

## **“Press On!” provides insight of General Donn A. Starry**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas -- In a ceremony on Sept 25, here, at the Combined Arms Research Library, GEN (ret) Donn A. Starry presented his personal papers to the Director, Ed Burgess, in a two volume collection titled, "Press On!," published by the US Army Combat Studies Institute.

Starry, lauded for the changes he brought to educating Soldiers retired from active service in 1983 had enlisted in 1943 as a private in WWII. He was then accepted to the United States Military Academy-West Point and commissioned a second lieutenant in 1948. Starry would see duty in a variety of Armor units, including command of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam, which he led into Cambodia in 1970. In his 35 years as a commissioned officer, he left his mark on the Army as a leader and thinker, assisting in the formulation of Airland Battle Doctrine as well as focusing the Army on how it trained to fight future wars.

In his comments, Starry said, “All we were trying to do was build an Army that could go to war and our Soldiers would win.” He was extremely impressed how his efforts resulted in transforming the Army from Vietnam to the Army that debuted in Desert Storm.

He can be credited with developing the Battalion Training Management System, instituting the Community Life Program, laying out the principles for Airland Battle that synchronized all assets on the battlefield and incorporated attacking the enemy in depth. Starry’s view of the deep battle resulted in a collaboration with the Air Force and the production of the Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) aircraft. He can also be credited for establishing the Combat Studies Institute.

A native Kansan, GEN Starry was made a brevet first lieutenant in the Kansas National Guard, at age five by then Governor, Clyde Reed, before joining the Regular Army. Wyandotte High School sweethearts, Starry would marry Leatrice "Libby" Hope Gibbs and that marriage would span a total of 60 years of memories and four children. Starry's parents, Don A. and Edith Starry, and Libby's parents, Paul and Gladys Gibbs were from Kansas City. Mrs Starry's brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Charlene Gibbs live in Kansas City and GEN Starry's sister and brother-in-law, John and Sara Rogers, live in Wichita, Kansas.

The publication of "Press On!" serves as a monument to this officer and his storied career. As GEN Starry said, “Soldiering is an affair of the heart.”

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