

Life as He Seeks It

From inner city to West Point Academy

By Lisa Hook

It's the type of success story you might see in a movie script.

Mark McGinnis was raised as the oldest of three children by a single, working mother in Detroit. She instilled in him the values of self-determination and service to his country.

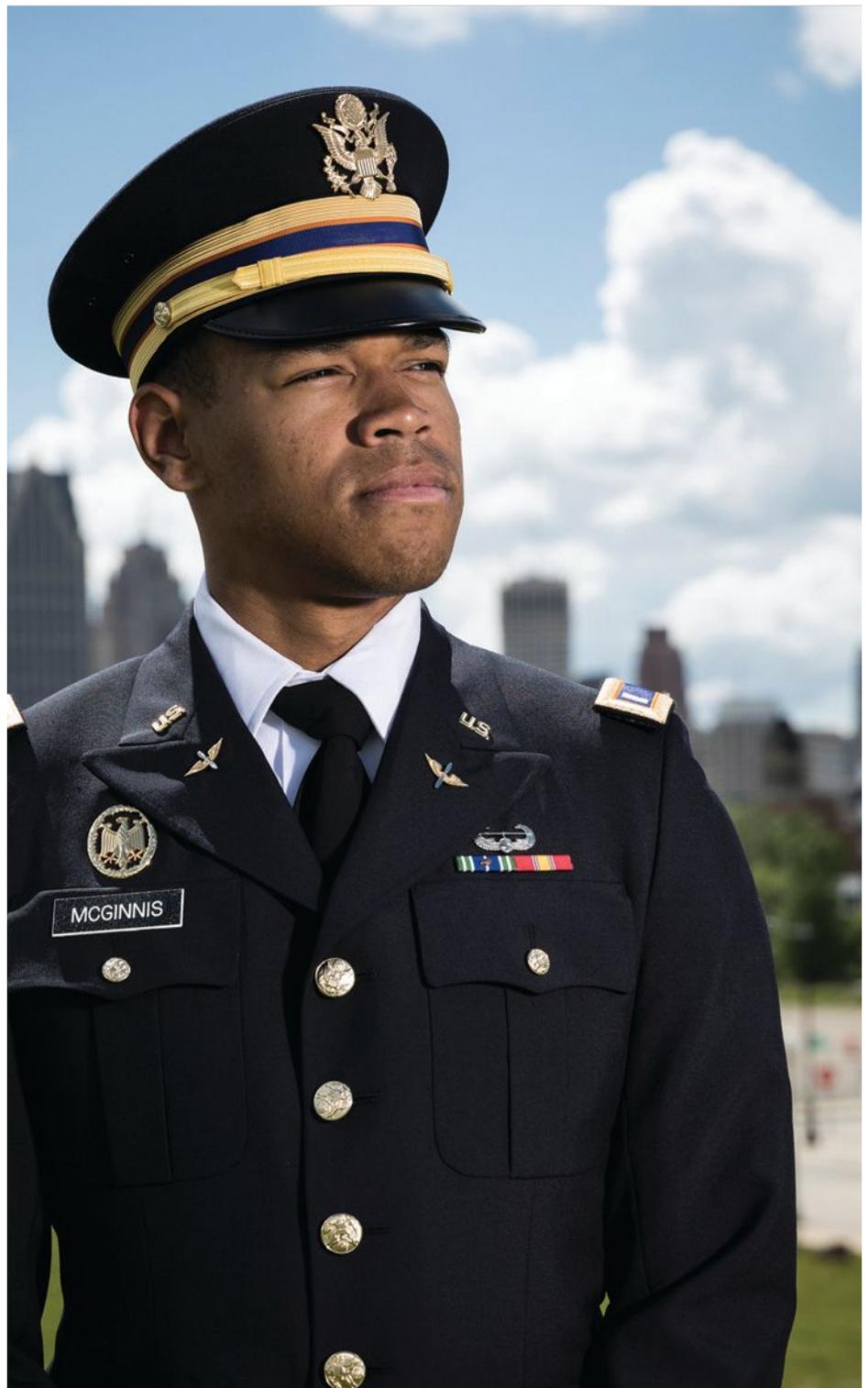
McGinnis graduated from Detroit's Renaissance High School in 2012. While there, he served as class treasurer and student senator, attending conferences in Lansing. He made such a good impression while he was in the state capital that he was selected to represent Michigan as a United States Page.

Moving on to the nation's capital, he received invaluable exposure to the day-to-day inner workings of the government. That left him even more determined to achieve his goals — leadership, service, and academic excellence — upon his return to Detroit.

Back at Renaissance, McGinnis had participated in the Midnight Golf Program. With UAW-Ford among its sponsors, the program aims to teach minority students how to play golf while building crucial life skills. It was there that he says he learned the value of mentorship.

He joined the JROTC Program. After graduation, he set off to West Point with only a backpack — and several objectives. He wanted to achieve the highest leadership appointment at West Point, earn a scholarship, and obtain a 4.0 GPA.

"I wanted to show the people back home that a person from the inner city attending a public school can make it out as long as they put their mind to it," he says.



CDT/CPT McGinnis oversees 1,100 cadets as a regiment commander. He has served as president of the Domestic Affairs Forum and president of Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society.

Aside from academics, he volunteers for the Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, and The Salvation Army.

A member of the Class of 2017, he planned to work on an advanced degree with

a concentration in economics and business in Beijing, then follow his passion for politics in his hometown.

"I hope to work my way up in the community and one day run for governor," he says. "I always aspire to be a servant to the nation, but I also want to be that person to inspire others to obtain the life that they seek."

Lisa Hook writes from Michigan.