



## **Letter from the Chair of the J. Sherwood McGinnis, Jr. War, Peace, and Justice Symposium**

Welcome to the J. Sherwood McGinnis, Jr. War, Peace, and Justice Symposium. It is a privilege for me to serve as the symposium Chair. Organizing the first War, Peace, and Justice Symposium has been no small task. I applaud the efforts of the planning team. They have persevered through numerous obstacles, not the least of which was the COVID-19 pandemic. When events threatened to derail the entire symposium, the team stuck together and weathered the storm.

This symposium will prove to be an extremely rewarding event. The focus area sessions are led by extraordinary subject matter experts, are rich in content, will stimulate critical thinking, and generate thought-provoking dialogue. The symposium is rather unique in its concept, the depth and breadth of its content, as well as its goals and objectives. It wrestles with some very weighty issues, issues with which all Americans should be concerned. When our nation goes to war, what do you expect from your senior elected and appointed government officials, as well as those senior military leaders leading our nation's sons and daughters? This question should be foremost on your mind anytime the United States is involved in armed conflict. The symposium goals are to illuminate the human drama of conflict and create the full experience of understanding peace, justice, and war as human phenomena; foster a better peace through a deeper understanding of war and its consequences; and help the citizenry better understand the impact of conflict and the use of force on society, especially on veterans who served our nation.

Policy-makers and military professionals, as well as the American people, must be keenly aware of the strengths, limitations, and costs of the employment of military forces given the nature of current and emerging threats. The dialogue between those responsible for crafting grand strategy and those responsible for conducting military operations must be transparent to the public. Failure to accomplish this violates the social contract between the nation's leadership, its public servants, and those whom they serve. The symposium will address these profound issues.

I encourage you to carve out some time from your personal schedules to attend as many focus area sessions as possible. I am confident you will not be disappointed.

Thank you for attending.

Jim Dubik, Ph.D.  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Ret.)