

# 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 51 – JAN 2024 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.”*

### 2023 -2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

**Col. David Thompson, USMC (Ret)**

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



### President’s Message

This will be my second message to you as your Department President, it is an honor to serve in this position. I hope you all can attend our Department Meeting on May 18th in San Diego. 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

The 18<sup>th</sup> is the Department Convention in San Diego at the Marriot Town Suites near the airport.

Looking for Service VP’s and volunteers to attend Fleet Week in Los Angeles and local Yellow Ribbon events.

Looking at Recruiting – Internal to fill vacancies and external to provide growth and continuity.

God Bless America



### 2024 -2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT-ELECT

To be elected at Dept Meeting May 18<sup>th</sup> in San Diego, CA.

**President-Elect: It is the Army Section’s turn for the presidency.**

This position was created to allow for a smooth transition to the leadership of our department and give the incoming president a year to plan for the next two. It is the time to interface with the chapter and committee leaders, update themselves on issues and concerns, and confirm the agenda for the two years as president.



**Immediate Past President:**

**Col. Barbara D. Ortiz, USAF (ret)**

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



This will be my last message to you having served as your Department President, and now the immediate past President. It has been my honor to serve in these positions. I hope you all can attend our Department Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> in San Diego.

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.



**ARMY Vice President: LTC Stephen Dolgin, USA (Ret)**

**Email:** [ltcdolgin@aol.com](mailto:ltcdolgin@aol.com)



The US Army 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:**

CAPT Deborah Nelson Holsworth, USN

Cell = (831) 484-8489

E-mail = [debbynelson@me.com](mailto:debbynelson@me.com)

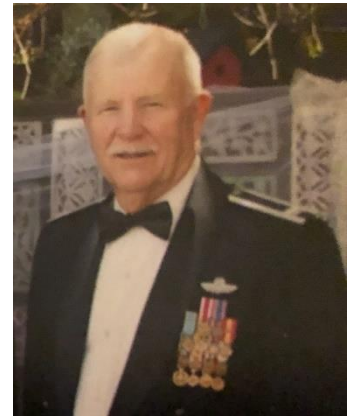
I am very much looking forward to being a conduit for all issues that matter to our organization, especially the past and present reservists in the Sea Services. Your dedication and involvement are, as always, welcome and appreciated, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Department Meeting on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> in San Diego. Thank you again for entrusting your faith in me!



**AIR FORCE Vice President:** Col. Kenneth Morrison, USAF (Ret)

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

Given the latest from ROA National (see below under "From the Staff"), If I understand correctly, Space Force would rate and promote from a single list. This would be patently unfair to any Reservist. There is no way that a Space Force Reservist's participation, military educational opportunities, or command opportunities would equal that of an Active-Duty person. Active duty should be rated against other active duty personnel. and Reservists against other Reservists. Apparently ROA national thinks otherwise. As a member-driven organization, it is incumbent upon us to provide input as to what positions we want to be taken. Your involvement is critical to that end. Please attend our department and national meetings to have your voice heard.



**National Council Person:** Col Ronald D. Harris, USAF (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.

**Retirement Affairs Vice President:** COL(R) Rick Garza

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

Phone: (858) 200-6845



Well, are you confused yet about COVID-19 vaccines and whether or not to get a booster vaccine now? You should be!

One easy way to decide -Yes vs No, is if you have had a serious adverse reaction to the prior COVID-19 vaccine, then you should probably not get another. If you have had several boosters and not had any reactions then you might want to consider another especially if your health is not optimal.

The national media has not been helpful in trying to assist people with this decision either. Often mixed reviews make it more difficult (or worse fear-mongering in the media which is more confusing). On top of this, your own doctor may tell you that the best course is for you to get an additional vaccine booster when you really do not wish to do so. Several highly touted medical centers are issuing requirements for their staff to get additional shots based on the current COVID strain now circulating in the community. In addition to this new mask requirements are frequently being re-issued!

Ivermectin is back in the news these days. How should you look at Ivermectin these days? In some aspects, it acts as an anti-inflammatory and seems to reduce post-vaccine myocarditis and pericarditis. Therefore, if post-vaccine inflammatory disease becomes a problem for you, please discuss it with your physician.

So, what should YOU do?

Your best source of information is still with your own physician who knows you best. I would have a frank discussion with them, discussing your concerns, fears, potential values, and potential problems with additional vaccines. After having such a conversation, recognize that you are still your own best advocate. Make a decision based on the best information available. Asking another physician without them having the advantage of knowing your medical history is fraught with all kinds of potential problems. So have the discussion with someone who knows you and whom you trust.

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**From our Department Treasurer:**

**\*\*\*ROA National has changed the fiscal year from March to match the calendar year Jan through December. This means each of us as both a department and chapter must submit two 990N this year to change our fiscal years to match.\*\***

**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 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](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) for the Department records.



**From the National Treasurer:**

**The biggest change for 2024 is notifying the IRS of our fiscal year change, and filing the returns (990-EZ) on or before May 15.**

Col Hueg will be sending an email message to Departments later this week which will contain information regarding changing the fiscal year to a calendar-based year and that 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 the Staff "News & Views" Page:**

During the second week in January the U.S. House and Senate both passed H.R.2670, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

The NDAA enables the Department of Defense and the reserve components to execute the National Defense Strategy by authorizing personnel benefits, weapons systems, and other defense-related programs.

Despite constituting close to 50 percent of the Total Force, Reserve and National Guard priorities have often fallen below that of the active force. As the only national military organization that solely and exclusively supports the Reserve and National Guard, the Reserve Organization of America fights to right this wrong through its advocacy.

In the FY 2024 NDAA cycle, ROA's advocacy yielded many successes, including:

- 1) Extending TRICARE Reserve Select coverage for survivors of reserve component service members from six months to three years.
- 2) Increasing special and incentive pays to that of the active component.
- 3) Providing full parental leave parity by giving reserve component parents adopting a child or accepting the placement of a child for long-term foster care 12 weeks of leave.
- 4) Funding the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account at approximately \$1,000,000,000.
- 5) Increasing the accession bonus for Reserve and National Guard nurses from \$20,000 to \$40,000.
- 6) Delivering dual basic allowance for housing for single reserve component service members on active duty for training from 140 days to fewer than 365.

However, ROA's leading NDAA priority, no-cost dental care through the TRICARE Dental program, was not included.

"ROA was disappointed at congressional opposition to providing members of the Reserve and National Guard with the dental care that enhances military readiness," said its executive director, retired Army Maj. Gen. Jeffrey E. Phillips. "Access to affordable dental care remains an issue for reserve component service members. ROA will continue to fight for affordable dental care and sustained Total Force medical readiness until the job is finished."

According to the FY 2024 NDAA conference report, the "importance" of this issue was "recognized" because DoD contracted a federally funded study on the feasibility and cost of this proposal. However, neither yet another study nor its findings will help Reserve and National Guard service members unable to afford dental care and arriving at the mobilization station unfit for service.

"What will solve this problem is action," Phillips said. "No more studies. No more delays. Congress and the nation expect their military – all of it – to be ready to fight. Dental care is health care; it affects military readiness, and it must be made fully available to those in

the reserve components expected to 'fight tonight'."

The FY 2024 NDAA also included a new personnel management model for the nascent Space Force. ROA learned late last year of the new concept that could potentially eliminate the "active versus reserve paradigm" which has impeded Total Force integration for nearly a century.

The concept is an integration of the components into one component – the Space Component. The intent is to "maximize flexibilities" in force development, personnel management, and leadership opportunities for the component.

This would include a single promotion process for all personnel and a single authorization and appropriation to eliminate the tribal rivalry and perennial competition for limited resources and provide sound options for prioritization of mission requirements.

Being the first new military service in more than seventy years, this model seeks to address questions regarding what the Space Force should look like, as well as the continuum of conflict in the space domain.

The implementation of this proposal, which of course will not be done without difficulty and challenge, would nonetheless be history in the making.

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

I am pleased to report that the Bills and Reports Congressional Testimony and Letters to Leaders subtabs have been updated. Next will be the Policy Portfolio, Current Resolutions, Legislative Accomplishments, and Legislative Call to Action subtabs.

<https://www.roa.org/page/BillsandReports>

<https://www.roa.org/page/testimony>

<https://www.roa.org/page/letterstoleaders>

If there are any advocacy resources that ROA does not currently provide that you would like included in our grassroots and grasstops program, please contact me at [mschwartzman@roa.org](mailto:mschwartzman@roa.org).

As part of my Putting the Federal in Federalism presentation at the Jan. 25 ROA Academy, I presented our policy portfolio and identified three leading priorities.

If you didn't attend the Academy, I recommend looking at the ROA website for the next scheduled time. [https://www.roa.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://www.roa.org/events/event_list.asp) In the meantime, what I can share with you is our portfolio strives to transition American military superiority into this "decisive decade" by:

- Ensuring the transition from a Strategic to an operational reserve is reinforced by modernized law, policy, and practice.
- Ensuring seamless transitions for component and capability interoperability.
- Eliminating discontinuities and disruptions in transitions between health care plans for reserve component service members, their survivors, and "gray area" retirees.
- Improving transitions between military and civilian life for reserve component service members, military families, and the American people.



## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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>



## CALIFORNIA STATE COMMANDERS VETERANS COUNCIL REPORT

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

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

A top initiative for this group is getting the state tax exemption for all military retirements with Ramos's **AB 46!** ***Call your rep to support this bill.*** 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.

### CSCVC LEGISLATIVE REPORT-END OF 2023 LEGISLATIVE YEAR; OCTOBER 17, 2023

The California State Legislature adjourned for the 2023 legislative year on September 14. Legislation that survived the legislative process to that point were sent to the Governor for his signature or veto. The Governor had until October 14 to review all of those bills and sign or veto them. Below is a listing of the bills that were signed into law by the Governor. No bills that were supported by the CSCVC were vetoed.

*\*\*\* Just in: CSCVC: Senator Ochoa Bogh has asked for support for her bill SB 943, to waive appropriate civil service bachelor's degree requirements for U.S. veterans who served at the rank of E-6 or higher for more than two years. \*\*\**

To view all legislation text, amendments, analyses, votes, and status from 2000 to the present:  
<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

### IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS 2024

- Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature
- Oct. 2 Bills enacted on or before this date take effect January 1, 2025.
- Nov. 5 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 2 2025-26 Regular Session convenes for Organizational Session at 12 noon.

From MOAA about new tax advantages legislated in 2023 for military service members, veterans, and retirees in other states. [MOAA - These States Passed New Military Income Tax Cuts in 2023](#) article from American Legion, [California Military Pension Tax Exemption Bill Alive but Delayed to 2024 Amid Fiscal Concerns | California American Legion \(calegion.org\)](#)



<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 for 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.

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

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

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

**Chapter 32:** General Jimmy Doolittle

COL Eldon J. Jager, USA (Ret) President  
Email: [sef15@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sef15@sbcglobal.net)

**Chapter 43:** Bud & Betty Sparks

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

Maj Randy C. Renfro, USAF President.

Email: [taxlawyr@winfirst.com](mailto:taxlawyr@winfirst.com)

Historically connected to the 940<sup>th</sup> 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](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

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 63:** Santa Clara

LtCol Maurice M. Casey, USMC (Ret) President.

Email: [roa63mc03@att.net](mailto: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: [razraq06@yahoo.com](mailto:razraq06@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](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, AUS(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.

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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 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.

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**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. **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](http://www.roa.org) and confirm your status, address, and contact information.**

**MIA Members!**

To date, we have 2,448 members listed as having emails out of 3,501 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](http://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.

Blast from the past. Remembering those who gave so much to our department.  
(Please send the editor your photos, past and present.)

**Dept Golden West Convention & Activities**



**Swearing in our President and Naval VP at Las Vegas**



**Dinner where a few attendees got together**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ROA at DC!**



**Formal Dinner in Washington DC at 100<sup>th</sup>.**



**Bev & Milt Houghton receive the Truman Award**

# National Meetings

~~March 17, 2024 National Council & Leaders Meeting~~

**Leaders Meeting has been CANCELLED**

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



## Department Meeting

**Convention Agenda**  
**SATURDAY 18 May 2024**

**Location TOWNEPLACE SUITES SAN DIEGO AIRPORT | LIBERTY STATION**  
**2311 Lee Court • San Diego, CA 92101 USA**

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/santa-towneplace-suites-san-diego-airport-liberty-station/overview/>

Breakfast on your own.

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 0900-1000 | In-person Registration \$ 30.00 (Pre-registration is \$ 20.00)  |
| 1000-1030 | Opening Remarks - Col. David Thompson, USMC (Ret.), DoGW President  |
| 1030-1100 | Committee Reports / Budget  |
| 1100-1115 | Break   |
| 1115-1200 | Speaker: (Tentative)<br>Col. Layne R. Wroblewski, USAF (Ret), National President, ROA.  |
| 1200-1330 | Lunch   |
| 1330-1500 | General Business Session and Elections, Swearing in of new officers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- National Council</li><li>- Retirement Affairs</li><li>- Medical Services</li><li>- State coordination (CSCVC &amp; NV)</li><li>- Future meeting times and locations</li><li>- Number of department meetings per year</li><li>- In-person vice Zoom meetings</li><li>- Recruiting plan/goals.</li></ul> |
| 1530-1545 | Break   |
| 1545-1630 | Chapter/Committee and Service Section Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Chapter organization, and support.</li><li>- ROTC / JROTC</li><li>- Family Support</li></ul>   |
| 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](mailto:ffpmORTIZ@gmail.com) for the link. \*\*\*\*\*



**ROA 2024 Department of the Golden West Convention**

**18 May 2024**

San Diego, CA

**Attendee Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**ROA Registration:** Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 20 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Early registration ends April 15<sup>th</sup>. Registration after April 15<sup>th</sup> will be \$ 30.)

**Additional Options:**

**Friday Night Social:** For any ROA member or veteran in the San Diego Area.

**Dinner Saturday Night:** For any ROA member or veteran in the San Diego 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.

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

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

Uniform for the convention: **Casual**

**HOTEL Information:** The meeting room will be at the Townplace Suites San Diego Airport / Liberty Station. <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/santa-towneplace-suites-san-diego-airport-liberty-station/overview/>

No rooms or rates have been reserved. This is a Marriott property so senior, AAA, and military rates are available if you book early. Other options are: If you have active, reserve, or veteran status BOQ available if booked early at <https://www.dodlodging.com/> (Recommend Gateway Inns & Suites at Point Loma NB) or Navy Lodge San Diego or North Island.

<https://reservations.staydod.com/WBE/hotel/initHotel.action;jsessionid=852EAE5ED33770D938301BD05D4DD96.tomcat01>

**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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**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**

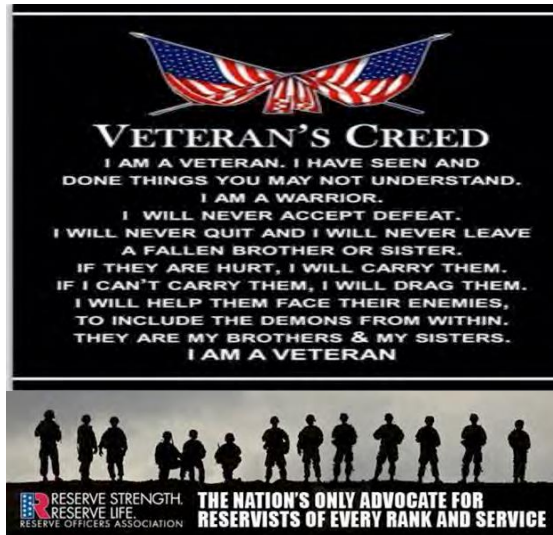
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