



The Michigan Reservist

*The Official Publication for the Reserve Officers Association
Department of Michigan*

Issue 2 – 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Terry Fobbs
Colonel, Military Police
United States Army Reserve
Department President

During this holiday season many of our ROA comrades in arms are far from home and loved ones serving our country; many of them in places like Iraq, Afghanistan,

Kosovo, Fort Benning, Fort Leonard Wood, Germany and many other places. Some of our comrades are recovering from combat wounds in places like Walter Reed, Bethesda, Brooke Army Medical Center or in VA medical centers, some, have paid the ultimate price, and this time of year is indeed a lonely one for those left behind.

Let us remember them all in our prayers and their families as well. They need our strength and our support. We thank them and you for your service to our great nation. We are still a nation at war, facing a remorseless and ruthless enemy who would rob us of our freedoms and fill this earth with blood and horror. We all stand by

(Continued on page 2)

National Memorial Chair for Colonel Lawrence O'Grady, USMCR (Ret)

Col Roger K. Harter, USMC (Ret) Executive Vice President

Capt James F. Hannagan, USN (Ret) National Councilman

The Department of Michigan is in the process of raising \$5000 to endow a Memorial Chair at our National ROA Headquarters in Washington DC in memory of Colonel Lawrence O'Grady, USMCR (Ret). This endowment is a part of the national effort to fund the restoration and renovation our national Headquarters.

Larry O'Grady was the first Marine officer to be elected as National President of the Reserve Officers Association. He was also the first Marine officer to serve as National Executive Committeeman and Vice President. During the years he was twice elected as President of the Department of Michigan.

Colonel O'Grady served in the First Battalion, 24th Marines, and in the 13th Staff Group and Volunteer Training Group 9-1 at the Brodhead Naval Armory in Detroit. He organized an all Marine chapter of the ROA, and named it the Totskey Chapter after a former commander of the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, who died the month before receiving his first retirement check. As a result his widow received no survivor benefits. Seeing this, Larry labored long and hard to insure every widow received appropriate survivor benefits in the future.

Colonel O'Grady also served as Secretary and President of the Totskey Chapter for many years, and filled the chapter's roster with distinguished Marines from all over the country, including such men as "Chesty" Puller. He was also the spearhead for amending the ROA National Constitution to provide for three Executive Committeemen (instead of one) for each of the service sections. This made it possible for the Naval Services Section to have a committeeman from the Coast Guard and Marine Corps on the National Executive Committee as well as a Naval officer. Until his final illness Colonel O'Grady remained active on the Department Executive Council and in Department activities.

Those of you who wish to remember Colonel O'Grady, to honor one of Michigan's outstanding sons, may donate to this endowment effort by making your check out to the Department of Michigan, marking it as "O'Grady Chair". Send your check to our Department Secretary Treasurer, Lt Col Ed Leland, USAF (Ret), 45662 Custer Ave., Utica MI 48317-5708.

State Conference at Selfridge Saturday 21 April 2007

Lt Col Ed Leland, USAF (Ret) Secretary Treasurer

Our annual State Conference will be held on Saturday, 21 April 2007, at the Vandenberg Conference Center, Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Theme of the Conference is “Global War on Terrorism – Veteran Support Services and Benefits”. The conference will begin with a continental breakfast at 0800. The morning session will start at 0900. We have invited speakers from the Veterans Administration, the Assistant State Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. There will be a question and answer period after each speaker’s presentations.

There is a possibility that we might have one of our Michigan Senators as a speaker at our noon luncheon. However, this has not been confirmed. More details on this in our next newsletter.

The afternoon session, starting at 1300, will be devoted to a Department business meeting. This will be important, as this year we have Department officer elections. Individuals elected will serve for the next two years. A number of positions will be open, so if you are at all interested in serving ROA at the state level, please let me know.

Hope to see many of you at this Conference! An advance registration form is included in this newsletter.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

to preserve our way of life, our freedom, our liberty. Despite the darkest of days, and the ranting of those who would say that we have failed, remember, we shall prevail.

The Reserve Officers Association is joined in this fight for the security of our great nation. Each and every one of you is a vital part of an organization dedicated to our national security and ensuring that those things that we cherish are preserved. Sometimes it takes a fight on Capital Hill to get the things we need, but that fight does not take place in a vacuum. It takes the collective efforts of members like you. We have a State Convention coming up in April of 2007 and before that, the National ROA Mid-Winter Conference in Washington D.C., where we will have the opportunity to meet face to face with the Michigan Congressional Delegation on February 7, 2007 in the newly renovated ROA Minuteman Building. I encourage you to take this opportunity to attend both events. We are strength in our numbers and our efforts to make a difference for our nation. Again, thank you for your great service to our country and May God Bless You and your families, this holiday season. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah and Happy New Year and may God Bless those in Harms Way and this, our land, The United States of America,

Best Regards,

Terry Fobbs
Colonel, Military Police,
United States Army Reserve (Retired)
Department President

**RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN****2007 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE****21 APRIL 2007****SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MICHIGAN**

The 2007 Annual State Conference will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 0800 hours Saturday, 21 Apr 07, in the Vandenberg Conference Center, Building 328, Selfridge ANG Base. Our overall conference theme is GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM – VETERAN SUPPORT SERVICES AND BENEFITS. The 0900 conference session will include presentations by a senior staffer from the Veterans Administration, and the Assistant State Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs. We have also invited Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Thomas Hall, to make a presentation. There will be a question and answer period after each presentation. Registration cost is \$15.00, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. The afternoon session will include a Department business session, election of Department officers and a meeting of the Department Executive Council, to which all members attending the conference are cordially invited.

We encourage you to attend this important conference! You make your advance registration by e-mail to LTCEd25532@aol.com, or mail this form and your check made out to the Department of Michigan for \$15.00 to:

Lt Col Ed Leland, USAF (Ret)
45662 Custer Ave.
Utica MI 48317-5708

ROA 2007 STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**Check Enclosed** _____**NAME** _____ **RANK** _____**ADDRESS:** _____**CITY:** _____ **STATE:** _____**ZIP CODE:** _____**CHAPTER:** _____

**Reserve Officers Association
Department of Michigan
45662 Custer
Utica MI 48317-5708**



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