

# SUPPORTING MILITARY SERVICE AND EDUCATION



BRIG. GEN. CHARLES E. MCGEE HOUSE AND  
OUSLEY FAMILY VETERANS SERVICE CENTER





## THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE **MILITARY CONNECTION**

At Columbia College we are proud of our long, distinguished partnership with the United States military community that has supported the educational pursuits of service members and veterans since 1972. Our efforts to serve the military reaches beyond class

offerings and degree completion. Columbia College has instituted a range of customized approaches in earning its reputation as one of the country's top-ranked military-friendly colleges/universities.





## BRIG. GEN. CHARLES E. MCGEE HOUSE AND OUSLEY FAMILY VETERANS SERVICE CENTER

Columbia College acquired the property at 904 N. Eighth Street with the intent to provide an enhanced experience for our military student community. Our new location, known as the Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee House and Ousley Family Veterans Service Center, has tripled in size at nearly 2,000 square feet from its previous location on the second floor of Missouri Hall and serves as a one-stop shop for the military student community. The center's expansion provides additional growth while continuing the high-quality service the Ousley Family Veterans Service Center provides our students daily. The additional social-gathering space affords our veterans and military students room to talk, study, watch TV and relax. It has been the vision of Columbia College to have a space uniquely available to our military student community, allowing all who have common experiences a space to thrive.



### SUPPORTING MILITARY SERVICE AND EDUCATION

With your support, Columbia College has been empowered to create a home for our military-connected students and veterans, their families and the community. This space provides social, emotional and academic support enhancing the educational experience of our military-affiliated community. The goal of this initiative is to assist our current military, veterans and family members move from military to college, then on to a successful career.

## TO SERVE

You can help make a difference in the life of a military-connected student today!

Your contribution will provide inspiring opportunities and resources, including:

- A location for student-veteran organizations to present training/seminars and host roundtable discussions.
- A social space where students can do classwork or navigate their unique college experience while also serving as a recruitment tool.
- A kitchen, courtyard and BBQ area, communal work station, computer lab and lounge.
- Increased capacity from 600 square feet to more than 2,000 square feet.
- Additional visibility.

We know that even when student-veterans find their footing, social reintegration is a challenge. Providing a larger, dedicated venue on Columbia College's campus creates an option for student-veterans to find a sense of community. The interior is a quiet space for student use. The main entrance welcomes visitors through a gate and outdoor deck before entering the building; visitors needing ADA accommodations may also enter the building from a door on Eighth St.

The Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee House and Ousley Family Veterans Service Center will be a large, welcoming venue.

The Office of Development welcomes donations in support of the renovated center. If you are interested in securing an honorary named space, please contact the Office of Development at (573) 875-7563. The college will hold a ceremonial grand opening on May 21, 2020.





## BRIG. GEN. CHARLES E. MCGEE '78

*Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee '78* is a Columbia College graduate and received a honorary doctoral degree in 2014.

Brig. Gen. McGee is a Tuskegee Airman, a recipient of the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal and a Member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame. Born in 1919, he became a Tuskegee Airman in World War II. The Airmen were the first African Americans to fly in combat. McGee held the Air Force's fighter combat record for many years with 409 missions and 1,151

combat hours, serving in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War.

In his extraordinary career, McGee also commanded a fighter squadron in the Philippines and a reconnaissance squadron at now-defunct Richards-Gerbau Air Force Base just south of Kansas City. McGee was president of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. from 1983-85 and again from 1998-2002, focusing on education, aviation and space careers for minorities.

In 2007, President Bush awarded McGee the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award, and in 2020 was promoted to brigadier general by President Trump. The Brig. Gen. Charles E. McGee Scholarship is an award established in 2010 to honor Brig. Gen. McGee. It is given annually to a qualified student-veteran at Columbia College.





## OUSLEY FAMILY

*George H. Ousley Jr. '78* is one of mid-Missouri's most successful businessmen. As co-founder of the Outsource Group, he pioneered new debt collection methods, procedures and clients, including hospital and other medical organizations' debt. George also served in the U.S. Navy at the height of the Vietnam War, from 1965 to 1969, on a helicopter carrier, the USS Princeton LPH-5. Mr. Ousley sold the Outsource Group in 2004 and is now semi-retired and manages his real estate holdings throughout mid-Missouri, works on his farm, travels and spends winters in Florida.

*Gayleen Ousley* was born in 1960 in Fulton, Missouri, and grew up in the great outdoors.

As a billing, collections and system analyst for the University of Missouri Health Care system, she developed and implemented new systems. She then became a software support analyst for the Outsource Group. When George sold Outsource, she joined him in retirement.

*George H. ("Jay") Ousley III* was the beloved son of George H. Ousley Jr. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1985 and seemed destined for a brilliant career in Navy intelligence. His life was cut tragically short by a car accident in Rota, Spain, at the age of 19.

*Gregory S. ("Greg") Ousley '97* was born in Jefferson City, Missouri. In 1988 Greg enlisted in the delayed entry program of the Navy.

In September of 1988 he began his military service in Orlando, Florida. Greg was stationed at Moffett Field, California, in 1989 where he was assigned to VP-40 The Fighting Marlins P-3 squadron as an Intelligence Specialist. He returned to civilian life in 1992 with an honorable discharge after traveling the world, visiting over 50 countries. He is the fourth generation of Navy men in his family. His great-grandfather and grandfather on his mother's side were in the Navy as was his father and brother. He elected to attend Columbia College, as his father before him, on the GI Bill while working full time. He is a 1997 Columbia College graduate.

