

Departments and Chapters,

Mark your calendars: ROA's 22 Days of Service runs 1–22 October 2026. This is our signature community engagement window, and we want every Department and Chapter to get out into your local community with a visible, meaningful service project that supports both veterans and currently serving Guard and Reserve members.

We have four ways to plug in this year. Pick one, mix and match, or run all — just let National know what you're doing so we can track and celebrate participation.

A. Partner with Veterans Last Patrol (VLP). Veterans Last Patrol (VLP) is a national 501(c)(3) headquartered in Spartanburg, SC, whose mission is befriending, honoring, and supporting veterans in hospice care. We're offering two ways to plug in:

1. Visit Veterans in Hospice. VLP connects volunteers with hospice care providers and facilities caring for veterans in end-of-life care, nationwide. Departments, Chapters, or individuals can volunteer to be a "battle buddy" to a veteran in hospice, or even adopt a local care facility. This requires coordinating with VLP directly to be matched with a hospice partner in your area.

2. Cards of Gratitude. A lower-lift option any Department/Chapter can do: have members write "Dear Veteran" or "Dear Hero" cards of thanks, then mail the completed cards to VLP's HQ so they can be delivered to veterans in hospice. This is a great activity for a chapter meeting, family event, or unit function.

Mail Cards of Gratitude to:
Veterans Last Patrol
140B Venture Blvd.
Spartanburg, SC 29306

VLP contact: (864) 580-8005 | admin@veteranlastpatrol.org

Volunteer info: <https://www.veteranlastpatrol.org/volunteer>

Cards of Gratitude info: <https://www.veteranlastpatrol.org/cards-of-gratitude>

B. Engage Local Employers on the Value of Hiring Guard and Reserve Members. VetJobs is a nonprofit that connects transitioning service members, veterans, and — importantly for us — National Guard and Reserve members with employers at no cost. This is a great way to serve currently serving members, not just veterans. VetJobs holds job fairs around the country specifically for hiring Guard and Reserve members; they are committed to our Reserve force.

How Departments/Chapters can help:

- Reach out to local employers in your community and encourage them to hire Guard/Reserve members.

- Point employers to VetJobs' employer page (<https://vetjobs.org/employers/>) to list open positions on VetJobs' vacancy board through their RecruiterConnect program.

- Request VetJobs promotional materials from National (Steve Minyard). These are simple reminders to employers that our Guard and Reserve members bring valuable skills to every office, job site, or project they work in.

C. Coordinate with the Library of Congress and National (Steve Minyard) to interview a Guard or Reserve veteran for the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. The Library of Congress's Veterans History Project collects and preserves firsthand accounts from U.S. veterans of all branches and eras, and any volunteer aged 15 or older can conduct an interview. Departments/Chapters can pair a member with a Guard or Reserve veteran in their community, record their story following the Project's simple five-step process, and submit it to the Library of Congress to be preserved for future generations. To get started, visit the Project's "How to Participate" page: <https://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project/how-to-participate/>. Direct questions to Steve Minyard at sminyard@roa.org. If there is enough interest, Steve will coordinate a training session by Library of Congress staff on how to conduct interviews and package photographs to highlight a Guard or Reserve veteran.

D. Finally, many departments and chapters have unique projects they've performed for years, such as maintenance at memorials and veterans' cemeteries. If doing something else beyond the three projects above, just let us know!

E. What We Need From You.

- Pick your project(s) and get them on your Department's/Chapter's calendar for 1–22 October 2026.

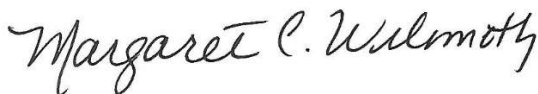
- Email Steve Minyard at sminyard@roa.org with what you're planning so National can track participation.

- Send photos and a short recap during or after the event — we'll spotlight Departments and Chapters in the Reserve Voice and on social media.

Questions? Reach out to Steve Minyard at sminyard@roa.org and (202) 646-7758.

Thank you for everything you do to support our Reserve Component members and the veterans who came before them!

Peggy



Peggy C. Wilmoth, PhD, MSS, RN, FAAN
Major General, US Army (Retired)
84th National President, ROA