

NORTHWEST



Reporter

President's Message by LTC Peter Halver



The **ROA National Annual Meeting** took place at the headquarters of the Reserve Organization of America, the Minuteman Memorial Building, in Washington D.C. during October 4-6, 2024. This was the first time that the Annual Meeting (formerly National Convention) was able to fit into the historic Minuteman Memorial Building, wherein we experienced and enjoyed much of the history and unity of the ROA over the last 102 years.

Since 1922 the **Reserve Organization of America** (formerly the Reserve Officers Association) of the United States has championed the cause of the Reserve Components at home and overseas, during peacetime and wartime, with currently over 766,000 selected Reservists. The ROA is the *only* professional association representing all ranks of the uniformed services. Please take a look at the 9-minute video at <https://youtu.be/8XfjW3UL3Qw> to see the many viewpoints of the ROA!

During the meeting we updated our Constitution and Bylaws plus agreed to simplify our charter to the US Congress by requesting an official name change to the *Reserve Organization of America*. In addition, we elected new members to fill our executive positions, including our **National President-elect, Maj. Gen. Margaret C. "Peggy" Wilmoth, USA (Ret.)**, who will assume the gavel in October 2025. Happily, we have returned to a budget that is fiscally responsible even with declining membership and "aging-out" of many members.

Our keynote speaker, the **Honorable Ronald Keohane, Assistant Secretary of Defense** (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), spoke of the parity issues he has been working on between the Active and Reserve forces, especially the types of orders between the Active and Reserve components as well as streamlining the movement/pay between the two. We learned that the DD Form 214-1 (Certificate of Uniformed Service) will be implemented in February 2025 for **all** Reserve units. The ROA has identified some flaws in that system and will be tackling those issues before anything is finalized. The new DD214-1 will validate the service of so many who have never received a DD214 due to length of service. This also should establish that Reservists are, indeed, *veterans*, with all the rights and privileges accorded them. In addition, Hon. Keohane mentioned that active, drilling Reserve members may now be eligible to serve as JROTC instructors. These positions have, up till now, been available only to Active Duty members.

— *continued on Page 2* —

THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING **ALL** UNIFORMED SERVICES RANKS

Army - Marine Corps - Navy - Air Force - Space Force - Coast Guard - Public Health Service - National Guard - NOAA

Department of Northwest: proudly serving ROA members in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming!

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**President's Message - continued from Page 1 -**

So, what is ahead for us? We will continue to build communication and to brand ROA as the preeminent organization chartered by Congress to address the needs of the Reserve and National Guard forces and their families. As such we all need to reach out to our fellow military organizations and work together for the security of our Nation.

Attending this year's meeting were members **Col Margaret Cope, Lt Col Judy Ford, LTC Peter Halver, CPT Deborah Halver-Hanson,** and **CSM Terry Atchison.** We all received the new ROA lapel pin for those with over 25 or 50 years as members. The new pins will be available at the ROA store soon. If anyone has any questions about the meeting please contact one of us!

COMING UP: Don't forget to attend our next **Department of Northwest Third Council Meeting** with dinner and auction on December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day) at the **Wandering Creek Clubhouse, 23623 Lake Drive West, Bothell WA.** Please contact CPT **Deborah-Halver Hanson** at heloaviatrix@gmail.com if you plan on attending, as we need to purchase meals for all in attendance. We will also try to have a Zoom link for those that are unable to attend in person. We hope to have a great attendance this year, as this is also our fundraising auction for charities and the Department. Please help support this event!!



Please note: if you have a blue military ID card you must update to the new **white card NLT 2027.** Just go to the ID Card Office Online at <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>





New leaders were sworn in at the October 2024 ROA National Annual Meeting. From Left, retired MSG Kevin C. Hollinger, ARNG, retired COL Monti G. Zimmerman, USA, retired MG Peggy Wilmoth, USA, and retired CDR John N. Leonard, USCGR.

Read more at <https://www.roa.org/blogpost/1650035/505137/New-leaders-elected-at-Reserve-Organization-of-America-s-annual-meeting>

EXCOM - Membership Update

Lt Col Judy Ford

The EXCOM finalized the **ROA 2024-2029 Strategic Plan**, which establishes the baseline for the 2nd Century. ROA's pillars include Stewardship, Influence, Partnerships, Awareness, and Engagement. Our challenge now is to implement our vision to be **the** premier service organization of the Reserve components, their members, families, and veterans. Look for more on this in the near future!

As the Department Membership Chair, I will be sending out a member email identifying the positions available within the Departments and Chapters. I am hoping we have members that are willing to step forward to assist! Most of the positions are not very time consuming, but can be great bullet points on the Reservist's evaluation reports (OER or EER). **Please consider volunteering** for one of the many Department/Chapter positions!

I am happy to discuss further any obligations required by the positions, since I have held many of them. Please contact me at ltcjudford@gmail.com.

At the recent ROA National Annual Meeting, one of the award recipients was Air Force **SSgt Amie Steen** from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (Anchorage AK) for Religious Affairs Specialist (56M) of the Year. She is not an ROA member, but I sent her an email of Congratulations and offered her a one-year membership! Way to go SSgt Amie Steen!

This is a kind reminder that ROA National committees and meetings are held via Zoom and **all members are invited to attend** and give input to the running of the organization! The ROA National staff is in the process of developing a calendar of when the meetings will be held, which will be posted on the website.

Upcoming:

- The **ROA National Leadership Conference** will be held at the Minuteman Memorial Building in Washington DC in March 2025
- Our **2025 ROA National Annual Meeting** will be held in the same place in October 2025. Look for more information soon and plan to be there with us next year!

Chapter Updates - Across the Department

SEATTLE WA (NW-015)

CAPT Rickey D Thomas | (360) 581-9383 | randstthomascomcast.net

Although the Seattle WA Chapter is not actively holding member meetings, luncheons, or dinners, we are definitely alive, well, and kicking! The EXCOM (along with a few members) meet monthly to discuss pertinent issues for our chapter. If you wish to join us, we would welcome you on *the second Tuesday of each month* at 11:30 am at Scotts Bar and Grill, 8115 NE 205th St., Edmonds WA. **Please contact me** and I'll put your name on the attendance list maintained by our faithful reservationist LTC Larry Searle.

We very much want to revive membership gatherings during a lunch timeframe, so folks don't have to worry about driving home in the dark of night. As of this writing, alas, I have received no responses to a preference survey regarding luncheon meetings, sent out by email to our members. We do have a potential location to meet with a catering service that would provide luncheons, if we could get enough folks together to make it work. **Please join us if you can!** And, bring a fellow veteran who could be our next member. If you have any concerns or issues, I look forward to hearing from you. Thank You!

SPOKANE WA (NW - 018)

COL Larry J. Neil | lsneil1964@gmail.com

Our good news: we presented ROA awards to ROTC cadets at **Eastern Washington University** this past spring!

Our tough news: while our member rolls are about 100 folks, only one responded to a letter I sent out asking for member support. Unless we can get member support, it's likely our chapter will have to disband and close down. COL Vince Trapp and I are doing our best to keep things afloat. If anyone has any suggestions to motivate and help our group, **please contact me!**

BREMERTON WA (NW-02)

CPT Deborah K. Halver-Hanson | heloaviatrix23@gmail.com



A Welcome Surprise For CPT Deborah Halver-Hanson!

CAPT Marshall A. Hanson, Halver-Hanson's husband, was in the Naval Reserves and served at the ROA National headquarters as the Department's legislative leader. After he passed away, the ROA created the **Marshall A. Hanson Anchor Award** to honor those who have committed longtime service over an extended period in posts of high responsibility within the **Naval Services Section of ROA**. Over the last ten years, ten people have been recognized with this award. CAPT Hanson was the first recipient (posthumous) and CDR Edward B. Brock (Seattle Chapter NW-015) was the second.

While at the Annual Meeting, Halver-Hanson learned of the eponymous initiative to honor her late husband. She was naturally surprised and deeply moved, and she was brought forward to be recognized as the widow of CAPT Hanson, the man who inspired the Anchor Award!

Chapter Updates - Across the Department

WALLA WALLA WA (NW-021)

MAJ Lonnie Mettler | (509) 301-0764 | mettler.lonnie@gmail.com

We were proud to present **twelve** ROA Awards and challenge coins to cadets in **six** units this past late spring:

- Army ROTC, Washington State University, Pullman WA (three cadets)
- Army ROTC, University of Idaho, Moscow ID (one cadet)
- Navy ROTC, University of Idaho, Moscow ID (three midshipmen (MIDN))
- Air Force ROTC, Washington State University, Pullman WA (three cadets)
- Army JROTC, Walla Walla High School, Walla Walla WA (one cadet first lieutenant)
- Air Force JROTC, Kennewick High School, Kennewick WA (one cadet)

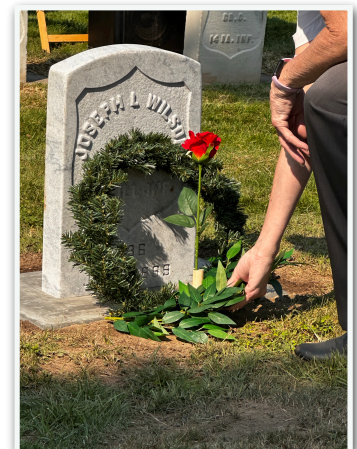
We completed a third recognition event honoring veterans with a **Quilt of Valor (QOV)** at our October 4, 2024 luncheon meeting. A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation." **Five** veterans were recognized, 3 ROA Chapter NW-021 members and 2 non-members.



Left to Right: Dave Raappana, MSgt, USAF, Harriet Link, PO3, USN, Terry Smestead, Gordon "Mick" McLean, Capt, USAFR, and Ron Smith. Jan Eaton, QOV POC, presiding.



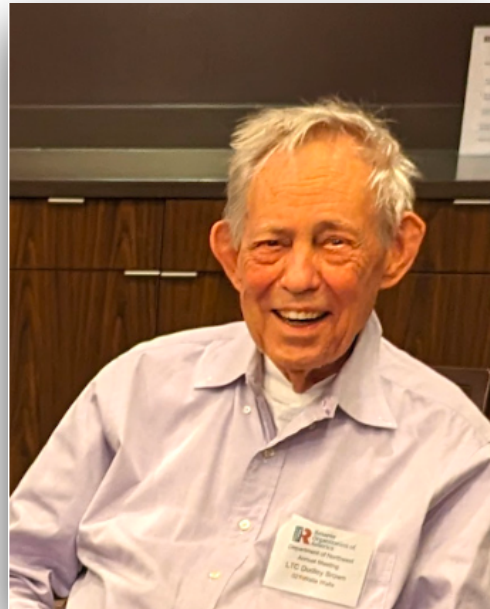
In conjunction with the Sons of Union Veterans Civil War (SUVCW) Camp #3, the American Legion Post 32, the AMVETS #1111, and the City of Walla Walla, we held a **headstone replacement ceremony** for two Civil War Soldiers at Mountain View Cemetery in Walla Walla. Nearly 50 people attended to pay respects to SGT James C. Mason (9 INF), and PVT Joseph L. Wilson (22 IL). See more at our website <https://roaww.org/civil-war-dedication/>.



Lastly, both **CSM Terry Atchison** and I were each honored to receive the **Ben Franklin Journalism Publications Award** from the ROA for "superior efforts in advancing print media communications through your outstanding publication," namely our newsletter **Forté**. See more at <https://roaww.org/forte-reporter/>.

Department Sweeps 2024 Publications Awards!

Congratulations to members **LTC Dudley Brown**, **MAJ Lonnie Mettler**, and **CSM Terry Atchison** for each receiving **Sword & Pen Awards!** Brown was acknowledged for his work on the Department's newsletter **Northwest Reporter** and Mettler and Atchison for their work on **Forté**, the Walla Walla Chapter (NW-021) newsletter.



Upper left: Brown's Sword & Pen award certificate. *Upper right:* LTC Brown, recipient. *Lower right:* LTC Halver accepts LTC Brown's award in his absence. *Lower left:* CSM Atchison accepts the Sword & Pen award certificate.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Department Northwest - October 2024

The Department's treasury is in the black and solvent!

- Our two Certificates of Deposit (CDs) with PenFed Credit Union are earning approximately \$240/month and will mature in **June 2025**.
- Our prime savings and checking accounts are healthy with Chase Bank.

On another note, the current total for the monthly donations to the **10 Bucks-a-Month Club** is holding at **\$349**. Contributions have dropped since we stopped mailing print copies of the *Northwest Reporter* newsletter to all members. **Members are still encouraged to make donations** to this fund, which helps offset the printing costs of the newsletter. Print newsletters still reach our members who do not have email addresses and want to stay connected! Please contact me directly to make a donation!

On a side note: I am looking for someone who will be willing to accept and store 6-7 file boxes of Department records in the future. My medical issues have directed me to move into an independent living apartment when one comes available. I will not have anywhere to keep these when I move into the apartment. Thanks for your consideration of this request - I appreciate anyone's help!

Respectfully Submitted
Rickey D Thomas, Department Treasurer
Voice: (360) 581-9383 Email: randsthomas@comcast.net



SAVE THE DATE:
Department of Northwest
2025 Annual Convention!

Join us **March 26 - 28, 2025** (Wed - Fri) back in **Walla Walla WA!** We will meet at the historic Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center! Check out their website at <https://marcuswhitmanhotel.com/>.

This year's theme:
Hawaiian Dress & Aloha Fun!



Department of Northwest

The purpose of the Reserve Organization of America is to support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security

--ROA Congressional Charter, 1950

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- ROA, One Constitution Ave NE, Washington, D.C. 20002-5628
- Email: roainf@roa.org
- (202) 279-2200 or (800) 809-9448

10-Bucks-A-Year Club (donations since July 1, 2024)

Walla Walla Chapter (NW-021) <i>In Memory Of</i>	CPT Deborah Halver-Hanson <i>In Memory Of</i>	LTC Beverly Brown Losey <i>In Memory Of</i>
COL Jim E. Barnhill	CAPT Marshall Hanson	CPL Gerard T. Brown POW - North Korea
MAJ David T. Pearson	COL John E. Halver III	Anonymous Sponsor <i>In Memory Of</i>
MAJ Lester "Wayne" Johnson	Mrs. Jane Halver (ROA League)	CAPT Bruce D. Cooper
LCDR Donald M. Wick	CDR A. Sydney Hanson	Current Funds: \$349

Members are still encouraged to make donations to this fund, which helps offset the printing costs of the newsletter. Print newsletters still go to our members who do not have email addresses and want to stay connected! Please contact **Rickey Thomas at (360) 581-9383** to make a donation!