

MARTINSVILLE BULLETIN

Henry County native is made three-star general

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A Henry County native was made a three-star general in the Army on Friday during a promotion ceremony at the Pentagon.

Dennis L. Via, a 1976 graduate of G.W. Carver High School, was promoted from major general to lieutenant general Gen. George W. Casey, chief of staff of the Army. Via's wife, Linda Brown Via, helped Casey affix the new rank to her husband's uniform. Via's sons, Bradley A. Via, 12, and Brian D. Via, 17, also assisted in the ceremony. They replaced the epaulettes on their father's uniform. Via's brother, William Tyrone Via, who works for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, presented Lt. Gen. Via with a beret.



Lt. Gen. Dennis Via, a native of Henry County, was promoted to three-star general Friday during a ceremony at the Pentagon. Above, Via's two sons, Brian (left) and Bradley, apply their father's new rank to his shoulder boards during the ceremony.

Dennis Via is director of Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems, Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is the principal advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on all C4 system matters within the Department of Defense, according to an Army biography.

A graduate of Virginia State University, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps in 1980. He has served in numerous posts and has received two awards of the Distinguished Service Medal, among other honors.

Earlier this year, he received the NAACP's Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award for outstanding accomplishments in human relations, equal opportunity and civil rights. A Three Star Flag was presented to Via by CSM Tyrone Johnson, assisted by Via's sons. Three-star generals have the second-highest rank in the Army except during wartime, when five stars are possible.

Via is the son of Juanita Rumley of Preston, who attended the ceremony. Curtis Millner, a member of the Henry County School Board, who also attended, said "half of Preston" made the trip to see Via honored, including a former high school teacher and others.