

PRESS RELEASE

Dec 14, 2009

ROA Honors Sen. Blanche Lincoln with its Highest Award

WASHINGTON – The Reserve Officers Association will honor Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) with its Minuteman of the Year Award for her contributions to national security and special efforts on behalf of America’s National Guard and Reserve members.

“Senator Lincoln has been a tremendous advocate for active and reserve servicemembers and veterans,” said retired Rear Adm. Paul T. Kayye, ROA’s president. “Her efforts are vital to ensure the success of our armed forces, and to provide our fighting men and women and their families the support they deserve.”

Sen. Lincoln met with ROA officials Dec. 10 where she agreed to accept the award at the association’s national convention Feb. 9 here.

“I am deeply honored to receive this recognition from the Reserve Officers Association. Throughout my time in public service, ROA has been a tremendous partner in the fight to ensure our servicemen and women receive the attention, the benefits, and the care that they have earned and deserve,” said U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln. “While I am appreciative of this honor, those truly deserving recognition are the men and women of our armed forces who are serving or have served our Nation at home or abroad. We owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to these brave servicemembers and their families who have sacrificed much to keep our country safe.”

In the 111th Congress, Lincoln has sponsored numerous bills that will support Citizen Warriors. These bills collectively grant veteran status to National Guard and Reserve members with 20 good years of service, increase monthly dependence and indemnity compensation for military widows, provide military spouse residency relief, and ensure health assessments for Guard and Reserve members are followed by government treatment to correct readiness deficiencies impacting deployability.

In addition, Sen. Lincoln updated the Post-9/11 GI Bill to allow Reserve and National Guard members serving multiple deployments to accrue additional education benefits. Prior to her action, benefits were based on the individual’s single-longest deployment, and members who served multiple tours of duty did not receive extra educational benefits for their added service. She also introduced an amendment to require that future benefits for Reserve and National Guard members keep pace with the national average cost of tuition.

- more -



The Minuteman of the Year Award is presented annually to The citizen who has contributed most to National Security during these times. It is customarily given to a member of the Congress or Executive Branch. The award will be presented by Admiral Kayye at ROA's 2010 National Convention.

The Reserve Officers Association is the 68,000-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 issues of national security, with unique expertise on Reserve issues. ROA advocates for adequate funding of equipment and training requirements, recruiting and retention incentives, and employment rights for all members of the Reserve.

- ROA -