



RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Missouri Department*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LUETKEMEYER OPENS MO RESERVE OFFICERS CONFERENCE**

### *Major Awards Presented at Annual State Convention*

**Camdenton, MO:** The Missouri Department of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States (**MO ROA**) kicked off its 92 Annual Convention at Old Kinderhook Lodge on April 28, 2018. Missouri Congressional Representative **Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO 3rd D)** opened the business sessions on Saturday morning with a briefing for convention delegates regarding the current activities before the Congress. Congressman Luetkemeyer has long been a supporter and advocate for members of the armed forces reserve and National Guard.

Citing that support in his opening remarks, outgoing **MO ROA President, Lieutenant Colonel Bob Dietrich, USA (Ret.)**, introduced Congressman Luetkemeyer who highlighted the most recent events on Capitol Hill and their projected impact upon Missouri members of the Guard and Reserve. “In addition to being an unquestionable asset for the people of Missouri, Congressman Luetkemeyer, has been an unwavering supporter of legislation and initiatives that improve the professional lives of our citizens in uniform,” said LTC Dietrich. “In these difficult times of world-wide conflicts, budget constraints and all of the stress associated with being a citizen soldier, we are indeed blessed that we have the Congressman both taking the lead and watching our six.”

The **Missouri Reserve Officers Association** convention is a premier opportunity for active duty, reserve and retired military members of all service branches to learn about the needs of the services and be updated on current national and international security measures. “The informational exchange between attendees and the speakers at this convention is some of the best and most timely available,” said **MO ROA Secretary, Captain Dick Kallemeier, USN-Ret.** “The dialogue between members, military 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. The feedback we get from our congressional contacts is also helpful to understand the total mission for national security and the impediments that our elected leadership must consider.”

In addition to the briefings and service branch meetings, a key component of the **MO ROA** convention is to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by those presently serving in reserve and guard units across the state. In that vein, each service section of **MO ROA** (Army, Air Force and the Sea Services –USN, USMC and USCG) are tasked with identifying a uniformed individual who best exemplifies the ideals of their respective service branch and the commitment to professional military service. MO ROA is pleased to announce the selection of the following drilling reserve officers/NCO 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/NCO OF THE YEAR awardees for 2018 are:**

**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

**COMMAND ASSIGNED**

**Captain Mitchell F. McCann, USA**  
Lake St. Louis, MO

US Army National Guard  
US Transportation Command  
Scott AFB, IL

**Captain Christopher J. Hinote, USAFR**  
Knob Knoster, MO

442nd Fighter Wing  
Whiteman AFB, MO

**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Tanner Rindels, USAFR**  
Whiteman AFB, MO

442nd Fighter Wing  
Whiteman AFB, MO

**Machinery Technician 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Nickolas P. Grant, USCGR**  
Dewitt, IA

Coast Guard Sector - Upper Mississippi River  
St. Louis, MO

The convention concluded with the election of MO ROA officers for 2018-2019 as well as assignments to varied committee and staff responsibilities.

**The slate of elected officers to lead MO ROA in 2018-2019 includes:**

President	Captain Frederick W. Lydic, USN (Ret.)	O'Fallon, MO
National Councilman	Captain Richard Kallemeier, USN (Ret.)	Chesterfield, MO
V.P. Army	Lt. Colonel Leslie C. Hobbs, USA (Ret.)	Independence, MO
V.P. Sea Services	Lieutenant Commander Joseph Bilodeau, USN (Ret.)	O'Fallon, MO
V.P. Air Force	Colonel Richard Nelson, USAF (Ret.)	Auburn, NY

**(Event photographs are available upon request)**

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**About ROA**

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) is a 50,000-member professional association for all commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the armed services of the United States. Founded by Missouri native, General John "Blackjack" Pershing in 1922 and chartered by Congress in 1950, ROA advises and educates the Congress, the President, and the American people on national security, with a unique expertise on issues that affect the men and women now serving in America's Reserve Components. The charge handed to ROA by the Congress is simple... "The object and purpose shall be to support a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security and to promote the development and execution thereof." No other military-related association has its mission statement focused upon the national security of the United States. Visit [www.roa.org](http://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 biennial *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.