

251<sup>st</sup>

**ARMY  
BIRTHDAY**



Greater Kansas City Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army

Army Birthday Celebration, Saturday, June 6, 2026

Embassy Suites - Olathe

10401 S. Ridgeview Rd, Olathe, KS 66061

## *You're Invited*

Come help us celebrate the [251st Birthday of the United States Army](#) on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at the Embassy Suites Olathe (10401 S. Ridgeview Rd, Olathe, KS 66211). We will begin our evening with a reception at 5:30pm, followed by a program filled with pride, patriotism, and respect for an institution older than the nation itself.



Our distinguished speaker for the evening is [Lieutenant General \(Ret\) Leslie C. Smith](#), Vice President for Leadership and Education, Association of the United States Army, a visiting leadership professor at Parker College of Business – Georgia Southern University, a director on several corporate boards and CEO for the LV Smith Corporate Group, LLC. LTG Smith received his commission from Georgia Southern University (GSU) in 1983 as a Field Artillery Officer, and in 1985 graduated from GSU with a bachelor's degree in accounting and was a distinguished military graduate, branched as a Chemical Officer.

LTG Smith's final assignment on active duty was as The Inspector General, Office of the Secretary of the Army. He was the first Chemical Officer to serve in this position. Other key assignments as a general officer included the 25<sup>th</sup> Chief of Chemical and Commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School, Commanding General of the 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command (CBRNE) responsible for leading Explosive Ordnance Disposal and CBRN soldiers in 15 states and 5 countries, Commanding General of the US Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood (the first Chemical Officer to do so) and as Deputy Inspector General.

As a highlight of our celebration, we are excited to announce that the 2026 [Colonel Roger H. C. Donlon Patriot Award](#) honoree is [Colonel \(Ret\) Bob Ulin](#), author, educator, philanthropist and diplomat. Colonel Ulin served two combat tours in Vietnam, as an artillery battery commander and as an infantry advisor. He served on graduate faculties of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS and the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA. He was a member of the diplomatic corps while assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Brussels where he was the advisor to the Belgian Minister of Defense and the National Armaments Director.



Following retirement from the Army, Bob had a very successful private sector career with industry and non-profits. He is co-founder and was the first CEO of the Command and General Staff College Foundation and is the Founder and Immediate Past Director of the Arthur D. Simons Center for Ethical Leadership and Interagency Cooperation. After retiring from the CGSC Foundation, he established the Center for Transitional Leadership to help retiring and separating military personnel find meaningful leadership positions in the private sector. Bob was key in establishing the Greater KC Chapter, AUSA.

***For more information contact Karen McAbee, President, [president.kcausa@ausa.org](mailto:president.kcausa@ausa.org) or 913-484-4549***

*Individual tickets: \$145 \* Table of 8: \$1160 \* Sponsorships Available*

*Attire: Mess Dress / Black Tie*

*Make your reservations online at*  
<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/FW6EQ2P3V2BCQ>

KC AUSA Army Birthday  
Celebration 2026

