era, his assignments included four tours of duty in Laos and Vietnam, Deputy Commander of the Kennedy Special Warfare School, Army Command and General Staff College, Commander of the U.S. Military Group in Venezuela and Battalion Commander of the 8th Special Forces Group.

A lifelong supporter of Western Kentucky University, he played football in the 1950s and was a member of the original WKU 100 Club. He is a member of the WKU Hall of Distinguished Alumni and WKU ROTC Hall of Fame, and his image is engraved on the Guthrie Bell Tower. Riggs was a high school All-American in football and track at Cradock High School in Portsmouth, Va., and his athleticism led him and Margaret Ann to WKU.

This honorary naming request is recommended in recognition of Col. Riggs’ outstanding military career and his impact on the Military Science program at WKU. His service and contributions to WKU make this a fitting tribute.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

Department of Military Science will cover cost of sign for office.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends the approval of the honorary naming of room 1509 in E.A. Diddle Arena as the Col. Gary A. “Mickey” Riggs Military Science Office.

**MOTION:**

**Approval of the honorary naming request for Col. Gary A. “Mickey” Riggs.**

---

**STAFF EMERITUS APPOINTMENT**

---

**REQUEST:**

Approval of staff emeritus status for the recommended individual.

**FACTS:**

Listed below is a staff member who has been recommended by Staff Senate to receive emeritus status:

***Information Technology Services*****Dr. Tamela W. Smith**

Dr. Smith served the university for 25 years and had distinguished records of achievement and service during her tenure. Her loyal service and dedication to her responsibilities made significant and lasting contributions to the University. Dr. Smith gave unselfishly of her time, energies, and resources to make Western Kentucky University a better place.

**BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

No funds requested.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends awarding Dr. Tamela W. Smith staff emeritus status.

**MOTION:**

**Approval for staff emeritus status be awarded to Dr. Tamela W. Smith.**