

RESOLUTION 14-38

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Commanding General Dennis L. Via of the U. S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, was the recipient of the 2013 Alumni Leadership Award from the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, which he received during the TMC's Leadership Institute Luncheon held November 13, 2013, at the Washington Hilton. He will be honored locally during the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Founder's Day meeting held at the Marriott, Space and Rocket Center on Sunday, January 26, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.; and,

WHEREAS, General Via is a historically black college and university alumnus and was honored for his exemplary military record and lifetime achievements. He is a 1980 distinguished military graduate of Virginia State University and holds a master's degree from Boston University. He is a perfect example of an HBCU graduate who has demonstrated supreme leadership throughout his career; and,

WHEREAS, General Via considers leadership the most important component to a successful career, to which great responsibility and accountability follow. To be a successful leader, one must take accountability for their actions and decisions, good and bad. He is a firm believer in never compromising one's integrity, which is the one character trait that can never be taken, it must be given away; once lost, it can never be regained. Integrity builds trust, and trust is the very foundation of leadership; and,

WHEREAS, he is the first-ever signal officer in the history of the Army to be promoted to four-star general, a rank held by only 13 other Army officials. He is the seventh African-American promoted to the rank. He took over command of the Redstone Arsenal-based AMC in 2012. A major command, AMC is responsible for one of every six contracting dollars in the Department of Defense and has more than 68,000 employees; and,

WHEREAS, General Via is a native of Martinsville, Virginia. He attended Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, where he graduated in May 1980 as a Distinguished Military Graduate, and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps. He holds a Master's Degree from Boston University, and is a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College. General Via began his career with the 35th Signal Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Lieutenant General Dennis L. Via serves as the Director, Command, Control, Communications & Computer Systems Directorate (J6), The Joint Staff. He is the principal advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on all C4 systems matters within the Department of Defense; and,

WHEREAS, General Via and his wife, the former Linda A. Brown, have two sons, Brian 17 and Bradley 12; and,

WHEREAS, Military awards and decorations include two awards of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, two awards of the Legion of Merit, two awards of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and five awards of the Meritorious Service Medal. General Via is also authorized to wear the Joint Staff Identification Badge, the Army Staff Identification Badge and the Master Parachutist Badge.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we honor and recognize General Dennis Via for his receiving the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Alumni Leadership Award for 2013. Our congratulations upon receipt of this prestigious award, and we extend best wishes to him in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 23rd day of January, 2014.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 23rd day of January, 2014.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama