

Submitted by: Susan Burns, Vice President
Development and Alumni Affairs
President, Wayne State University Foundation

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR THE NAMING OF THE OFFICE OF
MILITARY AND VETERANS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AS THE COLONEL GREGORY
GADSON OFFICE OF MILITARY AND VETERANS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the naming of the Office of Military and Veterans Academic Excellence as the Colonel Gregory Gadson Office of Military and Veterans Academic Excellence at Wayne State University.

In recognition of James A. Anderson's generosity, the University grants Mr. Anderson the right to name the Office of Military and Veterans Academic Excellence (OMVAE) as the Colonel Gregory Gadson Office of Military and Veterans Academic Excellence in honor of Greg Gadson, whom he considers "his hero."

Background

Colonel Gregory D. Gadson, a native of Chesapeake, Virginia, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of Field Artillery in 1989 from the United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA). He has served in every major conflict of the past two decades, including Operations Desert Shield/Storm (Kuwait), Operations Joint Forge (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq). His awards include the Bronze Star (3), Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal. He is a graduate of Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In addition, he holds a Master's Degree in Information Systems from Webster University and a Master's Degree in Policy Management from Georgetown University.

A highly decorated colonel, Gadson was commander of the 2nd Battalion, 32 Field Artillery in Iraq when on the evening of May 7, 2007, he was severely wounded by an IED. Despite this, Gadson remains on active duty service in the military and inspires many with his message of courage, perseverance, determination, and teamwork.

Colonel Gadson's most significant challenge came in Iraq, where an IED attack cost him both legs and affected the use of his right arm and hand. Refusing to be defined by the proverbial "hail of bullets," he has since drawn upon the lessons of Pride, Poise, and Team learned as a West Point linebacker and applied them to his life, his career, and his family. While his football playing days may have ended, he continues to influence the sport. In 2007, New York Giants Head Coach Tom Coughlin asked Gadson to meet with the struggling Team. He talked to them about service, duty, perseverance, and adversity. Inspired by his example and his stirring advice to fight for every inch, every yard, Giants players and coaches invited him to watch from the team bench during their remarkable playoff run and then named him Honorary Co-Captain at the NFC championship.

Gift Amount

\$1,000,000