



GOVS WHO LEAD THROUGH MILITARY SERVICE AWARD-

LT. GEN. RON BAILEY

Lt. Gen. Ronald Bailey is a national leader who continues to be a source of pride for his alma mater, Austin Peay State University. Bailey, student athlete and member of the ROTC program, graduated from the University in 1977 with a degree in biology. He was a varsity member on the only undefeated football team in program history, and he turned the skills he learned at Austin Peay into a distinguished career in the U.S. Marine Corps.

In October 1979, he was assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, as a Series Commander, Battalion S-3 and Commanding Officer of Company F, 2d Recruit Training Battalion. During this tour, he earned a masters degree in business management and administration from Webster University.

From August 1997 to 1998, Bailey attended National War College, Washington, D.C., where he earned his second masters degree in national security strategy.

In June 2013, Bailey was promoted to Lieutenant General and assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps as the Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations, where he served as the top Marine responsible for guiding deployment plans and force-structure policies. He also served as the advocate for the service's ground combat element, acting as a liaison between Marines carrying out missions worldwide and the leaders planning them in the Pentagon.

Bailey went on to be the first African-American to command the Marine Corps Recruiting Command, where he oversaw more than 22,000 troops.

"Leadership is about influence and relationships – relationships with the American people," Bailey said, while serving as commanding general of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, "Our nation's citizens expect us to be America's expeditionary force in readiness committed to their protection at home and abroad; we will honor that expectation with the professional and empathetic execution of our mission within their communities nationwide."

Bailey's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal with bronze oak leaf, Legion of Merit with combat V, Meritorious Service Medal with 2 gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Bailey retired from the U.S. Marine Corps after 40 years of service, on July 31, 2017. He brings pride to his alma mater by being one of only four graduates of Austin Peay State University to be promoted to the rank of General.