

HONORARY DEGREE CITATION

Lt. Col. Barry D. Gasdek '64

Doctor of Public Service

Barry D. Gasdek's distinguished career exemplifies a lifetime of service, leadership, and dedication to his country and community. A retired Airborne, Ranger, and Pathfinder infantry soldier, Lieutenant Colonel Gasdek's heroic military service in Vietnam earned him many of the nation's highest honors, including the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, five Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and 17 Air Medals. Following his retirement from the US Army in 2012, he received the honorary designation of colonel.

Beyond his extraordinary military achievements, he has remained steadfast in his commitment to supporting veterans, military families, and future leaders through his leadership in national and state organizations. A proud alumnus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, he has combined his expertise in education, counseling, and psychology with his passion for service, forging impactful relationships with military support organizations, veterans groups, and civic leaders. His unwavering dedication to duty, mentorship, and advocacy embodies the ideals of leadership and public service.

An Army Reserve ambassador emeritus, Lieutenant Colonel Gasdek served as the Legion of Valor national commander in 2008-2009 and currently serves on its board of directors. He is also president of the Association of the US Army's Wyoming Cowboy Chapter, past Wyoming State director with the American Legion Boys State, past Region III and current state commander with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Military Outreach director with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, under the US Department of Defense.

He holds a bachelor of science in education from IUP and a master's in counseling/psychology from Georgia State University. He is active in multiple civic, military, and private organizations and has established valuable working relationships with military support organizations, veterans and local service organizations, state and community leaders, and the US government.

Lieutenant Colonel Gasdek is a life member of numerous organizations, including the Legion of Valor, US Army Ranger Association, Association of the US Army, National Infantry Association, CIA, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Division Veterans Association, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, University of Wyoming Veterans Task Force, Laramie Area Chamber of Commerce, Czechoslovak Society of America, Lions Club, and Rotary International.

Additionally, he is an Eagle Scout and Order of the Arrow (Vigil) member of Boy Scouts of America; a former board member of the Miss Georgia Pageant and Springer Opera House, State Theatre of Georgia; a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; and an inductee in the Hall of Valor at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum in Pittsburgh, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in Vails Gate, New York, the US Army Cadet Command's Army ROTC Hall of Fame, the University of

Wyoming's Cowboy Battalion Alumni Hall of Fame, and the Athletics Hall of Fame and Army ROTC Hall of Fame at IUP, where he was a distinguished military graduate.

He is also a recipient of the Army Superior Civilian Service Award, the Association of the US Army Soaring Eagle and Leadership awards, the Wyoming Outstanding Military Outreach Coordinator award, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Lifetime Achievement Award and Volunteer Award, the IUP Distinguished Alumni Award, two Lions Club International Leadership Awards, and three US President's Volunteer Service Awards.

A former commissioner and veterans service officer with the Wyoming Veterans Commission, he has served as grand marshal of parades commemorating IUP Homecoming, Memorial Day in Cheyenne, and the Green River Rendezvous in Pinedale, Wyoming. He was also the subject of a US Senate tribute noted in the 2012 Congressional Record.