

# THE RESERVE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF THE GOLDEN WEST

**“SENTINEL”** *E- Version* *“Corrected”*



A NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE  
GOLDEN WEST (CA & NV)  
VOLUME 52-**E** – FEB 2025 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.”*

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## NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 51!

If a president and secretary/treasurer are not identified by the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting **your chapter will be terminated!**

Contact Exec. Sec. Ortiz at [ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com](mailto:ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com) CELL: 661-810-2230

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## The Department of the Golden West WANTS YOU!

DEPARTMENT POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE APRIL MEETING!

**You can make a difference!**

**You will help determine what happens with our department and help guard and reserve members in California and Nevada.**

Vice Presidents: ARMY, NAVAL, AIR FORCE  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents: ARMY, NAVAL, AIR FORCE  
Vice Presidents: Retirement Affairs, Medical Services

\*Naval includes: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, NOAA, PHS

\* Air Force includes: Air Force, Space Force

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## 2023 -2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Col. David Thompson, USMC (Ret)

Email: [dmtmar@aol.com](mailto:dmtmar@aol.com)

After a selection process, your president has been appointed by the County Board of Supervisors as a member of the Stanislaus County Advisory Committee (also responsible for Reserve and Active-Duty military affairs).



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## 2024 -2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT-ELECT

President-Elect: LTC Peter Powell, USA

Email: [peter.powell@outlook.com](mailto:peter.powell@outlook.com)

This April I will assume the duties and responsibilities of the office of President for our department. I look forward to continuing the work of those who have come before me and plan on fully engaging all of you in making our department and organization stronger and more active. To do this we will need the help and support from all our members. We cannot rely on elected leaders or the national staff to grow our numbers or be the only ones supporting our causes. We must find and recruit new members, attend outreach events, and engage with our elected officials at the local, state, and national levels to create an organization that people see as supportive, engaged, and welcoming of new people and ideas.



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## Immediate Past President:

Col. Barbara D. Ortiz, USAF (ret)

Email: [ortiz.barbara2013@gmail.com](mailto:ortiz.barbara2013@gmail.com)

Assigned by the Nevada Governor to the Veterans Council I am involved in Nevada issues. VAMDAL: Veteran and Military Day at the Legislature will be held on Wednesday, March 19th in Carson City. This day-long event raises awareness and shows appreciation for Nevada's veteran and military communities. Check the Nevada Department of Veteran Services (NDVS) website for all the details and to register:



[Nevada Department of Veterans Services - Serving Nevada's Heroes](#)

Specific Women Veterans issues in Nevada will be highlighted at the upcoming Women's Veterans Conference on March 8th, 2025. Hosted by NDVS it will be held at the National Automobile Museum, Reno, NV. Accommodations at Renaissance Hotel using Reference # M-UK277Z7. Register using the QR code here.



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**ARMY Vice President:**

LTC Stephen Dolgin, USA (Ret)

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CELL: (510) 501-2607



Can't believe it's nearly 25 years since I retired from a 28-year military reserve career! But I'm still staying very active wearing the uniform in other ways. After "retiring" as a teacher, I signed on to substitute as well as provide support to the Oakland Military Institute, a public charter school. I also volunteer with the California Cadet Corps as an adult leader, belong to the California state Guard youth programs unit. I support various weekend and summer state cadet activities as well as local activities with the school. California Cadet Corps is similar to JROTC, but is run by the California National Guard and it includes Cadets from 4th to 12th grades. The program has existed since 1911 but after stagnating post Vietnam era it has grown considerably since it's 100th anniversary in 2011. They exist in 90 schools most of which are non-military schools but there are about 5 military charter schools now in the program.

I would like to propose that perhaps we can give out Awards to people in the California Cadet Corps, similar to the awards we give in JROTC. I am also active with the Coast Guard Auxiliary where I liaison with Sea Scouts and assist the Coast Guard Academy admissions office. I am also work with Civil Air Patrol Cadets as well. I'm on the Alameda County Veterans Commission. At age 75 I definitely don't let the grass grow under my feet!

**NAVAL Vice President:**

CAPT Deborah Nelson Holsworth, USN

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CELL: (831) 594-6966



As this past year’s memories are in the rearview mirror and much is anticipated for 2025. I recommend several opportunities for your consideration. Please consider more involvement in our ROA National and Department organizations.

Truth be told, my husband and I were yesterday enjoying an adult beverage overlooking Waikiki beach at the Hale Koa as the sun set. Other military resorts I have personally enjoyed flying Space Available (Yes, it’s back again) are Dragon Hill in Korea, New Sanno in Tokyo, Edelweiss in Germany and various military clubs in many countries. I highly recommend trying some of these great benefits that we all can share.

I served as a member of the National Resolutions and Legislative Committee which meets monthly by Zoom with our ROA Legislative Liaison Matt Schwartzman, Director of Legislation and Military Policy and chaired by the Col Denise Enders. [ltcdgross@aol.com](mailto:ltcdgross@aol.com) The committee reviews roughly 5 resolutions per month that have been submitted and decides their relevance. It is most enlightening to have the opportunity to review specific military issues affecting Reservists.

I completed three years serving on the Navy Nurse Corps Association Board of Directors. This fall a group of 200 active, retired and reserve met aboard a cruise from Boston to the Maritime Provinces of Canada. We renewed old friendships and enjoyed sharing sea stories. Such opportunities to share military experiences are also available through the ROA.

This year, for perhaps my 25th time, I will attend CIOR/CIOMR in Madrid 28 JUL to 1 AUG. The meetings concern common struggles within our NATO Alliance both in general and in my case medical challenges. The military competition among Reservist athletes from NATO countries in the CIOR MILCOM plus a Law of Armed Conflict is always exciting.

In September I shall again participate in UPORFA which will take place this year in Cartagena, Columbia. The South and Central American delegates are always lively and are amazing hosts. Canada and the US delegates participate in sizable numbers. Please check the ROA web site for descriptions of these very worthwhile International opportunities as a ROA delegate that give us great involvement with our American neighbors and NATO partners.



**AIR FORCE Vice President:**

Col. Kenneth Morrison, USAF (Ret)

Email: [kmorris07@aol.com](mailto:kmorris07@aol.com)

CELL: (619) 750-5168

I am retired 29 ½ year, Air Force active duty & Air Force Reserve veteran with service in the Vietnam War and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. A member of ROA for many years and held most positions at the March Air Reserve Base’s Chapter #11. My wife and I reside in La Mesa, CA a small unincorporated village in San Diego.



**National Council Person:**

Col Ronald D. Harris, USAF (Ret)

Email: [colrdhmd@reagan.com](mailto:colrdhmd@reagan.com)

BLUF: I guess that most of you know that this acronym means “bottom line up front.” Well, here it is:

**Voting at ROA National was changed at this past General meeting in Washington, D.C. From now on there will be individual voting by individual ballots for National candidates.**



There will no longer be voting by Department – the winners will be voted in by majority popular vote. This is a huge change, and the exact mechanism is being worked out and will be disseminated to all the members as soon as it is finalized.

Most of the other significant issues are being covered in the Sentinel under varying topics. One however, should be brought to your attention: the **Departments will no longer have a presence in the National ROA website but only a link to the individual department’s own website if they have one.** The reasoning is that “nobody or very few” used the ROA National website to look at information about Departments. Therefore, the DOTGW will need to reinstate our website. **And we are looking for anyone able to help.**

I do want to say that I have enjoyed being the National Council representative from DOTGW. I think that I have had the opportunity to help our Department and National with my presence. However, I am very grateful that all of the meetings have been held via ZOOM. This is very efficient and definitely helps with the pocketbook because the meetings are over the Internet instead of flying back and forth to D.C. for meetings as in the old days or as they say today – back in the day.



## Retirement Affairs Vice President:

COL(R) Rick Garza

Email: [razraq06@yahoo.com](mailto:razraq06@yahoo.com)



From the Retired Activities Office Newsletter, Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, CA.

### **VA Home Loans Will Now Cover Some Real Estate**

**Commission Fees.** Some commission fees for real estate agents will soon be covered under the Department of Veterans Affairs' home loan program, according to a new VA policy announced in June. Veterans Affairs-backed home loans will now include commission fees for buyer-brokers who represent home purchasers amid ongoing changes nationwide to real estate transaction fees and commissions.

Previously, active-duty service members, veterans or eligible spouses who applied for a VA loan could not use the benefit to pay fees to real estate agents they hired exclusively to represent them. In most traditional real estate arrangements, buyers signed a contract with an agent to show them houses and negotiate a deal, but the seller was responsible for covering the commissions of the selling and buying agent, usually between 5% or 6% of the purchasing price split evenly between the two.

As a result of a class-action settlement involving the National Association of Realtors, or NAR, earlier this year, however, that math may be changing. The lawsuit contended that the practice also encouraged buyers' agents to show only homes that offered top commissions, depriving buyers of seeing all available homes and preventing sellers from offering discounts to draw shopping interest.

Department officials said the change is temporary, and the VA will monitor how the settlement affects real estate transactions moving forward and adjust as needed.

In its release, the VA reminded home buying veterans that they can negotiate buyer-broker fees and commissions and are encouraged to do so. They also can ask the sellers to pay those fees at closing, which has "long been and continues to be a viable practice under VA's rules."

"As the landscape of the real estate market evolves, VA will continue to monitor for changes as well as new models for realtor commissions that may emerge and help lower costs, boost competition and increase avenues to home ownership," department officials said in a release. (Source: Military.com, 12 June 2024)

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### **How High Will Your Medicare Part B Premium Go?**

The standard Medicare Part B monthly premium will reach nearly \$300 a month by 2033 according to the annual Medicare trustee's report, which also includes projections for income-adjusted rates in coming years.

Beneficiaries would see a projected 5.9% increase in their standard premium for 2025, moving from \$174.70 this year to an estimated \$185 next year, per the report. After a smaller projected increase to \$186.90 in 2026, the estimated rate rises more than \$100 over the next seven years, to \$299.80 in 2033.

Military retirees who wish to access their TRICARE For Life benefits at age 65 must enroll in both Medicare Part A and Part B. In addition to the standard premium, Part B beneficiaries must pay an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA), which varies by income level.

The report does not estimate those income levels – which change with inflation and may influence your financial planning, including charitable giving amounts – but does estimate IRMAA based on income bracket.

The first IRMAA bracket for 2024 beneficiaries covers those with reported 2022 income from \$103,001 to \$129,000 on an individual tax return or from \$206,001 to \$258,000 on

- joint return.
- In 2024, beneficiaries in that bracket pay an additional \$69.90 a month, for a total payment of \$244.60.
- The income levels for 2025 in that bracket will rise depending on inflation, but those in the bracket that year (based on 2023 income levels) will pay an additional \$74 a month (estimated) on top of their estimated \$185 standard premium, for a \$259 monthly total.

The top IRMAA bracket would move from a \$419.30 adjustment in 2024 to an estimated \$719.40 adjustment in 2033, according to the report. These figures would be added to the standard premium to determine an overall monthly payment.

Official Medicare Part B premium rates are announced in November for the following calendar year. (Source: MOAA Newsletter 12 June 2024).

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**Website changes.** In the next few weeks, [BENEFEDS.com](http://BENEFEDS.com) and [LTCFEDS.com](http://LTCFEDS.com) will move to [BENEFEDS.gov](http://BENEFEDS.gov) and [LTCFEDS.gov](http://LTCFEDS.gov). BENEFEDS is the online benefits marketplace for eligible federal civilians and uniformed service members to shop, enroll, and/or pay for voluntary benefits, including dental and vision plans under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program (FEDVIP). LTCFEDS is the official website for the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP).

Both websites are sponsored by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The .gov transition is being made in collaboration with OPM as part the government’s requirement that all federal agencies (and the programs and services they oversee) use government domains (e.g., .gov or .mil). Retirees are understandably cautious when it comes to using websites to manage their benefits, so being aware of the fact that this is a planned and legitimate change will be helpful.

Once the change has been completed, BENEFEDS.com and LTCFEDS.com will redirect to their respective .gov domain sites, ensuring uninterrupted access for program enrollees and site visitors. Some references to the previous .com websites may remain in correspondence, on web pages, and in materials over the coming months. These references will be updated once the entire .gov transition is completed. Emails will also

move to their respective .gov domains. (Source: [email@info.benefeds.com](mailto:email@info.benefeds.com); Sept 5, 2024)

The Retired Activities Office, Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach, California is located at 800 Seal Beach Blvd in Bldg. 10, Seal Beach, CA 90740-5000. We are here to serve all Armed Forces retirees and are open M-Th 0900 to 1500; Fri 0900 to 1200. You may contact us at (562)-626-7152 or by emailing us at [rao-nwssb@us.navy.mil](mailto:rao-nwssb@us.navy.mil)

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## **Social Security Fairness Act**

(This article copied from Social Security Administration website, updated 06 Jan 25)

The Social Security Fairness Act, HR 82, concerning the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, was signed into law on January 5, 2025. Upon implementation, the Social Security Fairness Act eliminates the reduction of Social Security benefits while entitled to public pensions from work not covered by Social Security. The Social Security Administration is evaluating how to implement the Act. We will provide more information as soon as available.

### **I previously filed for Social Security benefits and they are partially or completely offset.**

At this time, you do not need to take any action except to verify that we have your current mailing address and direct deposit information if it has recently changed. Most people can do this online with their personal *my Social Security* account without calling or visiting Social Security. Visit [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to sign in or create your account. We will provide ongoing updates regarding implementation on this page.

### **I have not previously filed for Social Security benefits.**

If you are receiving a public pension and are interested in filing for benefits, you may file online at [ssa.gov/apply](http://ssa.gov/apply) or schedule an appointment.

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**Surgeon:** Col Ronald D. Harris, M.D., USAF (Ret)  
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Phone: (858) 200-6845

There is always something to worry about in this world especially dealing with infectious diseases. In an old song about John Henry the lyrics say: "if the right one don't get you, then the left one will." That is the way our unseen viruses and other "bugs" like to act and we are always at war with these bugs!.



For example, today we have a potential “Quad-Demic” going on. So, what that means is that there are 4 potential illnesses happening at about the same time – right now! Well, here are the names of them: Norovirus the “Winter Vomiting Sickness”; Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Influenza (The Flu) and COVID-19 (the China virus).

What can we do about them because the flu season with Flu and norovirus cases piling up? Plus it looks like a bad Flu season is happening.

1. Flu: get your self vaccinated with the latest flu vaccine. For seniors that means the “Senior strength vaccine” which by the way, gives a little more kick this year since it has a little “helper” (adjuvant) added to make it work better. This means that this year your arm might be a bit sorer for a few days after the shot.
2. RSV: get the RSV vaccine. RSV can be a lot of trouble for seniors and babies, but we don’t need to worry about babies in this article, but we do need to worry about a lot of people over 65 years of age. This is a disease of the lungs and respiratory tract. It can be mild like a cold but in older adults can lead to severe pneumonia. It can cause wheezing due to narrowing of the bronchial tubes and even blue skin coloration (cyanosis) when not enough oxygen is getting in. Get this vaccine – you do not want this disease especially if it is combined with the flu or if you have an immune compromised situation.
3. COVID-19: I know that lots of people do not want to get this vaccine. But there is an updated vaccine that you should get if you have lung disease, heart disease or other chronic diseases such as diabetes, liver or kidney diseases> It is also highly recommended if you have a disease from which you are immune compromised. That means some blood cancer or other cancer and are being treated with chemo or immune therapy. In these cases, you probably really need to get the vaccine.
4. Norovirus: Unfortunately, there are no vaccine for preventing this viral illness. It is a G-I disease which causes severe nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea. It may also produce a fever, body aches and a headache. It can be a mild form typically lasting 1-3 days. However, it can be quite severe and lead to deaths. It is pretty easily passed between people so if you know someone who is suffering from it, my suggestion is keep away if you can. The alcohol handwipe fluids do not kill this virus. Right now, there are a lot of shellfish especially oysters and clams that are contaminated with norovirus so be careful about eating these in restaurants or home. Wash your hands frequently after being in crowds or shaking hands with people. If you have a chronic illness and get this disease let your doctor know.

Beyond the Quad-Demic is H5N1 Bird Flu: Yes, there have been sporadic cases being found in humans and you may have read about them in the news. There have been 64 cases in humans in the US since 2024. The first death in the US was a 65 year old man who died this January 6th in Louisiana. He was exposed to a flock of birds in his yard. Being that he had several complicating medical problems he developed Bird Flu, was hospitalized but died.

Cows in California and 14 other states have the virus in their milk but so far there is no indication to stop drinking milk if it is pasteurized. Drinking raw milk could be hazardous, however.

My prediction is that there will eventually be a vaccine for this disease, and it probably will be one of the newer m-RNA vaccines.

So, it is back to the story and the song about John Henry – “if the right one don’t get you, then the left one will.” As I said, we are always at war with viruses and those other “bugs”. Stay cautious and get vaccinated when and where it is indicated. Some good

advice is wash your hands frequently or at least when you think about it! Stay healthy my friends.



**From our Department Treasurer:**

Col Richard Keagy, USA (Ret)

Email: [rhkeagydvm@verizon.net](mailto:rhkeagydvm@verizon.net)



**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 year-end accounting period. If your chapter has a fund held by the Department of the Golden West, treasurer, Richard Keagy, [rhkeagydvm@verizon.net](mailto: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 chapters that have funds with the Department are 32, 43, 51, 53, 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](mailto: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.

**\*\*\* A chapter that 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](mailto:rhkeagydvm@verizon.net) and the Executive Secretary, Rafael Ortiz, [ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com](mailto:ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com) for the Department records.



**From the National Treasurer:**

**The biggest change for 2025 is notifying the IRS of our fiscal year change, and filing the returns (990-EZ) on or before May 15.**

Our IRS filing deadline will shift from August 15 to May 15 each year -- still 5 1/2 months after the end of the FY.

**How does the Department or Chapters inform the IRS of the Fiscal Year change?** The treasurers need to know that the only way to notify the IRS of a fiscal year change is via filing a Form 990-EZ (according to IRS instructions, the Form 990N -- that Departments and Chapters normally file -- cannot be used for this purpose). This will be

a one-time requirement and next year (2025), Departments and Chapters can file the 990N once again.

**What organization name should the Department and Chapter treasurers put on Form 990-EZ?** Col Hueg restated the question as "Should treasurers use 'Reserve Officers Association [of the United States]' or 'Reserve Officers Association of the United States dba (doing business as) Reserve Organization of America' "? He said he hasn't seen any rule that we MUST show a name change, and he advises against changing it on the form at this point since we have not formally changed the Association's name through our Charter.

"I suppose if a Department or Chapter changed the organization name to "dba Reserve Organization of America" when they filed their 990N a few years ago back when during the National Convention where it was decided to add the "dba", then they would need to continue that practice on this year's form. But I doubt there are many (or any) out there."

"When ROA filed its Form 990 last August 15, the firm who has prepared ROA's tax returns for years typed on the first page of Form 990 (where the form asks the name of the organization) "Reserve Officers Association of the United States" without any further explanation or expansion. The name was typed on each Form 990 schedule attached to our return as well."

Col Hueg didn't have any information on ROA's name change other than it will require a change to ROA's Charter before we can drop the "dba" legality. "That decision was made back during the national convention in Memphis but we are still waiting for that to occur."



**From Jeff Phillips, Executive Director:**

To the members of the Reserve Organization of America, I offer my heartfelt thanks for the privilege of serving ROA these past ten years as your executive director.

The time has come for my tenure to transition and give space for fresh leadership as ROA's revitalization gathers speed, strengthening its ability to fulfil our founding purpose. My final day as your executive director will be May 31 of this year. In the meantime, we will ensure the organization is ready for the new leadership and a smooth transition into further growth.

One hundred and twenty-one months ago, I held my first staff meeting with the dwindled few who had witnessed the layoffs of their colleagues. The executive director before me had abruptly left. None knew me. I was an active member of Department of Texas Chapter 5 as its newsletter editor while living in Austin, where I met and was mentored by future national president Col. Ladd Pattillo, but I had not participated at the national level.

With this "surviving" band of staff eyeing me in curiosity, shock, and perhaps despair, I said simply "Stay with me and we will pull out of this," not knowing what else to say . . .

I knew we would. And they stayed with the effort.

The Executive Committee that took a chance and granted me the role of executive director kept the faith, as have its successors. For that trust, patience, and – all too often – forgiveness, these leaders have my deepest gratitude. I extend that gratitude to all of ROA’s leaders, in the National Council, in the committees, in the departments and chapters, and among our past national presidents. They are ROA’s stalwarts. ROA’s revitalization is the result of their support of my efforts and my ability to serve our wonderful national staff as it steadfastly does the hard work of the association, augmented by superb contracting partners whose loyalty to ROA matches their performance.

Where we see progress, the credit belongs to them all; where we see deficiency, it is all mine.

I am frankly excited for ROA, even with the twinge of farewell. I see opportunity. Whereas a decade ago we were deeply in debt, trust and optimism eroded, our operating systems virtually all dark, today we are bright with promise!

ROA is sound financially, our cash flow strong, revenues and expenses in balance; and we’re rebuilding our reserves, helped by wise investments and a rising market. ROA’s committees are stronger and making meaningful contributions throughout our association.

A fellow advocate once told me admiringly, “ROA punches above its weight.” He was right; ROA’s legislative and policy campaign achieves successes out of proportion to the size of its staff, which is increasingly regarded in Congress, among officials in DoD, and within the military and veterans advocacy community as the authority on reserve component issues. We are valued participants in collaborations among other veterans and military associations. We are in word and in deed the only national military association that solely and exclusively supports the readiness and quality of life of the reserve components, their families, and veterans of the reserve force!

Our beloved Minute Man Memorial Building gleams with beauty atop Capitol Hill, attracting growing revenues from our Top of the Hill Banquet and Conference Center business.

Membership is a chief joy, seeing members at our conventions whom I have known for a decade – and seeing new ones come on board! Yet membership is an area in which my revitalizing efforts fell short: we continue to lose more members than we gain. I do see increasing interest among senior reserve component noncommissioned officers as they recognize their potential influence within ROA for the enhancement of their force. That is a real opportunity for us, as it is for them!

Further, I commend President Layne Wroblewski’s bold initiatives to augment traditional membership with new forms of participation, such as “participating advocates,” as I call non-members who join efforts to implement our legislative and policy agenda as advocates in their states, congressional districts, and locales. I commend our president for his leadership in “bringing home” ballot voting, which accompanied by a strong resolution process, ensures our grassroots identity.

The Reserve Officers Association was founded more than a century ago by twelve-dozen reserve officers, veterans of combat in France. They knew war would one day come again. They realized that only they could ensure that the nation had a cadre of reserve officers on which to rebuild the army America would need.

Today’s Reserve Organization of America is fulfilling that purpose, which endures in our charter as it does in our actions. I shall miss serving the team that is on the front line of the fight for equity

among the components. My reward will be to see the enhancement of reserve component readiness and quality of life with ROA's continued revitalization, guided by President-elect Wilmoth, and her elected and appointed team.

The national staff of which I am so proud, capably led by directors Diane Markham, Trey Criner, and Matthew Schwartzman, and expertly backed by Linda Cooper, Tracey Ware, and Al Hull, will be ready and able as a team to enact "directions from the bridge" as ROA charts its course into our second century of service to America!

For we shall truly again be called upon by our nation.

Thank you.  
Jeffrey E. Phillips  
Maj. Gen., U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Executive Director



**From Matthew Schwartzman, Legislation & Military Policy Director**

I am pleased to report that the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress is now well underway. ROA has officially unveiled its defense policy portfolio for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, which can be found at <https://www.roa.org/page/policyportfolio>.

Last year, we updated the Advocacy Tab on our website, to include new resources like the special edition [Reserve Voice digital magazine](#), [Advocacy Day Readiness Resource Guide](#), and Interactive Position Papers (IPPs).

All information from the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress has now been archived but is still accessible via ROA's website. Indeed, ROA national will update the Advocacy Tab in accordance with developments as they unfold in Washington D.C.

If there are any advocacy resources that ROA does not provide that you would like to see, please contact me at [mschwartzman@roa.org](mailto:mschwartzman@roa.org).

V/R

Matt



**National Meetings**

**March 13 - 15, 2025 National Council & Leaders Meeting  
Minuteman Building, ROA Headquarters, Washington, DC.  
Register online before March 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**<https://www.roa.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1905474&group=>**



Currently, no person is assigned to coordinate with this group. **Council Website:** <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/>

CALVET offers many resources and opportunities within this organization and website.

For questions please contact Executive Officer, Tina Lassiter, [Tina.Lassiter@calvet.ca.gov](mailto:Tina.Lassiter@calvet.ca.gov) or 916-653-2041.

The Public Notice is available for viewing [online](https://www.calvet.ca.gov/Pages/Boards-Meeting-Schedule.aspx).  
<https://www.calvet.ca.gov/Pages/Boards-Meeting-Schedule.aspx>

### **2025 California Movement on Retired Pay Exemptions**

**The Bill:** Legislation excluding uniformed services retirement pay and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) income from state tax was [reintroduced Dec. 2](#) after failing to become law in the previous session.

AB 53, which would cover armed services retirees in addition to commissioned corps members of the U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA, retains the backing of MOAA's California Council of Chapters (CALMOAA), which supports the bill alongside other military and veterans groups such as the American Legion-Department of California, the Marine Corps League-Department of California, the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers, the Enlisted Association of the California National Guard, and the California State Commanders Veterans Council.

**The Budget:** Gov. Gavin Newsom's 2025-2026 budget proposal does not include a full exemption, but it would exempt up to \$20,000 in uniformed service retirement pay and SBP benefits beginning in the 2025 tax year for taxpayers with up to \$125,000 in annual income (\$250,000 if filing jointly).

"Veterans' organizations throughout California were pleased to see that Governor Newsom recognizes the many sacrifices our nation's career military families endure over a 20-year career and addressed taxation of military retirement in his proposed budget," said Cmdr. Jeff Breiten, USN (Ret), vice president of legislative affairs for CALMOAA, who also thanked Assemblymember James Ramos for his ongoing sponsorship and work on exemption legislation.



### **CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS VETERANS COUNCIL REPORT**

Col. Donald Dorfman, USAF (Ret)-  
Legislative Chairman  
Email: [dorf\\_law@hotmail.com](mailto:dorf_law@hotmail.com)

**Check out our Council Website:**  
<https://calcommanders.org/>

This council combines to provide a unified front on addressing California-specific issues related to all the military services and veterans. Bills before the California Legislators are tracked and supported by 17 individual organizations. **Any interested ROA member in California is welcome to come to the meetings.** Those not able to attend but interested can be sent emails regarding current issues as well as keep current by checking out the website.

The California Governor has released his proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, which will undergo the budget process and be finalized by June 15, 2025. A notable highlight is the long-awaited allocation for a military retirement tax exemption: the first \$20,000 of military retirement income will be tax-exempt at the state level.

### Military Retirement Tax Exemption

This development makes California the last state to implement a military pension tax exemption, marking a significant milestone after years of persistent advocacy from all California veteran organizations. Congratulations to all of you who tirelessly pushed for this benefit—it's a step in the right direction for honoring our military retirees.

Here's an overview of the proposed exemption:

- Exemption amount: Up to \$20,000 of military retirement income.
- Income limits:
  - Up to \$250,000 for joint filers.
  - Up to \$125,000 for single filers.
- Estimated budget impact:
  - \$130 million reduction in revenues for 2025-26.
  - \$85 million reduction annually thereafter.

This exemption enjoys bipartisan support and is expected to remain a priority as the budget progresses through the legislature. However, our work is not done. Continued advocacy is essential to ensure its final passage. This tax exemption is critical to retaining California's strong retired military workforce and encouraging those who have served to remain in the state.

### Additional Budget Highlights

The proposed budget also includes funding priorities for military and veteran programs, including the Military Department and CalVet. Below are key updates:

#### Military Department

- Operates over 80 armories, three combined support maintenance shops, and a maneuver training equipment site.
- Manages three major training facilities offering troop lodging, administration, maintenance, and firing ranges.
- Manages 43 active buildings supporting nine Youth and Community Programs.
- Proposed funding of \$1.2 million (\$419,000 General Fund and \$750,000 Armory Fund) for two Los Alamitos facility projects:
  - STARBASE Classroom Building.
  - New Battalion Headquarters Readiness Center.

## CalVet

- Operates 8 veterans homes, 3 state cemeteries, and the Sacramento headquarters office.
  - Veterans homes are located in Yountville, Barstow, Chula Vista, West Los Angeles, Lancaster, Ventura, Redding, and Fresno. These homes provide housing and three levels of care, ranging from assisted living to skilled nursing.
  - Current projects include:
    - Construction of a new Skilled Nursing Facility in Yountville.
    - Expansion of capacity at the Northern California Veterans Cemetery in Igo.
  - Cemeteries operated by CalVet are located in Igo, Yountville, and Seaside.
- 

### **Call to Action**

As always, your questions and continued advocacy are welcomed. Let's ensure these critical programs and tax exemptions for veterans remain a top priority in the state budget. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Reeb Government Relations for further information or clarification.

Thank you for your service and for continuing to advocate for the veteran community.

Thank you,

Seth Reeb

Reeb Government Relations, LLC

1415 L Street, Suite 870

Sacramento, CA 95814

Please note my new email address: [sethr@waterwarrior.com](mailto:sethr@waterwarrior.com)



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES  
*Serving Nevada's Heroes*

<https://veterans.nv.gov/>

NDVS offers many resources and opportunities. Currently, no person is assigned to

coordinate with this group. The NDVS website posts a calendar of events for veteran groups such as VFW, American Legion, and others. Adding an event is simple so anyone hosting an ROA event should consider using this as a means for publishing in addition to our website. Our immediate past president, Col Barbara Ortiz, USAF, (Ret) has been appointed by the Nevada Governor to be the Chair of the Womens Advisory Committee.





**Website:** <https://veterans.nv.gov/about-the-United-veterans-legislative-council/>

Under the NDVS resides the United Veterans Legislative Council (UVLC). In the website, it lists resources on "How to Testify Before a Legislative Committee", "How to Prepare Your Testimony Template", and "Legislative Process Explained" is key for Nevada since they only meet once every other year, and a link to the UVLC Constitution.

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### **Chapter Presidents, Editors, and Webmasters:**

**National will no longer support or provide the ability to post our department or chapters on the national website. This change requires us to revitalize our own website. Your EXCOM is reviewing options to restart our old website and is looking for an individual who is knowledgeable in web design to assist us.**

**Check your Chapter Website (both the one on the National Website and your separate one if you have one). This also applies to any newsletters or materials you send out. **Make sure there are no references to the Reserve Officers Association, or use of Service Emblems, as they are copyrighted.****

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### **FROM OUR CHAPTERS**

**Chapter 00:** 1,490 members

*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](mailto:ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com).

**Chapter 32:** General Jimmy Doolittle (40 members)

Bryan J. Golden, USA (Ret) President

Email: [bjgolden@attglobal.net](mailto:bjgolden@attglobal.net)

CELL: (831) 659-3473

We currently support and make presentations of the ROA JROTC Superior Performance Award to cadets at Soledad High School, Everett Alvarez High School and Seaside High School, all in Monterey County. Anyone interested in assisting or getting together please contact me at [bjgolden@attglobal.net](mailto:bjgolden@attglobal.net)

**Chapter 43:** Bud & Betty Sparks (179 members)

Rafael A. Ortiz, USCGR (Ret) President.

Email: [ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com](mailto:ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com)

CELL: (661)810-2230.

A service-specific chapter for Coast Guard members. **Meetings HAVE CHANGED and are on ZOOM the second Tuesday of every month at 17:30 hours PACIFIC TIME.** All USCG members are invited and encouraged to participate. This meeting has expanded to include the ROA Coast Guard Affairs Committee as well. 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 (461 members)**

**\*\*\*To be dissolved if no one steps into the leadership positions.\*\*\***

**Historically connected to the 940<sup>th</sup> out of Beal and Travis Air Force Bases we are seeking members interested in getting together to revitalize the chapter. Travis AFB would also be a good fit for this chapter. The chapter has funds available to help with meetings and support of ROA activities.**

**Chapter 53: Southern California Army (445 members)**

COL Richard H. Keagy, USA (Ret) President.

Email: [rhkeagydmv@verizon.net](mailto: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 (326 members)**

CAPT Steven R. Hales, USN (Ret) President.

Email: [steve@hales.xyz](mailto: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 Luncheon was held Saturday, 04 January at Tio Leo's Mexican Restaurant. A few members took the ROA Oath of Office conducted by LTC Ken Robinson, USA (Ret): RDML Mark Bipes, USN (Ret), VP Naval Services and CPT George Tolnay, USA (Ret), EXCOM Director supporting JROTC & ROTC presentations. Col Kenneth Morrison, USAF (Ret) will take the position of VP Air Force, he took the oath over the phone. For other information and meetings contact LTC Ken Robinson, email: [robinson4ken@gmail.com](mailto:robinson4ken@gmail.com)

**Chapter 63: Santa Clara (250 members)**

CWO4 Ron Garcia, USMC (Ret)

Email: [fef\\_ron@yahoo.com](mailto:fef_ron@yahoo.com)

Chapter 63 has been supporting Santa Clara University ROTC (LtCol Stanley Holt, USA (Ret) Scholarship - \$1,000) and San Jose State University ROTC awards programs; San Jose, CA Navy & Marine JROTC High School awards programs: Milpitas High School NJROTC, DelMar High School MJROTC, and MtPleasant MJROTC Awards ceremonies.

ROA chapter members attended military and community events: Hoover Institute Stanford University Marine Corps Birthday; Memorial Day Event at San Jose Oak Hill Cemetery placing flags at veterans' graves; and San Bruno Marine Corps Birthday Ball.

Our meetings are at Starbucks to discuss Chapter plans and future coordination tasks.

**Chapter 92:** Flaming Blade (210 members)

COL Richard Garza, USA (Ret) President.

Email: [razrag06@yahoo.com](mailto:razrag06@yahoo.com)

Chapter 92 has not been active. Centered on JFTB Los Alamitos, the chapter traditionally served Army Reserve members stationed there as well as interested active and retired members from all services. 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.



Here is the latest membership overview.

a. Members over:

- i. 100 years old: 82
- ii. 90 to 100: 430
- iii. 80 to 90: 930
- iv. 70 to 80: 987
- v. 60 to 70: 573
- vi. Under 60: 337
- vii. Unknown: 61

b. Members who live outside of CA & NV: 700

\*(Potential for us to lose transferring to where they live)

c. 26 Associate "free" members.

d. 20 will expire in March 2025

***e. 2 Life members that will expire if they do not complete payments.***

f. 180 Term members that will expire in March 2025

g. Members who live in CA & NV but registered with other departments: 452.

\*(Potential for us to have transfer to us)



## Dept Golden West Activities

Please share with us your activities photos, past and present.



Northern Nevada Military Open House



Army VP Dolgin at Oakland Military Institute Veterans Day.



Ch 43 Presentation to USCG Reserve Sector San Diego



Ch 63 Hoover Institute at Stanford Univ  
Marine Corps Birthday Event



Ch 63 Oak Hill Cemetery  
Memorial Day




ROA booth at Nevada Univ Vet Assoc.



DoGW Booth Set-up. Tablecloth, pop-up,  
handouts, give away pens. \*\*

\*\*Our department has 4 sets of booth materials ready for your use.\*\* Northern CA (Turlock); Southern CA (San Diego); Northern NV (Reno Area); Southern NV (Las Vegas)



For those interested: Years ago the Dept of California decided to wear a the "Road to California" Hawaiian shirt for informal gatherings. This shirt is still available through the High Seas Trading Co. [www.highseastradingco.com](http://www.highseastradingco.com) at a 10.5% discount using code ROA1776.



## **Dept of Golden West ROTC & JROTC**

### **MEDAL and CERTIFICATES PROGRAM**

COL Richard H. Keagy, USA (Ret.)  
ROTC & Service Academies Committee Chair  
Email: [rhkeagydvm@verizon.net](mailto: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 who 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 received 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, USA(R) by e-mail at [rhkeagydvm@verizon.net](mailto: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 presence helps 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.

Interested in Army Reserve forces ROTC scholarship? Get this award from any Army Reserve Ambassador ( meeting minimum qualifications). They must join an Army Reserve unit and be enrolled in college ROTC to qualify. Scholarships can also be awarded for the National Guard, however Ambassadors only do it for the Army Reserve. POC is Jame C. Bernet, Army Reserve Ambassador, [JamesCBernett@gmail.com](mailto:JamesCBernett@gmail.com), 858.775.4422. Great opportunity for a high school student or a lower division college student!



## **2024 JROTC & ROTC Medal presentations**



CH 63 Presentation to Santa Clara University ROTC



CH 32 Everett Alvarez High School JROTC



CH 32 Soledad High School JROTC

CH 32 Seaside High School JROTC



CH 63 Del Mar High School MJROTC



DoGW Incline High School JROTC



DoGW McQueen High School JROTC



DoGW North Valley High School JROTC





DoGW Sparks High School JROTC



DoGW Wooster High School JROTC



CH 63 Milpitas High School NJROTC



Your editor is looking for articles, photos and information about your chapter, activities your members are doing in ROA or in support of the ROA mission. Photos of you visiting your congressional member, presentations or chapter get-togethers. Thank you in advance. **Please consider adding your story to our 100<sup>th</sup> 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.**



**We have 317 bad email addresses and 147 incorrect mailing addresses!**

**Your assistance is required!** We cannot communicate with 1,269 or our members in a timely fashion as we do not know their email address. Email is the timeliest and most cost-effective way to communicate. *Ensure your email and address information are correct in the ROA database. Log onto the ROA website and ensure we have yours today!*

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

**Second**, Those assigned to chapter 00, please joining another one. They need your assistance and support. We have seven that need you to be a member.

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

## VA Expands Veterans Legacy Memorial

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has expanded its Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) platform, now allowing living veterans to document and share their life stories. Created to honor deceased veterans, the VLM has grown into the largest repository of veteran memories and service records. This new feature enables veterans to upload personal narratives, photos, and memorabilia, contributing to the historical record for future generations.

Veterans can access this new feature through the "Your Story, Your Legacy" page on the VLM website at [www.vlm.cem.va.gov](http://www.vlm.cem.va.gov). Since its launch in 2019, the platform has collected over 165,000 submissions and now encourages veterans to share their own stories. Content will be moderated by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) to ensure compliance with VLM guidelines.

Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ronald Walters emphasized the significance of this update, noting that it allows veterans to preserve their stories for posterity. The VLM now serves not only as a memorial for the deceased but as a living archive where veterans can document their service, achievements, and personal reflections.

For more information or assistance, veterans can visit the [Veterans Legacy Memorial](http://Veterans Legacy Memorial) website or use the VA's chatbot at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) to navigate available benefits and services. This expansion reflects the VA's commitment to honoring veterans in a personal and lasting way, ensuring their stories are preserved for future generations.



### THE ROA DEPARTMENT OF THE GOLDEN WEST "SENTINEL" NEWSLETTER EDITOR

RAFAEL A. ORTIZ, USCGR (Ret.)

[ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**The SENTINEL is emailed by default to the membership unless a Hard Copy is specifically requested. Email your request to the Sentinel Editor.**

**Please ensure your email address is current. It is recommended you log into [www.roa.org](http://www.roa.org) and confirm your status, address, and contact information.**

# Department of Golden West Convention Agenda

*\*Updated 30 JAN\**

**FRIDAY 25 APR 2025**

- 1200-1730 Tour of Travis AFB *\*Tentative depending on the number of participants signed up\**  
1800-2100 Dinner on your own  
2000-2200 Hospitality room open. Location: TBD

**SATURDAY 26 APR 2025**

## **Delta Breeze Event Center, TRAVIS Air Force Base, Fairfield, CA**

Breakfast on your own.

- 0900-1000 In-person Registration \$ 85.00  
(Pre-registration before April 15<sup>th</sup> is \$ 75.00)  
1000-1030 Opening Remarks - Col. David Thompson, USMC (Ret.), DoGW President  
1030-1100 Committee Reports / Budget
  - National Council
  - Retirement Affairs
  - Medical Services
  - Treasurer, Financial requirements for department and chapters
  - State coordination (CSCVC & NV)  
1100-1115 Break  
1115-1200 Speakers: (*Tentative, invited*)
  - USAF 60<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer and Staff
  - USAF Reserve Unit 349th Commanding Officer Col. Patrick L. Brady-Lee  
1200-1330 Luncheon and Award Presentations (*Paid for with registration*)  
1330-1500 General Business Session and Elections, Swearing in of new officers.
  - Swearing in of President LTC Peter Powell, USA
  - Election of new EXCOM
  - Continuation of committee reports not covered in the morning session
  - In-person vice Zoom meetings
  - Recruiting plan/goals
  - Reestablishing the department website
  - Use of rank for ROA publications and postings  
1530-1545 Break  
1545-1630 Chapter/Committee and Service Section Meetings
  - Status of chapters 32, 51, and 63 and vote to de-establish if needed
  - Chapter organization, and support
  - ROTC / JROTC
  - Family Support, Yellow Ribbon events
  - Future meeting times and locations, number of department meetings per year  
1630-1700 Closing remarks and completion of any outstanding business.  
1800-2100 Dinner (*Paid for with registration*)

\*\*\*\*\* ZOOM Link available upon request. Email [ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com](mailto:ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com) for the link. \*\*\*\*\*

ROA 2025 Department of the Golden West Convention

**SATURDAY 26 APR 2025**

Delta Breeze Event Center, Travis AFB, CA

**Attendee Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you do not have a military ID card allowing you access to the base let us know when you register.**

**I DO NOT have a military ID Card:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ROA Registration:** Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 75 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Early registration ends April 15<sup>th</sup>. Registration after April 15<sup>th</sup> will be \$ 85.)

**Friday Base Tour:** 12:00 to 17:30 **Pre-registration REQUIRED:** **Request to attend tour:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Night Social:** Open to any and ALL ROA members or veterans in the Area.

FRIDAY Social: Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ x RSVP via email to [ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com](mailto:ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com)

**Saturday meals:** *Included in registration (Please select choice below)*

**Lunch:** \_\_\_ Grilled Chicken Ceasar Salad **or** \_\_\_ Chef Salad \_\_\_ Lemonade **or** \_\_\_ Ice Tea

**Dinner:** \_\_\_ Honey Glazed Salmon **or** \_\_\_ Top-Sirloin Steak \_\_\_ Lemonade **or** \_\_\_ Ice Tea

**Uniform for the convention:** Civilian: Business casual (coat no tie) or Military: Uniform of the day.

**HOTEL Information:** **Reservations:** Highly recommend making reservations now as spots fill up rapidly. It is easy to cancel closer to the date. Make yours TODAY so you don't miss out!

**Travis Air Force Westwind Inn:**

Main: 707-424-8000 or 707-690-1301

DSN: 837-5489

Fax: 707-424-5489

Email: [westwindinnlodging@us.af.mil](mailto:westwindinnlodging@us.af.mil)

Website: [www.travisfss.com](http://www.travisfss.com)

Delta Breeze Event Center, Travis Air Force Base <https://travisfss.com/dbec/>

400 Windward Dr. (Bldg 400)

Travis AFB, California, 94535

**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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P.O. Box 371411  
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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.

**2023-2025 OFFICERS**

**DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT**

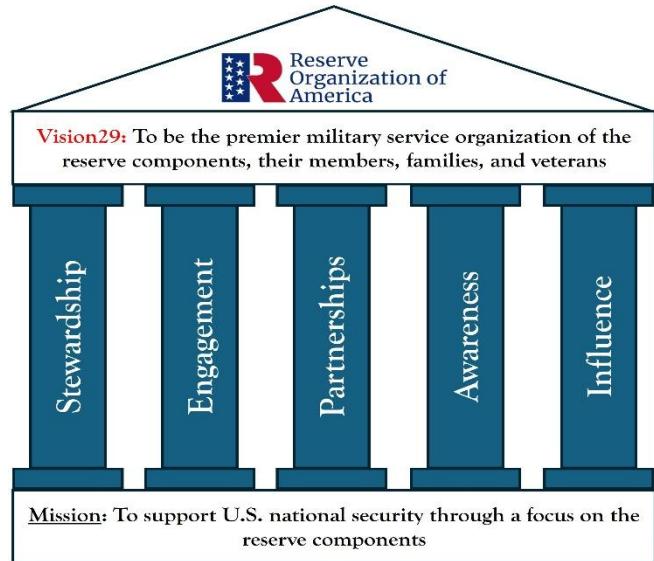
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**ESTIMATED POSTAL (3400) AND ELECTRONIC DELIVERY (2454) DISTRIBUTION OF THIS ISSUE = 3400**