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THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS SERIES

General (Retired) Larry R. Ellis

Former Commanding General of United States Forces Command





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February 27th General (Ret) Dennis Via Former CG, US Army Materiel Command

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The ROCKS, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit mentorship organization supporting the professional development of Army Officers and Civilians with chapters around the globe.



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General (Retired) Larry R. Ellis

Former Commanding General of United States Forces Command

General Larry R. Ellis serve of nation with distinction for over four decades. During his military career he has served in leadership positions around the globe with nearly half of his service overseas. In the Pacific Theater, he led troops as a Platoon and Company Commander with the 101st Infantry Division (ABN) in Vietnam and US Pacific Command as the Deputy Director, Strategic Planning and Policy. In South Korea, he served as Assistant Division Commander with the 2d Infantry Division and Assistant Chief of Staff C3/J3/G3, United Nations Command/ Combined Forces Command/ US Forces Korea/ 8th US Army. In the European Theater, General Ellis served in Germany and the Balkans, during the Cold War. He served with troops in the 8th Infantry Division (MECH), commanded a Brigade with the 3d Infantry Division (MECH), commanded 1st Armored Division and served as Commander Multi-National Division (North) and Task Force Eagle while deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the Continental United States, General Ellis served in command and senior staff positions. He commanded a Company and served as Battalion Operations Officer in the 82d Infantry Division (ABN). He commanded a Battalion in the 5th Infantry Division (MECH) at Ft Polk. In the course of four assignments at the Pentagon, he served as Force Structure Analyst and Chief, Manpower & Force Structure Division, in the Office of the Army Chief of Staff. In addition, he served as the Deputy Director, Military Personal Management, the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff G-1 where he oversaw multi-year programs and budgets in support of national strategic objectives. Likewise, as the Army Deputy Chief of Staff G-3, he oversaw plans, operations readiness and training to include Staff oversight of the Army War College. Soon after the United States deployed to war with Iraq in 2001, General Ellis was promoted to Four Star General and served as Commander of US Army Forces Command -- the Army's largest command. After retiring from the Army in 2004, General Larry Ellis joined the Board of Point Blank Solutions and later served as its President and Chief Executive Officer. He was a Presidential appointee to Commissioner on the American Battle Monuments Commission and as Commissioner on the National Commission on the Future of the Army. Additionally, he was appointed to serve on the Congressionally authorized Vietnam War 50th Commemoration Advisory Committee. He served an eight-year term as a gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia; he is serving his third, five-year term as gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Regents for Morgan State University in Maryland. Currently, he serves as an advisor to the School of Public Health at Indiana University. General Ellis is active as a Director on a number of not-for-profit organizations. Among the organizations is the Armed Forces Benefit Association, in Arlington, Virginia that aids those who served our nation in the armed forces and as civilian first responders. In addition, the Shepherd Center, in Atlanta, Georgia that specializes in medical treatment, research and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. General Ellis is Chairman of the Board for High Impact Network of Responsible Innovators (HINRI) in Atlanta, Georgia that focuses on bringing servant leadership, compassion and innovation to solving the world's most difficult health challenges. He served as Chairman and now Director on the Board of the America Korea Friendship Society in Atlanta, Georgia -- a community organization that fosters and strengthens the relationship between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Korea.

General Ellis' military awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (w/OLC), the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (w/2 OLC), the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (w/2OLC), the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (w/OLC), the National Defense Service Medal (w/3 Stars), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry(w/Palm), the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Korean Cheonsu Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the German Armed Forces Honor Cross (Gold) and the NATO Medal. General Ellis earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Senior Parachute Badge. He is authorized to wear the Office of Secretary of Defense Staff Identification Badge, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

General Ellis' honors include an Honorary Doctor of Laws, Army War College Honorary Master of Strategic Studies, the Indiana University Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the Morgan State University Distinguished Alumni Award, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the USO Patriot Award, the NAACP National Service Award, the NAACP Frederick Douglass Leadership Medal, the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow, the Atlanta Rotary International Leadership Award, and the ROCK of the Year Award. General Ellis earned a Master of Science in Public Health from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Morgan State University.

General Ellis and his wife Jean, have been married for more than fifty years and have two adult daughters, one who is an Army Officer.