



Eileen M. Bonner Scholarship Award for Medical Excellence



The ROA Eileen Bonner Scholarship for Medical Excellence is named after an extraordinary and visionary leader of ROA - Colonel Eileen M. Bonner, USA (Ret).

Colonel Bonner was a native of Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from high school at the age of 15 and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from American University in Washington, D.C. She also earned Master of Education degrees from the University of Maryland and Teachers College at Columbia University in New York, where she also was a doctoral candidate.

In Col. Bonner's military career, she was a graduate of the Command and General Staff Course, and her final Army Reserve duty was as Chief Nurse of the 8th Medical Brigade. At that time this was the largest reserve medical command in the world, with 17 hospitals and 23 other units.

She also served as a teacher, mentor, recruiter, retention officer, nurse administrator, and as a member of the Veterans Administration's Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards (Dioxin and Radiation). Colonel Bonner established the USAG Fort Hamilton Retiree Advisory Council and served as their initial Chairperson, serving on that Council for many years.

Among her military decorations were the Legion of Merit and Meritorious Service Medal.

In her civilian life, she worked as a healthcare administrator and management consultant.

Colonel Bonner was a long-time member of the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), now the Reserve Organization of America, headquartered in Washington, D.C., where she held numerous offices at the Chapter, Department, National and International level. Colonel Bonner was ROA's first woman President and the first president from the medical services. Colonel Bonner also was the first woman to serve as Vice President for the U.S. Delegation to the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers (CIOR) and the U.S. Vice President for the Interallied Confederation of Medical Reserve Officers (CIOMR). Both organizations are comprised of Reservists from NATO member nations. She was instrumental in managing and developing CIOMR's First Aid Competition as part of the CIOR Military Competition. That has now evolved into today's Combat Casualty Care program.

This scholarship was established to recognize Colonel Bonner's total dedication to the medical services and her belief in the importance of education of those in the reserve components to promote their ability to assume senior-level leadership positions in the Services and ROA. This scholarship is sponsored by the ROA Department of New York (DONY) to perpetuate her memory in the Reserve community.