

HEROES IN SERVICE
HEROES IN BUSINESS
HEROES IN LIFE



(For immediate Release)

The RMOA Business Association (RMOA) Announces Graduation of the Pilot Class of the RMOA Business Institute (RBI) New Veteran-owned Business Owners

Seven Student class Includes 3 VOSB, 2 SDVOSB, and 2 Woman-owned businesses

Mitchellville, MD, February 10, 2014

The Graduation ceremony for the pilot class will be held at the Country Club of Woodmore, 12320 Pleasant Prospect, Mitchellville, MD 20721, at 11AM, Saturday, March 1, 2014. The graduation speaker will be Ms. Ms. Cheree Warrick, author, of the book, “Creating Business Plans That Actually Get Financed”.

The RMOA Business Institute (RBI) is dedicated to training the next generation of veteran-owned and other small businesses to help grow the economy. The knowledge, skills, and leadership abilities acquired during military service help Veterans to become successful entrepreneurs. Most RMOA members are Veterans who parlayed their military service into prosperous companies. Business oriented non-veterans, however, are also encouraged to apply for the course. The overall goal of the Institute is to provide tangible business growth benefits to its members. The RBI:

- Helps RMOA members start and grow successful small businesses
- Provides a means for getting feedback on problems in a confidential environment
- Helps RMOA members obtain SDVOSB and other certifications
- Plans to develop a reference library of small business cases studies

The RMOA Business Association (RMOA) (formerly The Retired Military Officers Association), www.rmoa.org realized that it was in a position to help veterans and others start their own businesses as well as support the growth of its member businesses. Since 1994, RMOA has been engaged in networking, exchanging business information, and teaming to win contracts. To improve access to capital, RMOA established a bank in 1999 that was later sold to a larger bank. In 2000, RMOA was granted a coveted IBM distributorship for small computer products. In 2013 RMOA established the RMOA Business Institute (RBI) for Veterans and other prospective entrepreneurs to become business owners as a way of expanding the United States economy.

RBI's vision is to be the small business entrepreneurial training institute of choice. The Institute aims to realize that vision by increasing the total number of successful veteran-owned and other small businesses. Its mission is to provide experience-based entrepreneurial training and mentoring to its students. It helps Veterans and other students to learn the critical skills and build the infrastructure for sustained success in business. RBI is guided by its core values of vision, self-confidence, commitment, excellence, courage, integrity, and perseverance.

RBI's comprehensive program features (1) self-paced online curriculums; (2) instruction and mentoring by Veterans and non-veterans currently operating successful businesses; (3) internships; (4) an incubation phase to help launch new businesses; (5) a Certificate of Completion; and (6) technical assistance that continues after graduation. RBI uses the New York State Small Business Development Center's EntreSkills for Veterans™ curriculum that focuses on business plan development.

RBI is a unique and value-added program because it is taught and managed by Veterans who became successful business owners and other entrepreneurs. Applicants who are accepted become RBI Fellows (students). Executives of experienced veteran-owned companies review business plans that are developed by RBI Fellows and provide candid advice. RBI also helps Fellows to navigate the certifications, filings, and preparations required to launch a new business. RBI's program enables Fellows to work at their own pace to achieve their goals, and to start their new businesses when they are ready. The full RBI program can be completed within 6–9 months. A Memorandum of Understanding is in process with a local university that will enable a variety of other educational opportunities beyond what RBI can do alone. RBI is a 501(c) (3) Educational non-profit organization and encourages sponsorships, grants, and donations

The primary mission of RMOA, the RBI parent organization, is to contribute to the economic success of America by strengthening its member businesses and to help other veterans start businesses. Members have an impressive track record of providing services, solutions, and products to organizations within the public and private sectors, including DOD, DVA, and other agencies of the Government. Current RMOA programs are the luncheon speaker series, annual golf tournament, and annual gala and awards dinner. RMOA established the RMOA Business Institute (RBI) to develop the next generation of veteran and other small business entrepreneurs.

RMOA membership and RBI enrollment are open to any aspiring entrepreneur who desires to create or grow a small business in either small business category, whether woman-owned, 8(a), Hub Zone, SDVOSB, VOSB, or small business.

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