



In Memoriam: Betty Hammer, 1931–2009

Gracious Southern Lady

By Eric Minton, Editor

When the name *Betty Hammer* is mentioned, the phrase “gracious Southern lady” is one of the first expressions that come to her friends’ minds. The national president of the Reserve Officers Association League (ROAL) from 2004–2005, who died Aug. 2 in Augusta, Ga., was also remembered for her dedication and long service to ROAL. At the time of her death she was president of Department of Georgia ROAL.

“Betty Hammer was a gracious, caring lady and will be greatly missed by all ROA and ROAL members,” said ROAL Past National President Pat Gotsch. “She was totally involved in the many organizations to which she belonged and served them faithfully and with a determination to give her best to all.”

When her husband, COL Wade Hammer, AUS (Ret.), was deployed to Saudi Arabia for Desert Storm with the 382nd U.S. Army Reserve Field Hospital in 1991, Mrs. Hammer played an active role in the unit’s family support group, earning the moniker “the colonel’s lady.”

After serving her own term as na-



Betty Hammer

tional president, Mrs. Hammer influenced those who followed in the position. “Betty Hammer was always cheerfully willing to help any one of us in our work for ROAL,” said Mary Ann Severson, who succeeded Mrs. Hammer as national president.

“I often phoned her for her advice and just to chat or discuss ROAL affairs or whatever. To me, she was a wonderful friend, and I will miss her so very much.”

Immediate Past National President Anne Groskreutz remembered how Mrs. Hammer would make everyone feel welcomed. “She made sure that no one who came into a room, reception, or meeting left without meeting the people in the room and inviting them to stay and talk with all the others. She made sure that she found out about the person and introduced them to others, telling what she knew of the common

interests of the people.”

“Betty will be missed at these gatherings, but we will try to think of her as on a far assignment elsewhere, and she will tell us all about it when we meet again,” Mrs. Gotsch said. ▲

In Memoriam: Martha Wayner, 1916–2009

When she became ROAL National President in 1979, Martha Wayner brought the experience of two departments to the post: Iowa—where she and her late husband, Lt Col Joseph G. Wayner, USAF (Ret.), owned a jewelry store in Iowa City—and North Carolina.

“Totally immaculately dressed at all times, she was the fount of information on ROAL in North Carolina, and was very instrumental in the creation and founding of our department,” said ROAL Past National President Patricia Plummer in Charlotte.

Mrs. Wayner, who died Aug. 12 in Falls Church, Va., oversaw the adoption of standing rules for ROAL during her presidency.—EM

ROAL Continues to Evolve

ROAL is marking 60 years as a national organization. We have evolved as the years have gone by. We started as the Reserve Officers Association Ladies and were a ladies-only organization. As more women entered the military, we started also allowing men to join and changed our name to Reserve Officers Association League—maintaining the “L”—to reflect this evolution.

The world is constantly changing and we have to change



Linda Veres
ROAL President

with it. Sometimes change is good and sometimes not so good. To make sure that ROAL is changing for the better and in keeping with what is pertinent in today’s world, we need the younger Reservists and their families to become members and participate in both ROAL and ROA.

This year in Orlando, Fla., we held our last summer convention. We will now have only a single national convention, held in winter in Washington, D.C. This is a big change and I hope everyone will take full advantage of their time in D.C. With help from all of you, this change will go smoothly. ▲