



Coalition and Valued Associates Advocacy and Actions...

The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) hosted a Celebration of Life Memorial Service this week in memory of Captain Marshal Hanson, United States Navy (Retired). As the Director of Legislation and Military Policy for ROA, the Co-Chair for the National Military Veterans Alliance – of which ALA is a member – and as the Co-Chair for the Guard and Reserve Committee for The Military Coalition, Captain Hanson was a tireless advocate for America's Reservists. He also served as the representative for ROA, as a Coalition valued associate member.

Captain Hanson and ROA have been strong advocates in support of military resale and the important benefit it provides our Reserve Forces and their families. In their statement before the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission regarding quality of life (QOL) benefits, ROA stated:

Reserve Force members don't use QOL elements as much as the Armed Forces as most are not located near Military Facilities, but access to these are symbolic toward parity. Historically, Reserve and National Guard members were given limited access to the commissaries and exchanges. Groups like the ROA worked hard to improve access, so that today a Reserve force member can walk into either the exchange or commissary with a military ID and be a patron.

CAPT Hanson also testified before the Senate Armed Service Committee in May 2014 stating:

While it is acknowledged that the Reserve Force uses the commissary less frequently than those within the Active duty culture, Reserve and Guard members are not indifferent. Access to the commissary is symbolic, as it was a parity issue only recently corrected. Many within the Reserve and Guard committee object to the removal of subsidies to the commissary because of the effect on junior serving members and families.

We know ROA will continue to lead the fight to protect Reserve families' critical earned benefits – including commissary and exchanges – but CAPT Hanson's steady hand at the helm will be sorely missed by those of us who knew him and by the countless Reserve families he fought to protect.