



December 1, 2023

Commissioner Clayton Christian  
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education  
560 North Park Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620-3201

Dear Commissioner Christian:

This is a request for the Board of Regents to confirm the recommendation of an honorary degree to General Paul E. Funk II, to be awarded at Montana State University's (MSU) commencement ceremony in December 2024. General Funk was recommended by the MSU Honorary Degree Committee and Faculty Senate leadership voted in favor of this honorary degree recommendation on November 29, 2023.

**General Paul E. Funk II (Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters):**

Retired Four-Star General Paul E. Funk II was born in Fort Hood, Texas, and into a military family with deep Montana roots. His father, General Paul E. Funk, was born in Roundup, Montana, where family still resides today.

General Paul E. Funk II holds a bachelor's degree in speech communications from Montana State University and a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. While attending Montana State University, he was commissioned an Armor Officer in the MSU Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He is also a graduate of the Armor Basic Officer Leaders and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College, and completed his Senior Service College as a fellow at the Institute of Advanced Technology, University of Texas at Austin.

General Funk is one of the U.S. Army's foremost and highly decorated senior military leaders, and achieved the rank of four-star general, the highest rank in the military. He has a deep care for the United States of America, the men, and women in uniform responsible for protecting it, and their families. He has commanded military formations at every level and led forces during five separate deployments and accumulated over 78 months in combat.

General Funk is praised with his tremendous gift to work with all our U.S. military services, countless partners and allies, to create a positive work environment and to bring together diverse cultures to create conditions for stability and the elimination of terrorist organizations, said one nominator.

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In his last assignment, General Funk oversaw 32 Army schools that were clustered into ten Centers of Excellence, each with a separate area of expertise. He oversaw recruitment, training, and education of over 750,000 soldiers and service members annually.

General Funk has been a lifelong learner. His academic credentials, along with his understanding of world events, international relationships and support of military families have been instrumental to his success. Peers share our world is a safer, better place because of those he led into conflict and will be in the future because of those he trained to be the next generation of soldiers who will be called upon to keep our nation safe and free.

His military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal for Combat Service, four Legions of Merit, four Bronze Star Medals and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. General Funk was also awarded the Combat Action Badge for actively engaging and being engaged by the enemy.

He would often begin his introduction with, "I am an American Soldier," another nominator shared. This short message shows both the humility of General Funk as a senior Army leader and his pride in sharing the title with 1.1 million members of the active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve. Noted for his enthusiasm, memorable advice, and motivating speeches, he made a lasting impact on the United States Army, its leaders, and the soldiers that will not be forgotten.

Retired Four-Star General Paul E. Funk II is one of the greatest military leaders of our time, a proud Montana State University graduate, and it would be a tremendous honor for the students, faculty and staff of Montana State University to bestow General Paul E. Funk II with an honorary degree at Montana State University's December 2024 commencement ceremony. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Waded Cruzado  
President