

THE RESERVE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF THE GOLDEN WEST “SENTINEL”



A NEWSLETTER
FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF THE
GOLDEN WEST (CA & NV)
VOLUME 50 – FEB 2023 EDITION

Also available online at: <http://www.roa.org/>



The congressionally chartered object and purpose of the Reserve Organization of America: *“To support a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security and to promote the development and execution thereof.”*

2021 -2023 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Col. Barbara D. Ortiz, USAF (ret)

Email: ortiz.barbara2013@gmail.com



President’s Message

This will be my last message to you as your Department President, it has been my honor to serve in this position. I hope you all can attend our Department Meeting on April 22nd in Las Vegas to welcome our new Department President, Col David Thompson.

A lot is happening in ROA, please take a moment to look at the website and sign up for the Reserve Voice emails (if you haven’t already) to stay informed. And as always, please encourage your fellow veterans and service members to join ROA.

Thank you for your service, both to ROA and to our Country.



2022 -2023 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT-ELECT

Col. David Thompson, USMC

Email: dmtmar@aol.com

President-Elect Message

Happy New Year Department of Golden West! Thank you for electing me to be your president for the next two years. I look forward to engaging more drilling reserve members and strengthening our department's missions and future. I look forward to seeing as many as possible and hope everyone is planning to join us on Saturday, April 22nd in Las Vegas for our Annual Meeting. I am looking forward to seeing you there at Harrah’s!

Immediate Past President: See my message under the National Council role.

Bev Houghton
Immediate Past President, DOGW



ARMY Vice President: LTC Stephen Dolgin, USA (Ret) Email: ltdolgin@aol.com



The US Army has brought in about 45,000 recruits last year out of a goal of 60,000. The Army Reserve and National Guard fell short too. The secretary of the army said barring a turnaround it may be necessary to close units and call National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers to active duty to fill in those shortages.

In World War II the Army had a program called the Army Specialist Corps although they were still civilians, they were de facto soldiers performing many essential duties like Medical and administrative duties. They even wore uniforms. It was ideal for people who were too old or didn't meet certain medical conditions to enlist. Maybe the Army should start looking at a modern version of this program it would be ideal for people in cyber medical chaplain legal and many administrative functions.

It would probably be analogous to the California State Guard on a national basis although they would still be paid either as full-time or Reserve members.

I think it is time to start looking into a similar organization to meet today's needs.



NAVAL Vice President: LCDR Richard Catlin III, USN



I am very much looking forward to being a conduit for all issues which matter to our organization, especially the past and present reservists in the

Sea Services. Your dedication and involvement are, as always, welcome and appreciated, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Department Meeting this Saturday, April 22nd in Las Vegas. Thank you again for entrusting your faith in me!

Very Respectfully,

LCDR Richard Allen Catlin III PhD, USN
Cell = (775) 527-2087
E-mail = richard.a.catlin@gmail.com

AIR FORCE Vice President: Col. Kenneth Morrison, USAF (Ret) Email: kmorris07@aol.com

The inclusion of the Space Force into our section has added uncertain aspects that we look forward to addressing in the coming years. I welcome these issues and discussions and believe this will not lessen but strengthen our service section.

Retirement Affairs Vice President: COL(R) Rick Garza

Email: razrag06@yahoo.com



The nature of Veteran/Retirement issues is that it is a subject vast and complex -- and nearly everyone has their specific question, issue, or concern. The best sources are the VA or, in California, Cal Vet. Depending on the question, the service member's own service website or the Retirement Services Officer at a local military installation might be the best bet. Other good sources -- other than ROA -- that are my "go-to" for the best and latest are the monthly "RAO Bulletin" prepared by the Retirement Affairs Officer, Baguio, PI at <http://veteraninformationlinksasa.com/emos-rao.html> and also MOAA. MOAA has a

Retiree page: <http://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-retiree/>

Surgeon: Col Ronald D. Harris, M.D., USAF (Ret)

Email: colronaldharris@roadrunner.com

Phone: (858) 200-6845



What is there to say today about Covid? It is obviously still around and there does not seem to be any stopping the variants from showing up one after another. The current subvariant is Omicron XBB.1.5 which is causing about 70% of cases in the United States today. Meanwhile, the vaccines that we all hoped for have been used and while their primary use is preventing severe disease and mortality, they are not the "Smallpox or Salk Polio vaccines" of the past. In other words, they have not been proven to prevent the spread of this disease. Despite this aspect, they are still useful and should be taken especially by those who are at higher risk for bad outcomes. Are there new vaccines on the horizon? Yes, but with the government running out of Covid money the pharmaceutical companies may be on their own to financially back the research. That might not happen at all especially if the virus continues to change and the new vaccines are effective for only a short period of time!

In addition, the monoclonal antibody treatments that were so effective have lost their ability to stop the new variants. Once again Pharma is reluctant to use its own money to do the research and development for a treatment that is so short-lived. However, Paxlovid is still an effective oral medication treatment for people who are at higher risk for serious outcomes. A new study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that patients who received one injection of pegylated interferon lambda did better than those who received a placebo. So, researchers are still trying to find new or unique treatments for Covid. The big question is can they be brought to market without significant government funding?

There are other potential problems that have arisen with Covid. These may possibly be directly related to the virus but may be related to the vaccines. One of these is the issue of myocarditis

(inflammation of the heart muscle). The other major concern is a 4% overall increase in heart attacks. These problems seem to be mainly relegated to younger men between 25 and 44 years who have demonstrated a 29.9% increase, compared to people older than 65 years who have had an increase of 13% in heart attacks compared with 2 years earlier. You have all read about recent heart attacks in young healthy athletes – three of whom have died and the one football player who was resuscitated on the field on national TV. Medical researchers have not developed a firm reason for these occurrences but may be related to the propensity for forming blood clots that block the arteries in the heart.

A secondary downside of the Covid experience is the skepticism that has again developed about vaccines in general. Many parents are now reluctant to vaccinate their children against childhood and common infectious diseases. As a predictable result, many children are suffering and some dying from vaccine-preventable diseases. I am working diligently to combat this vaccine stigma. You as individuals can help also, especially if you have family members who are reluctant to give the vaccine to their children by reassuring them of the historically large safety factors in vaccine use.

I keep hearing from a handful of conspiracy mongers with speculation that “there is another pandemic right around the corner”! This is like speculating that at any moment, the Earth is about to be destroyed by a wayward asteroid. There have always been doomsday forecasters throughout history, but history has shown that for the most part, these events never materialize. Of course, nobody has a crystal ball that can foretell the future about something like that happening –and someday it probably will but likely not soon.

The appropriate course is for citizens to convince our governments to prepare for a potential future pandemic so the next one can be more effectively managed than our recent Covid pandemic experience. The other concern is that while pandemics are usually naturally occurring, there is a potential threat that an infectious agent can be manufactured in a laboratory and used as a deadly biological weapon. Hopefully, that will never happen – again!

By the way - Don't forget to get your Flu shot!



National Council Person: LTC Bev Houghton, USA (Ret)



Thank you for entrusting me with this position. While the National EXCOM represents each service section the National Council is our connection to the national agenda and missions. It functions similarly to our government's House of Representatives and Senate, the National Council serves as our local voice on national issues and is our department's direct connection to the National organization. I will be stepping down from the National Council Person after the National meeting in March. ***A new national council***

person will need to be elected at the Department's April 22nd Convention in Las Vegas.

The position must be filled by a past Department President and I urge our previous Department Presidents to step back into a leadership role taking on this position. With our move out of state Milt and I have become involved in the local chapter and department and will be transferred to the Department of Washington. We have had a full and rich history with the Department of California and its transition to Golden West. Thank all of you for the support and memories and hope to see you at one of the future National meetings or CIOR/CIMOR events.

From the Treasurer:

Chapter presidents and treasurers *MUST* file a 990N postcard return to the IRS for your chapter as well as a chapter financial statement to ROA. You have up to 5 months from the time of your yearend accounting period. If your chapter has a fund held by the Department of the Golden West, treasurer, Richard Keagy, rhkeagydvm@verizon.net, has a financial accounting of funds held by your chapter which you will need for the Chapter Financial Report to ROA. The chapter that has funds with the Department are 32, 43, 51, 63, and 92. Chapter 57 had funds held by the department for part of the year so it will need also to have their report to make a Financial Report to ROA. The financial report form is on the ROA WEB site but if you cannot find it to download I have a blank copy that I can send to you which is a PDF file that you only have to fill out and send to DMarkham@ora.org along with the receipt showing you have filed the 990N. Not only is this required to maintain your IRS non-profit status but it is required so the Department and your chapter can receive the rebates from ROA. ***Chapter which fails to provide these documents will be recommended for disestablishment as being inactive.*** Please send a copy of your filing with ROA to, Richard Keagy, rhkeagydvm@verizon.net for the Department records.



**CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS
VETERANS COUNCIL REPORT**
Col. Donald Dorfman, USAF (Ret)- Legislative Chairman
dorf_law@hotmail.com

Check out our Council Website: www.cscvc.org

From Chuck Jamison http://www.2jamisons.com/jamison_update.html
If you wish to call, please use 916 952-3953 (good for text as well)

Jan 27, 2023 - AB 46 is moving forward. It is now in the Revenue and Taxation Committee. We need every member of the CSCVC (ROA is a member) to submit a letter in support of this bill along with their friends, neighbors, and fellow veterans. Letters being sent via USPS need to go out now.

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, Chair of the Committee on Revenue and Taxation
Legislative Office Building
1020 North O Street Room 167A
Sacramento, CA 95814
If you wish to call: **916-319-2098**

Letters can be uploaded through the updated Position Letter Portal. This site was designed to facilitate the submission of position letters to committees as bills move through California's legislative process. <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates> In addition to writing them, dial into the hearing when it is announced. The committee will let you speak at the appropriate time. If you are called on, please keep your comments brief and to the point. In the meantime, we are asking everyone to start making phone calls to Assemblymember Irwin's office starting today and send a letter to her via the REV & TAX Portal on their chapter letterhead. See above)

Note we have to get through the Assembly first followed by the Senate and finally to the Governor's Desk. CALMOAA was approached by the Governors Military Council asking us not to give up on this

effort. They are his advisors. Note when you read the bill you will see it is for all military retirees. We are emphasizing the concept of the work Force in California and at the same time, we have been educating our elected officials on the difference between a military retiree vs a Veteran. This point came to our attention after the fact that they didn't know the difference between the two.

Sample Letter:

Date 2023

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
Chairman of the Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee
1021 O Street Room 167A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subj: Military Retiree, Veteran, and Surviving Spouse Definitions

Dear Assemblymember Irwin:

During our A.B. 1623 campaign in 2022, one of our "takeaways" was Legislators may not be aware of the definitions for Retiree, Veteran, and Surviving Spouse. For your information, below are the U. S. Government definitions for Retiree, Veteran, and Surviving Spouse. Approximately 165,000 Military retirees and Surviving Spouses reside in California.

RETIREES: Members who accumulate 20 or more years of active service (including Reserves and National Guard) are eligible for retirement.

After 20 years of Military service, servicemembers are eligible for retirement, many in their 40s. Military retirees are highly skilled with experience in management, task prioritization, resource management, attention to detail, team building, and communications. Most importantly many Military retirees have security clearances required to work in California's expanding National Security workspace. In California, approximately 73% of Military retirees are enlisted.

VETERANS: Men and women who have served, but are not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans **only** if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, including the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps.

SURVIVING SPOUSES: The surviving spouse of a uniformed (military) serviceman who either retired, paid premiums for Surviving Benefits Plan (SBP), or of a service member who died on active duty in the line of duty or combat. Approximately 27,000 surviving spouses reside in California.

Military Surviving Spouses are well-educated and hold jobs in science, computer technology, healthcare, education, and many more.

Many Military retirees and Surviving Spouses use their educational benefits provided by the U.S. Government to increase their occupational and management **skills** in Science, Technical, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), and Medical occupations. They intend to enter California's high-tech workforce aligning with one of your "hot buttons", maintaining and growing California's high-tech workforce. Their children are CA residents and will also contribute to the state economy.

Military retirees and Surviving Spouses pay taxes on their second career earnings which are usually greater than their taxable active duty pay or SBP revenues. Instead of losing a taxpayer and family, California would be retaining a taxpayer with increased earnings and the tax revenues generated by the families of Military retirees and Surviving Spouses.

Assemblymember Ramos introduced A.B. to the 2023 California legislature to exempt Military retirees and Surviving Spouses from California Income Tax.

Military retirees and surviving spouses can be one of the keys to continued prosperity for California. Our state can honor our military retirees while at the same time enhancing its STEM and medical workforce and bolstering its tax base with higher-earning military retirees and spouses. Your assistance with this important matter would be greatly appreciated.

Very Respectfully,



FROM OUR CHAPTERS

Chapter 00: *Chapter 00 consists of everyone, not in a physical chapter.* A monthly ZOOM call on the **First Thursday of each month at 17:00 hours Pacific time** has been established for all to get together and communicate. To get the Zoom link, email ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com.

Chapter 32: General Jimmy Doolittle
COL Eldon J. Jager, USA (Ret) President
Email: sef15@sbcglobal.net

Chapter 43: Bud & Betty Sparks
CAPT Rafael A. Ortiz, USCGR (Ret) President.
Email: ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com CELL: (661)810-2230.

A service-specific chapter for Coast Guard members. Meetings are on ZOOM on the ***first Thursday of every month at 17:30 hours PACIFIC TIME***. All USCG members are invited and encouraged to participate. Meeting ID **975 713 1020**. Passcode **ROAch43**. Physical meetings rotate between three locations: Sector San Diego, Sector LA/LB, and Coast Guard Island. I am looking for individuals to help with setting meeting locations and schedules.

Chapter 51: Sacramento
Maj Randy C. Renfro, USAF President.
Email: taxlawyr@winfirst.com

Historically connected to the 940th out of Beal AFB we are seeking members interested in getting together to revitalize the chapter.

Chapter 53: Southern California Army
COL Richard H. Keagy, USA (Ret) President.
Email: rhkeagydmv@verizon.net
CELL: (310) 903-8004 Home: (310) 474-3383

Chapter 53 is currently in its financial requirements but has no elected officers at this time. Currently, there are no meetings. Members interested in the chapter please contact me.

Chapter 57: San Diego
CAPT Steven R. Hales, USN (Ret) President. Email: steve@hales.xyz
Chapter 57 is a geographic chapter that covers the Greater San Diego Area. All services are welcome to join. We have bi-monthly meetings and an annual Christmas Party in December. Contact President Hales for information on times and places.

Chapter 63: Santa Clara
LtCol Maurice M. Casey, USMC (Ret) President.
Email: roa63mc03@att.net

Historically connected to the Santa Clara area we are seeking members interested in getting together to revitalize the chapter.

Chapter 92: Flaming Blade
COL Richard Garza, USA (Ret) President.
Email: raxrag06@yahoo.com

Chapter 92 has not been active. Centered on JFTB Los Alamitos, the chapter serves the Army Reservists stationed there and anyone interested in the local area. With the loss of key active USAR members from the 79th Theater Support Command, we have lost our ability to meet on base. We are looking for members to assist with finding a good time and place to meet and get together.



ROA'S ROTC & JROTC

MEDAL and CERTIFICATES PROGRAM

COL Richard H. Keagy, USA (Ret.)
ROTC & Service Academies Committee Chair
rhkeagydvm@verizon.net

For many years the Department of the Golden West has provided JROTC and ROTC (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) Medals and Ribbons with a certificate signed by ROA's Executive Director and Current President to Cadets. The criteria for awarding the ROA award are better than average grades, being selected as a member of next year's leadership corps, and demonstrating a high regard for the uniform and the program. The JROTC award can go to any eligible cadet that has at least one year remaining in the program. The ROTC Bronze award goes to a Freshman, the Silver to a Sophomore, and the Gold to a Junior. Seniors are not given these awards because upon graduation they cannot wear the medal or ribbon anymore and the effect of having the ribbon and medal becomes ineffective in encouraging fellow cadets to strive for this award.

Please check with your local high school if they have JROTC and if they do contact the instructor and offer your help and ask if they receive the ROA ribbon, medal, and certificate. If not direct them to COL Richard Keagy. If you have more than one JROTC unit in your area that you are or can work with you can receive the awards and personally distribute them by ordering them from COL Keagy.

To receive the awards a unit instructor or cadet leader needs to contact Colonel Richard Keagy, AUS(R) by e-mail at rhkeagydvm@verizon.net with the following information:

School's name, address, and phone number
Senior instructor's name, e-mail, and phone number
Cadet's name as they want it to appear on the certificate
Date, time, and location of the unit's award ceremony

Upon receipt of the above information, the certificate will be printed with the cadet's name and school name, and the award mailed to the school. Mailing can be diverted to a requested alternative address.

If you are interested in attending a school's award ceremony in your area, please let COL Keagy know by e-mail. If there is a school that is to receive an award in your area he will send you an e-mail as to the date, time, location, and POC so you can arrange to be the presenter of our ROA award. Your presents help promote ROA and recognize the importance of the respective program you are supporting.

Your Department of the Golden West has a perpetual fund that generates enough funds to provide the ROA award to all California and Nevada ROTC and JROTC units so please make the effort to offer the award to units not yet receiving it.



From Ron Harris:

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery closed to first interment casketed burials in 1966, although it stays active with casketed interments of family members of those already interred and inurnments of cremated remains. Because of the closed status for first interments a second National Cemetery was opened in 2010. It goes by the name of Miramar National Cemetery. It is directly West of MCAS Miramar. Information for it can be found here:

Miramar National Cemetery, 5795 Nobel Drive, San Diego, CA 92122. **Phone:** 858-658-7360

It is available for new interments as well as new inurnment of cremated remains. The new cemetery in San Diego was notable for having been spearheaded by Brig Gen Robert Cardenas, USAF. His name may be familiar since he was the pilot who flew the B-29 over Edwards Air Force Base and released the Bell X-1 piloted by Chuck Yeager. This was the first successful flight to break the sound barrier in level flight.

Your editor is looking for articles for this publication. Photos and information about what your chapter, or you are doing with ROA or in support of the ROA mission. A simple photo of you visiting your congressional member or a group photo of a chapter get-together will do. Thank you in advance for helping us keep current and supporting the cause. Please consider adding your story to our 100th Anniversary by going to the ROA website and clicking under members only for "member of the week" and adding your story. This project is still operational and ongoing.



THE ROA DEPARTMENT OF THE GOLDEN WEST
"SENTINEL" NEWSLETTER EDITOR
CAPT RAFAEL A. ORTIZ, USCGR (Ret.)
ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com



It is the editorial policy of the "SENTINEL" to publish information of import to the membership of the Department of the Golden West of ROA, that will keep members informed of pertinent information, and to encourage participation in ROA affairs at Chapter, Department, and National levels. Unless specifically stated otherwise, opinions contained herein are those of the Editor or Columnists and are not necessarily those of the Reserve Organization of America or its Department of the Golden West. Additionally, any advertisements contained herein do not imply endorsement by ROA or the ROA Department of the Golden West of any products or services so advertised. We appreciate any comments concerning our coverage. The Department of the Golden West publishes the "Sentinel" Newsletter yearly. **It is emailed by default to the membership unless a Hard Copy is specifically requested from the Sentinel Editor. Please ensure your email address is current. It is recommended you log into www.roa.org and confirm your status, address, and contact information.**

MIA Members!

To date, we have 2,248 members listed as having emails out of 3,599 total members for our department. **We need your assistance**. Email is the timeliest and most cost-effective way to communicate with you. Please ensure we have your correct email and address information.

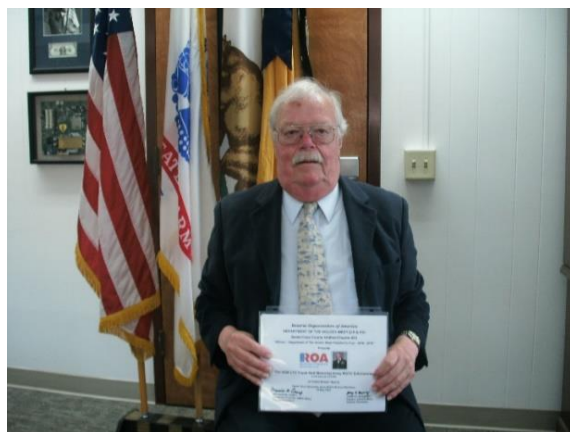
First, go to the ROA website www.roa.org and log in. Go to ***manage your profile*** and update your information. You can also change your preferences, your chapter, and your department.

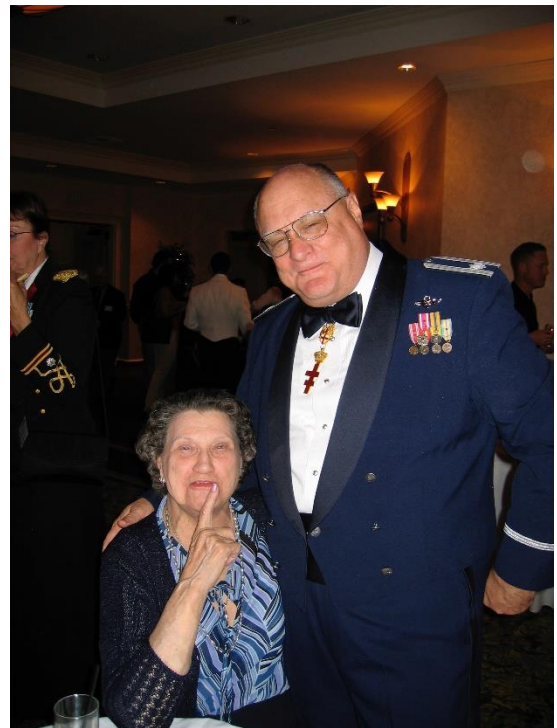
Second, if you are assigned to chapter 00, please consider joining another one. They need your assistance and support.

Thank you for your service, and continued support of our goals and missions.

Rafael Ortiz, Executive Secretary,
Department of the Golden West
ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com (661) 810-2230 Cell

Blast from the past. Remembering those that gave so much to our department.
Photo's courtesy of CAPT Alan Tubbs, USCGR (Ret)
(Please send the editor your photos, past and present.)





National Meetings

March 11 – 14 National Council & Leaders Meeting

September 28 – Oct 1 National Convention

ROA wants your reserve story! [Member of the Week Nominations - ROA](#)

Go to: www.ROA for registration and details



Department Meeting

Convention Agenda

SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023

Harrah's

3475 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Breakfast on your own.

- 0845-0900 In-person Registration \$ 25.00 (Pre-registration is \$ 20.00)
0900-0915 Opening Remarks - Col. Barbara D. Ortiz, USAF (Ret.), DoGW President
0915-0945 Committee Reports / Budget
0945-1000 Break
1000-1100 Speaker: Col. Layne R. Wroblewski, USAF (Ret), National President-Elect, ROA.
1100-1200 General Business Session and Elections, Swearing in of new officers.
- National Council
- Retirement Affairs
- Medical Services
- State coordination (CSCVC & NV)
1200-1330 Lunch provided.
1330-1415 ROA DoGW President Col David Thompson, USMC.
1415-1430 Break
1430-1530 General Business Session continued.
- Future meeting times and locations
- Number of department meetings per year
- In-person vice Zoom meetings
- Recruiting plan/goals.
1530-1630 Chapter/Committee and Service Section Meetings
- Chapter organization, and support.
- ROTC / JROTC
- Family Support
1630-1700 Closing remarks and completion of business.
1800-2100 Dinner at a local restaurant. (Mark on your registration if you would like to attend)

***** ZOOM Link available upon request. Email ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com for the link. *****



ROA 2023 Department of the Golden West Convention

22 April 2023

Harrah's Las Vegas, NV

Attendee Information:

Name: _____

Name as it should appear on the badge (Bob, Chuck, Cindy): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Member #: _____

ROA Registration:

Qty: _____ x \$ 20 = _____

(Includes Saturday lunch)

Additional Options:

Dinner Saturday Night: For any ROA member or veteran in the Las Vegas Area. To join with others that evening. Count for reservation purposes. Dinner costs on your own. The Restaurants will be determined based on the number of responses and availability.

Qty: ____ x RSVP via email to ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com

Uniform for the convention: **Casual**

HOTEL Information: On your own. Many use vacation points. If you sign up for local Las Vegas Hotel and Casino rewards many discounts and deals are available.

Print, fill out & mail this registration form with a check made out to:

ROA Dept of the Golden West

COL Richard H. Keagy, USA (Ret)

550 Loring Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90024-2524



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DEPARTMENT OF THE GOLDEN WEST
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San Diego, CA 92137**

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**The Golden West
SENTINEL
Peace Through Strength**

The Department of the Golden West publishes the "Sentinel" Newsletter at least yearly. It is emailed by default to the membership unless a Hard Copy is *specifically requested* from the Sentinel Editor.

2021-2023 OFFICERS

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

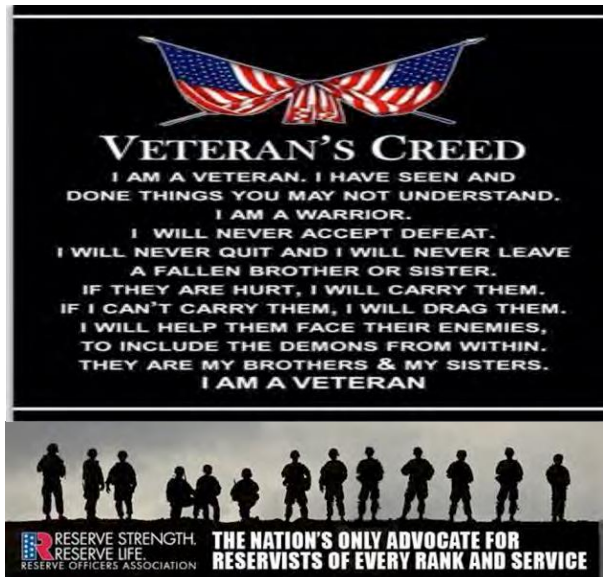
Col. Barbara Ortiz, USAF (Ret.)
Email: ortiz.barbara2013@gmail.com

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