One Constitution Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002
LOCAL: 202.479.2200
TOLL-FREE: 800.809.9448
FAX: 202.547-1641
WWW.ROA.ORG

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: David Small
Communications Director
202.646.7719
800.809.9448 ext. 719
dsmall@roa.org

Feb. 2, 2009

Atlanta Reservist to Open Congress with Prayer

WASHINGTON -- The Reserve Officers Association of the United States announced Chaplain (Maj.) James B. Higgins, U.S. Army Reserve, as its Chaplain (Lieutenant) Vincent Robert Capodanno National Chaplain of the Year for 2008.

Chaplain Higgins, as part of his recognition, will begin Congress' day Feb. 4 with an opening prayer. Representative David Scott (D-Ga.), sponsored Chaplain Higgins as Congress' Chaplain of the Day.

Chaplain Higgins served with the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade from the Texas National Guard from March 2006 to August 2007. As the brigade chaplain, he served with distinction during the loss of Easy 40, a helicopter mission that crashed on one of the deadliest days in Iraq. His stellar care while helping the 2,800 personnel of the brigade work through the sorrow of that tragic event contributed to his selection for this award.

Chaplain Higgins was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is the senior pastor of McEachern United Methodist Church, a 3,200 member congregation in Atlanta, and a volunteer in his community of West Cobb, Ga.

Each year, ROA recognizes the chaplain who distinguishes himself by his contribution to the welfare, morale, and effectiveness of the military services. The award is named for Navy Chaplain (Lieutenant) Vincent Robert Capodanno, a recipient of the Medal of Honor for his service in Vietnam.

The Reserve Officers Association is the 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 issues of national security, with unique expertise on Reserve issues. ROA advocates for adequate funding in equipment and training requirements, recruiting and retention incentives, and employment rights for all members of the Reserve.

- 30 -