

ON THE ROAD

Fast Track

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA, RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2006

www.mnroa.org

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National Council Representative, 2006-08

Major Rob Chaucierre, USAR
(elected to a 2-year term)



President's Message

Major John Rosnow

I recently read Col Tarchick's article about Leadership 101 in the June edition of the Viking Flyer (<http://www.minneapolis.afrc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-060605-009.pdf>). While much of the information is common sense, sometimes common sense is not too common and we need a reminder. This article was a good reminder of that, and was also a good reminder of just some of the opportunities that we have as part of the Reserve Officers Association.

I have been in the Army since 1983 and I have not had a lot of experience working with the other services during my military career, other than my deployment to Iraq. Thanks to ROA, I received exposure to the other uniformed services, and this prepared me to succeed in the joint environment during my mobilization. Interacting with members of all the uniformed services is just one of the many benefits that all of us have as members of ROA. You can get this exposure at the Chapter level, Department level, and especially at the National level by attending the Mid-Winter and National Conventions.

This summer I was fortunate to attend the ROA National convention in San Antonio where I took part in the ROA Academy. The academy was a full day of learning about ROA and what you need to know as a Department or Chapter President, Secretary, or Treasurer. I would highly encourage any of you that are currently in, or are considering running for one of



these positions, to attend the ROA academy. Even if you have attended the academy before, if you go again, you will not only learn something new, but others

in the academy can benefit from your knowledge and experience.

For those people that are interested in getting involved and seeing more of what ROA has to offer, start by joining us at our ROTC Recognition Night on Thursday, 9 November 2006. You can find more information on our award winning website, www.mnroa.org.

If you have questions, concerns, or are just interested in getting involved, please feel free to contact me at jrosnow@hotmail.com, or at 651-746-3066. I look forward to hearing from many of you throughout the next year.

MAJ John F. Rosnow
President - Department of Minnesota Reserve Officers Association of the United States

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e-mail: jrosnow@member.roa.org
www.mnroa.org

Always Remember: Members Can Live Without ROA, but ROA Can't Live Without Its Members!

VISION

The Department of Minnesota ROA strives to be the premier member organization on all issues affecting Minnesota's Reserve military officers.

Newsletter News

ILT Jacqueline Osterhaus, USAR

As you will see in the pages that follow, there is a lot happening at ROA in the next few months, both on a National and State level, so mark your calendars with the deadlines, and join us if you can.

Be sure to attend our 2006 ROTC Recognition Night on 9 November 06 described in this issue. This is open to all, and it is a good way to keep in touch with the officers of the future.

This issue is full of information regarding the ROA National Convention, including a report from the MDAFF Scholarship recipient recapping her experience, as well as a report from our National Council Representative. Look for information regarding a future MDAFF scholarship to be awarded for the upcoming Junior Officer Professional Development Seminar, held in conjunction with the 2007 ROA Mid-Winter Conference, 4-7

February 2007.

With Election 2006 just a month a way, we have also included here a recap of ROA's National Legislative Agenda. There are lots of issues at stake next month, including many issues that affect serving reservists and veterans. For more information on these issues, go to ROA National website at <http://www.roa.org> and click on Legislative News.

As always, we continue to look for fresh ideas and articles for the newsletter and website. We value your feedback and are eager to hear of ways we can serve you better with these two forms of communication. We are actively looking for persons or businesses who would like to continue or start advertising in *On the ROAd*. If you are interested in advertising here, or know of someone who is, please email me at jacqueline.osterhaus@us.army.mil

Report from a Deployed Chapter Member

T. J. Jankowski, LtCol, USMCR, ROA MN Member

My End of Active Service has been involuntarily extended now through 31 March 2007. That will make a total of 18 months of involuntary recall during this mobilization. I am both pleased and sad to report that I've been assigned to CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa, FL; I'm pleased that this has been a very family-friendly tour (my wife and two young kids have been in Tampa with me the whole time). I'm sad that I've not been assigned an overseas billet (despite volunteering a couple of times). I'm scheduled to spend some time in Bahrain and take a short trip to Multinational Force-West Headquarters, in Fallujah, Iraq, later this month.

Despite being in Tampa, I've been very involved in important efforts. I was initially assigned to be a War Planner in the War Plans directorate (G5) at Headquarters, Marine Forces, Central Command ("MARCENT"), the Marine Component of Central Command. Subsequently I became the Requirements and Programs Branch Head, where I lead the effort to review, validate and track Urgent Materiel Needs coming out of theater. This assignment has turned out to dovetail nicely with my civilian background in program management.

\$\$ DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA "BUCK A YEAR"

Yes, I want to help pay the cost of publishing "On the ROAd in Minnesota."
(Make checks payable to Minnesota ROA and mail to Newsletter Editor,
Dept of MN ROA, P.O. Box 11769, St. Paul, MN 55111-0769)

Benefactor	\$20.00	Donor	\$5.00
Patron	\$15.00	Supporter	\$2.00
Sponsor	\$10.00	Buck a Year	\$1.00

Name _____

Chapter _____

Website/Webmaster Receive Award

ILT Jacqueline Osterhaus, USAR

If you haven't paid a visit to the MN ROA website recently, you should take the time to do so. It is a well-done, award winning website—and we are not the only ones who think so! Webmaster Larry DeVries, CAPT CEC USNR (Ret.), recently received the BG David Sarnoff Award for outstanding website in 2005. The Sarnoff Award is given annually and typically presented to



Advancing ROA's Electronic Communications Program Through His

the webmaster at the National Convention in June. BG Sarnoff was a high level executive in ROA and a pioneer in the broadcast business. The award was presented to CAPT DeVries in "Recognition of His Superior Efforts in

Outstanding Website Presentation."

The award may be given in conjunction with the Sword and Screen Award, and this is not the first time the MN ROA Website/Webmaster have won such awards. For a complete listing of previous awards, go to the website and look under Department History.

Congratulations CAPT DeVries, and thank you for continuing to do such a wonderful job! The web address is www.MNROA.org

MISSION

Support our National Security through dynamic programs that positively impact locally elected officials, all levels of ROA, and future, current, retired, and former Reserve officers of the Uniformed Services of the United States.

Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund Minnesota Campaign 2006

Help Us Achieve Our Fundraising Goal

The Board of Directors of the Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund has announced a fall fundraising campaign called Minnesota Campaign 2006.

The Board made the announcement after a series of successful disbursements from the Fund in the last year. The proceeds from the fund have helped ROTC students through the Fund's Merit Award program. The proceeds have also funded scholarships for Minnesota ROA member officers to attend Reserve Component Professional Development as well as Reserve Component Leadership Development training.

"Our ROTC Merit Awards contribute to building our future. And, without the scholarship help from the Freedom Fund our own ROA member officers would not have attended the Reserve Component training. We want to continue that valuable

support to Minnesota Reserve officers," said President Larry G. DeVries, CAPT CEC USNR (Ret.).

The financial goal for Minnesota Campaign 2006 is to raise \$30,000. This target represents an aggressive approach to replenish recent expenditures as well as anticipate continuation of the Fund's program.

Watch your mail box for the brochure that gives the details of the fundraising campaign.

All contributions to the Freedom Fund will be to a 501 (c) 3 tax exempt fund.

Details of the activities of the Fund are also available on the Department web site at <http://www.mnroa.org>

May we look for your contribution?

Star Donor Program for the Freedom Fund

Be recognized for your contributions to the Freedom Fund!

The Star Donor Recognition Program accumulates your contributions and, when those contributions reach a certain level, your name will appear listed at that Star Donor level in the Department of Minnesota newsletter.

If you are interested in participating in the Star Donor program please use the mail-in form for your contributions. Just download or clip the form, print, attach your organization's check or your personal check—and mail in to "The Major Dan

Anderson Freedom Fund" at the address shown on the form.

The Star Donor Program levels are:

Star Level	Contribution Amount (Cumulative)
★★★★★	\$5000 or More
★★★★	\$2500 - \$4999
★★★	\$1000 - \$2499
★★	\$500 - \$999
★	\$100 - \$499

The Board of Directors of the Freedom Fund thanks you for your contributions!!

Minnesota Reserve Unit Wins ROA Award

Craig Lukow, CW2 USAR

The 367th Engineer Battalion was recently selected as the ROA's best large unit for 2006. The 367th Engineer Battalion is headquartered in St Cloud, MN with units located in Brainerd, Fergus Falls, Mankato, Duluth and Hurley, WI. LTC Steven Geisen, battalion commander for the 367th Engineers' accepted the award at ROA's National Convention in San Antonio, TX. He then presented it to the battalion during Weapons Qualification at Camp Ripley, MN in September.

The 367th deployed to Afghanistan in May 2004; while in Afghanistan the 367th's primary mission was to clear landmines left over from 20 years of war. Additionally the 367th accomplished numerous humanitarian missions, to include opening roads to villages that were cutoff from the outside world during one of the harshest winters in years. The battalion returned from Afghanistan in May 2005.



LTC Steve Geisen, Commander of the 367th EN BN, accepts ROA's Large Size Unit Award from BG Sherlock, Deputy Chief Army Reserve

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION FREEDOM FUND

I wish to make a donation to the Star Donor program of the Freedom Fund as follows:

- \$ 100 ★
 \$ 500 ★★
 \$1,000 ★★★
 \$2,000 ★★★★
 \$2,500 ★★★★★

Name _____

Address _____

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I pledge to honor my donation commitment of \$_____ each year as follows: 2 Years 3 Years 4 Years 5 Years

Mail to: The Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund • P.O. Box 11769 • St. Paul, MN 55111-0769

Contribution Form

Form REV02

VISION

The Department of Minnesota ROA strives to be the premier member organization on all issues affecting Minnesota's Reserve military officers.

ROA Convention 2006 Report – San Antonio, TX

By MAJ Robert Chaucierre
National Council Representative
Department of Minnesota
Robert.Chaucierre@us.army.mil

As you may know by now, I am serving in the first year of a two-year term as our Department's National Council Representative (NCR). Also, I just completed a one-year mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and I am now extending my tour as a Special Projects Officer for the Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM) BRAC Office on Operation Enduring Freedom military orders.

I am very proud to report to all ROA members and other associates that this convention in San Antonio was the best one I've attended to date. What made it so popular? Well, if I had answered this question the day after the convention ended, I probably would've said that it was the three scenic downtown river walks, I took, and the spectacular show after the banquet by the Air Force's performing group, called "Tops In Blue," which is the counterpart to the Army's touring cast in "The Soldiers' Show." That concert was definitely a perk unlike the bookings of previous events, which usually had some DJ scheduled after the dinner. It will always stand out in my mind as a hard act to follow anywhere!

After some time passed though, I retreated to my current duty assignment at Ft Lee to think about what we accomplished in San Antonio. I realized that this convention in San Antonio had some good moments, or "not so good" moments for those that

seem to see their glass as half empty. No matter the personal choice, I like to view the outcome of every ROA meeting to be an "E pluribus unum," which means "Out of many, one" in Latin.

In my lane, the first order of business, that the ROA National Council discussed, was the ROA Capital Campaign of renovating our historical National Headquarters Building near the Capitol in Washington, DC. After nearly 40 years of operation, the Minuteman Memorial Building has been in critical need of comprehensive renovations to modernize it for our national staff, and improve its multiple viabilities to our membership. The renovation is estimated to cost \$7 million, and it is being funded thru donations. The Campaign Fund Honorary Chairman is a familiar name to many veterans in the 88th RRC and ROA; he is MG Evan "Curly" Hultman, who is from Iowa. If you would like to read more about the layout plans or participate as an investor, go to http://www.roa.org/development/cap_details.asp.

The next business item was discussing the National Budget Report. Our bottom-line analysis was a forecast that our national operating budget for the next fiscal year will approach a near 1% deficit, which means that we will be watching our spending very closely.

Toward the closing of our convention, CAPT Kent Webber, USNR, as the current ROA National Council Chairman, called a meeting of NCRs to elect the next chairman. After the ballots were cast, CDR Ed Brock, USNR from the state of

Washington, won and so the gavel was passed. By custom since CDR Brock had only one challenger in the race, COL Ervin Basler, USAR from Ohio, became the Vice-Chairman. CDR Brock is in the process of assigning all NCRs on the Council to other staff positions and various committees. Once I receive my assigned committee posts, I'll report the results in our next newsletter.

The last topic is actually one of the first themes that I want to return to: that one being "united in one voice." I've been involved in many conferences during my career in the military, like many of you. Oftentimes, I see lots of angst and overhear many debates. This convention in San Antonio was not void of some passionate questions regarding Tri-Care, naming conventions of ships in the Navy, and some mobilization procedures of the Reserve Components.

Regardless of some who seem to notice risks of all kinds, I truly believe that this convention was a productive session led by MG Robert W. Smith, III, USAR, presently ROA's Immediate Past National President. Throughout, I noticed the membership (the many) working thru issues on the floor, and in the end, we resolved to speak in unison (one)—that is E Pluribus Unum. By the way, our succeeding National President is CAPT Michael P. Smith, USNR, which is no kin to the previous president. Let's all pledge our full glass of support during his term!



*MAJ Chaucierre and MAJ Rosnow
at the National Convention*

*ROA National Convention:
MG Pollmann, MAJ Chaucierre,
COL Hanley and MAJ Rosnow*



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MDAFF Scholarship Recipient Attends JOLDT Seminar During National Convention, July 2006

Captain Jennifer Aasland, USAFR was chosen as the MDAFF Scholarship recipient for the 2006 Joint Officer Leadership Development Training Seminar in San Antonio. This is the third time the MDAFF Board has chosen to offer a \$1500 scholarship to cover expenses of conference registration, food and lodging for the JOLDTS event. The seminar is offered twice yearly during the Mid-Winter Conference and the National Convention. The eligibility criteria includes officers in the grade O-4 to include Warrant Officers. Captain Aasland is a member of the 934th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN.

Here are excerpts of Captain Aasland's report to the MDAFF Board:

Ralph Peters' key address in the opening session was inspiring. His viewpoints on China, immigration, American Muslims and the current Hezbollah/Israel conflict really put a different perspective in my eyes. I attended the Flight Ops/USAF committee legislation section and learned about four resolutions currently being considered. The issue of TriCare coverage between ages 60-65 having >300% increase in costs was sent back for revisions.

I was blown away by the meeting on the Army's Medical Readiness and the FEDS_HEAL program presented by the Regional Director, Mike Lemmon. I was the only Air Force person in this meeting and I was shocked at how different the Army handles a soldier's health assessments. My background is in Health Care Management, so I was especially interested in this information. I met with Mr. Lemmon after the brief and discovered I had a civilian job opportunity with his company (Logistics Health Inc.). This is a type of valuable networking I find valuable at these conferences. The online process for this conference was done very well. A lot of detailed information provided by Col. Obenland, USAFR (Ret.) for the JOLDTS

portion helped me know what to bring. It seems as though the small booklet was almost obsolete by the time we arrived; there might not be a need for this in the future since the communication was done so well in the upstart.

The presentation, "How to Deal with Difficult People" was especially informative. I discovered I work with difficult people of different types, but this presentation really helped me find a way to deal with those challenges. I think that was my favorite briefing of the entire conference. Another good one was by Col. Welch, "Spread Your Wings and Fly." I was entertained and very much admired his ease with public speaking.

Overall, this conference was probably one of the best ones I've been to in my officer career. I know how dry and routine some conferences can be and ROA really made this one stand out, especially for the JOLDTS group.

Thank you so much to the Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund for providing the opportunity for me to attend. Capt. Larry DeVries, USNR (Ret.) has been especially encouraging to the process. I appreciate the hard work he and Col. Obenland, USAFR (Ret.) have done for myself and other junior officers.



From left to right are: Captain Gordon Wix (Flying Vikings Chapter Membership Dir), Captain Jennifer Aasland (Department Membership Chairman) and Major John Rosnow (Dept MN President).

MDAFF to Award Scholarships for JOPDS Attendee at 2007 Mid-Winter

The Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund, Department of Minnesota ROA, announces a decision by the Board of Directors to fund one scholarship to the Reserve Component Joint Officer Professional Development Seminar (RC JOPDS) to be held at the ROA Mid-Winter Conference 4-7 February 2007 in Washington, D. C.

The event is described at <http://www.roa.org/programs/rcjopds.asp>

The criteria and scholarship application will be available on the Department of Minnesota web site by 20 October. See <http://www.mnroa.org>

The value of the scholarship will be for actual expenses up to \$1500.00 based on actual and reasonable expenses incurred as defined in the criteria.

The single scholarship will be awarded selected from all applicants who have met the requirements of the criteria. Among the requirements any applicants must meet the rank requirements, must be an ROA member in Minnesota and cannot be on military orders.

The deadline for applications for the scholarship will be 15 December 2006. The award will be made no later than 30 December 2006.

For additional information please contact:

Larry G. DeVries
CAPT CEC USNR (Ret.)
President, Major Dan Anderson Freedom Fund
Reserve Officers Association, Department of Minnesota
<http://www.mnroa.org>
(952) 949-9604

VISION

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Mark Your Calendars for ROTC Recognition Night

The annual ROTC Recognition Night will be held Thursday, 9 Nov 2006. The program will be held at the 934th AW Officers Club. The social will begin at 1830 with the program at 1900 hours. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. All ROTC units and ROA members are invited. There is no charge but an RSVP to Col Marilyn Chambers at aromed@att.net is requested. Minnesota Department of ROA and the Freedom Fund will again be giving \$500.00 Merit Awards to three ROTC cadets.

The program for the evening is "Orienteering to Success" with presenters MG Jerald Albrecht, AUS; CAPT Will Philipson, USNR; 1LT(p) Jackie Osterhaus, USAR, and one additional junior officer. In addition, each ROTC detachment will report on their accomplishments over the past year. We hope to have last year's award recipients attend and give an update on their professional plans. All ROA members and guests are encouraged to attend. This is an excellent opportunity to network with our upcoming leaders and share your wisdom. The attire for guests is service dress uniform or business dress.

ROTC/JROTC Awards Presentation Program a Success

The Department of Minnesota had an active ROTC and JROTC Spring ROA awards presentation program in 2006 with participation at many of the Minnesota schools during their annual ceremonies.

A summary of all presenters for ROA Minnesota at both ROTC and Junior ROTC programs is as follows:

Program	Institution	Presenter for Minnesota ROA
ROTC		
	U of MN Twin Cities Campus	CAPT Allyn Eaves, USNR Ret.
	U of St. Thomas, St Paul	Maj Karla White, USAFR
	St. John's University, Collegeville	Col Al Scheer, USAR Ret.
	U of MN Duluth	Maj Rick Erredge, USAFR
JROTC		
	Arlington HS, St. Paul	CAPT Larry DeVries, USNR Ret.
	Cretin-Durham Hall	Maj Dave Zenner, USAFR
	Como HS	Col Alan Ruvelson, USAR Ret
	Harding HS	CAPT Pete DeLong, USNR Ret.
	Humboldt HS	Col Alan Ruvelson, USAR Ret
	Johnson HS	Col Martin Coyne, USAFR Ret.
	John Vessey Leadership Academy	Col Alan Ruvelson, USAR Ret
	Park HS	Lt Col Gary Chambers, USAFR
	St. Thomas Academy	Col Martin Coyne, USAFR Ret.
	Woodbury HS	Lt Col Gary Chambers, USAFR

A **big thanks** goes to all those who participated as presenters. If you wish to volunteer for the spring of 2007 let the Editor know of your wishes.

L.A. Haen Picnic

by COL Ole Jessen-Klixbull, President, L.A. Haen Chapter

The summer picnic for the ROA L.A. Haen Chapter of the St. Cloud area was hosted on Aug. 6 by COL Ole Jessen-Klixbull and his wife, Carol, at their home near Cold Spring. The event included a rifle marksmanship contest which 1LT Jackie Osterhaus won. (1LT Osterhaus is the Junior Vice President Army of the Dept. of MN ROA and is the editor of *On The ROAD Fast Track*.) The marksmanship contest was followed by outdoor games, grilling and a potluck dinner.

Chapter members who attended were: LTC Francis Court and his wife, Marilyn; CW4 Kenneth Hiemenz and his wife,

Louise; CW2 Craig Lukow; 1LT Jackie Osterhaus; COL Stanley Sahlstrom; MAJ Alcuin Scherer and LTC Michael White and his wife, Lorraine. Other guests were: Orpha Prather, Edward Prather Jr., Roy and Mary Schleppenbach and Leonard and Sue Smallwood.



1LT Jackie Osterhaus, winner of the rifle marksmanship contest.

Chapter Holiday Parties Announced

The Chapter 11 Christmas Party will be held on 2 December 06 (first Saturday in December) at LTC Fran and Marilyn Court's home near St Joseph, MN. Notices will be sent in November 2006.

The St. Paul Chapter announces their Holiday Party on 6 January 2007. The location of the annual Holiday Party will be at the University Club in St. Paul. Those interested should contact CW3 Kevin Appel, President, St. Paul Chapter at kevin.appel@us.army.mil

MISSION

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Elections 2006

2006 Legislative Priorities for ROA

- Fully funding the equipment and training requirements of the National Guard and Reserves.
- Providing adequate resource and authorities to support the current recruiting and retention requirements of the National Guard and Reserves.

Issues to help FUND, EQUIP, AND TRAIN

- Advocate for both the Reserve and Reservists; protecting the mission and contributions being made by Guard and Reserve members.
- Fully fund Military Pay Appropriation to guarantee a minimum of 48 drills and two weeks training.
- Sustain authorization and appropriation to National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) to permit flexibility for Reserve Chiefs in support of mission and readiness needs.
- Optimize funding for additional training, preparation and operational support.
- Regenerate the Reserve Components (RC) with field compatible equipment.
- Keep Active and Reserve personnel and Operation & Maintenance funding separate.
- Equip Reserve Component members with equivalent personnel protection as Active Duty.

Issues to assist RECRUITING AND RETENTION

- Access:**
- Provide access to military recruiter to institutions of higher education, providing the same access as other employers.

Changes to retention policies:

- Permit service beyond the current ROMPA limitations.
- Ensure that new non-prior servicemembers, who are over 40 years of age, are permitted to qualify for non-regular retirement.
- Support incentives for affiliation, reenlistment, retention and continuation in the RC.
- Allow RC bonus payments through 20 years of service.

Pay and Compensation:

- Differential pay for federal employees.
- Remove the 90-point inactive point ceiling for the duration of the Global War on Terrorism and other contingencies.
- Professional pay for RC medical professionals.
- Eliminate the 1/30th rule for Aviation Career Incentive Pay, Career Enlisted Flyers Incentive Pay, Diving Special Duty Pay, Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay, and Foreign Language professional pay.
- Simplify the Reserve duty order system without compromising drill compensation.

Education:

- Improve MGIB-Active to allow deployed Reservists to qualify by accumulating mobilized time.

- Increase MGIB-Selected Reserve to 47 percent of MGIB-Active.
- Include 4-year reenlistment contracts to qualify for MGIB-SR.
- Continue MGIB of Reservists who are involuntarily transferred from pay to non-pay and continue to maintain qualifying years.
- Permit activated Reservists to defer repayment of certain federal student loans.
- Support repayment of seminary loans for chaplains recruited into the Reserves.
- Enact of academic protections for mobilized Guard-Reserve students granting leave of absences, protecting academic standing and refund guarantees.
- Adjust interest rates on federal student loans when the market rate drops below 6 percent.
- Provide exemptions from mandatory, educational requirements to maintain their state or federal professional license or certification.

Employer Support:

- Enact tax credits for health care and differential pay expenses for deployed RC employees.
- Provide tax credits to offset costs for temporary replacements of deployed RC employees.
- Support tax credits to employers who hire demobilized servicemembers.

Employee Support:

- Permit delays of regularly scheduled licensing/certification/promotion exams scheduled while mobilized.
- Change IRS code to permit above-the-line deduction for overnight travel expenses of RC members from 100 to 50 miles.

Health Care:

- Extend TRICARE Reserve Select to unemployed and uninsured Ready Reservists.
- Continue to improve health care to all drilling Reservists and their families by
 - either paying a stipend toward employer's health care, or
 - providing TRICARE on a cost share basis.
- Extend military coverage for restorative dental care following deployment.
- Allow gray-area retirees to buy-in to TRICARE.

Spouse Support:

- Repeal the SBP-Dependency Indemnity Clause (DIC) offset.
- Provide employment protection for spouses and providers of mobilized Guard and Reserve.
- Provide Family Leave to a spouse or child of a deployed military member deploying for a period of time prior to or following the deployment of the military member.

Deferred and Retirement:

- Continue to improve legislation on reducing the RC retirement age.
- Permit mobilized retirees to earn additional retirement points.

- Authorize contributions to 401k and IRA accounts during mobilization.
- Permit deployed servicemembers to withdrawal without penalty from 401ks and IRA.
- Continue to protect existing retirement benefits for those currently retired.

USERRA/SCRA:

- Fix USERRA/SCRA to protect health care coverage of returning servicemembers and family for pre-existing conditions, and continuation of prior group or individual insurance.
- Exempt from age restrictions for federal law enforcement retirement application when deployment causes the member to miss completion of the application to buy back retirement eligibility.
- Waive time limitations on professional certifications and education licensing requirements for deployed professionals.

Veteran Preference:

- Support tax credits to employers who hire servicemembers who have served in the Global War in Terrorism.
- Extend veterans preference to those RC members serving more than 180 days.

Veterans Affairs:

- Permit Reservists with 20 years of good service to qualify for veteran status.
- Extend or make permanent Reserve Component VA Home Loan Guarantees expiring in 2007.
- Support burial eligibility for deceased gray-area retirees at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Continue to seek timely and comprehensive implementation of legislation which authorizes the concurrent receipt of uniformed services of career retired pay and VA disability compensation.

Voting:

- Insure that every deployed servicemember has an opportunity to vote
 - Work with the Federal Voting Assistance Program
 - Support electronic voting
- Insure that every military absentee ballot is counted.

Service Specific Issues:

The Army, Sea, and Air Force Affairs Directors provide service specific legislative agendas and they can be contacted by calling 1-800-809-9448.

The ROA website has many tools available to help you in your grassroots efforts when contacting your local and national political candidates. These resources include position papers, fact sheets, resolutions and testimonies by the Reserve Chief. Please access them at the ROA website at www.roa.org

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Twin Cities Navy Chapter News

United States Navy celebrated 231 years of service: 1775-2006

Minnesota Navy folks helped the United States Navy celebrate its 231st birthday at a Navy Ball held on Friday, October 13, 2006. The Navy Birthday Ball was held on the University of Minnesota campus at the Alumni Center.

The Twin City Navy Chapter exists for the benefit of all Minnesota naval and affiliated services. One does not need to reside in the Twin Cities to belong. The Chapter is open to members of United States Naval Reserve, United States Marine Corps Reserve, United States Coast Guard Reserve, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and United States Public Health Service. New members are encouraged! See the link "Join ROA" at <http://www.mnroa.org>

Navy Nurse Corps Association Meeting - 13 January 2007

Florence Scholljegerdes, CDR Nurse Corps USN (Ret.), will be the guest speaker at the Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA) Midwest Chapter meeting on 13 January 2007 from 1800 to 1900 hours at the 934th AW (Ft. Snelling) Officers Club.

Florence served in WWII at Great Lakes, IL, Norfolk, VA, and Fort Eusting, VA.

During Korea she served aboard MSTs out of San Francisco, CA.

During Vietnam she served in the reserves at Navy & Marine Corps Reserve Center, Twin Cities, MN.

Florence retired from the Navy Reserve in 1972. She is 87 years young.

Non-members are invited to attend. Questions? Contact CAPT Kay Bauer at vernandkaybauer@msn.com

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