

Statement of VMI Board of Visitors President John Adams '96

July 2, 2024

On behalf of the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors, it is my great pleasure to welcome Clifford Foster '93, Quintin Elliott '85, and Bill Janis '84 as members of the board. Congratulations also to Kate Todd, who has been reappointed to a four-year term.

These new members are joining the Board of Visitors at a very important time in the history of the Institute. With a new strategic plan and a challenging landscape, including issues of affordability, the rapidly changing dynamic of college athletics, and ensuring that VMI continues to fulfill its vital mission of producing educated, honorable men and women, there is no shortage of work to be done. Fortunately, we are welcoming new members who bring an impressive and diverse array of experiences to the team.

Clifford Foster graduated from VMI in 1993 with a degree in economics and business and played on the tennis team. He has over 25 years of experience in the financial services industry and serves as the Virginia complex manager for Raymond James. He has actively supported VMI throughout the years including as president of the VMI Club of Richmond and through his service on the boards of the Keydet Club and the VMI Alumni Association.

Quintin Elliott graduated from the Institute in 1985 with a degree in civil engineering. He enjoyed a successful career at the Virginia Department of Transportation, culminating with his service as Deputy Secretary of Transportation. He is now the owner and CEO of QE2 Consulting. Additionally, he served in the Virginia Air National Guard, retiring after commanding the 192 Civil Engineering Squadron.

Bill Janis graduated from VMI in 1984 with a double major in history and English. Bill will serve as a non-Virginia resident of the board, although he is extraordinarily well-acquainted with the Commonwealth of Virginia. He served as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 2002 – 2012 and as deputy commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services. Bill earned his law degree from the University of Virginia and served as a United States naval officer before attending law school.

As exciting as it is to welcome new members to the board, we also must say goodbye to several members as their service comes to an end. Scot Marsh '81, Gussie Lord '01, and Lester Johnson '95 have made invaluable contributions to the Virginia Military Institute during their time as members of the board. All three have served as committee chairs during their tenure, but perhaps more importantly, they have all been passionate advocates for the Institute and contributed mightily to our debates and discussions. They have been, and will continue to be, great friends. They will be sorely missed.

The board, including its new members, looks forward to a productive year, as we ensure the Virginia Military Institute continues producing the highly educated leaders of character that are so badly needed in our commonwealth and nation.

John Adams '96
Board President