



RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Missouri Department



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2016

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BLUNT, LUETKEMEYER HONORED BY MISSOURI ROA

Major Awards Presented at Annual State Convention

Lake Ozark, MO: The Missouri Department of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States (MO ROA) presented **Missouri Senator Roy Blunt** with its **Nathan Hale Award** for “outstanding individual service in the interest of national security.” MO ROA also lauded **Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO 3rd D)** with the **Twice The Citizen Award** for “his faithful and tireless work in support of a strong national security and efforts on behalf of reservists, their families and the ROA.” Both awards were presented at MO ROA’s annual state convention held at Lake Ozark, MO on April 22-24, 2016.

Citing **Senator Blunt’s** long-standing support of matters directly affecting Missouri military members, outgoing MO ROA President, **Major Layne Wroblewski, USAFR** presented the **Nathan Hale Award** at the conclusion of a briefing from **Senator Blunt** on current national security issues. The highest award eligible from an ROA State Department, Maj Wroblewski acknowledged the senator’s efforts indicating, “the high level of success realized by both active and reserve components from Missouri can be directly attributed to the support of the military provided by **Senator Blunt.**”

The MO ROA convention is a significant opportunity for active, reserve and retired military members to be updated on current national and international security measures. “The informational exchange between attendees and the speakers at this year’s convention is some of the best and most timely available,” said Captain Dick Kallemeier (USN-Ret), MO ROA Secretary. “This dialogue between members, leadership and our elected officials is critical if we are going to be effective in communicating service members’ needs to those in command and elective office...and the feedback is also helpful to understand the total mission for national security.”

In presenting the **Twice The Citizen Award**, Maj Wroblewski acknowledged “**Congressman Luetkemeyer** has and continues to be a strong voice for us in congress, supporting the needs of members of the Missouri Guard and Reserve communities. The constant interface between civilian life, employers, families and the needs of the national command authority would be a daunting task were it not for the congressman’s assistance and support.”

As a key function of the convention, MO ROA announced the selection of the following drilling reserve officers for their significant contributions to their service branches and units as **MO ROA Officers of the Year.**

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THE MISSOURI ROA OFFICER OF THE YEAR awardees for 2016 are:

<u>OFFICER OF THE YEAR</u>	<u>COMMAND ASSIGNED</u>	<u>HOME TOWN</u>
Lieutenant Christopher Wells, USNR	NR JIOC 0113 US Transportation Command Scott AFB, IL	Republic, Missouri
Captain Jeffery Kelly, USAFR	442nd Fighter Wing Whiteman AFB, MO	Warrensburg, Missouri
CWO2 Charles Erwin, USCGR	Sector Upper Mississippi River St. Louis, MO	Fairhope, Alabama

The convention concluded with the election of MO ROA officers for 2016-2017 as well as assignments to varied committee and staff responsibilities.

The slate of elected officers to lead MO ROA in 2016-2017 includes:

President	Lieutenant Colonel Robert Dietrich, USA (Ret.)	O'Fallon, MO
National Councilman	Colonel W.W. "Bill" Hammerschmidt, USA (Ret)	Chesterfield, MO
V.P. Army	Colonel Michael Clarke, ARNG (Ret.)	Springfield, MO
V.P. Sea Services	Lieutenant Commander Joseph Bilodeau, USNR	O'Fallon, MO
V.P. Air Force	Lieutenant Colonel W. Andrew Trout, USAFR	St. Joseph, MO

(Event photographs are available upon request)

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About ROA

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) is a 60,000-member professional association for all uniformed services of the United States. Chartered by Congress and in existence since 1922, ROA advises and educates the Congress, the President, and the American people on national security, with unique expertise on issues that affect the 1.5 million men and women now serving in America's Reserve Components. The Reserve Officers Association Mission is simple... "*Support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate National Security.*" No other military-related association has its mission statement focused upon the national security of the United States. Visit www.roa.org

About Missouri ROA

The Missouri Department of ROA (MO ROA) is one of 50 such units of the Reserve Officers Association. As a voice for the more than 30,000 Missouri veterans in the active, reserve, and retired communities of our armed forces, MO ROA is actively engaged in the discussions surrounding the utilization and management of reserve component forces and national security. Our *Report to Congress* publication provides Missouri members of the U.S. House and Senate with up-to-date information relative to Missouri military issues, the reserve components operating in Missouri and the Reserve Officer Training Programs (ROTC) presently conducted on 47 college and university campuses in Missouri.