

## **Biographical Information on New CASAs**

**Karen Thebold Conlin** (Virginia – Central) is the president and founding board member of the Helping our Heroes Foundation (HOHF). She has received numerous recognitions for her efforts on behalf of wounded military personnel injured while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, and has organized fundraising opportunities in support of the United Service Organizations (USO). Previous, Conlin served as the managing director of the Kirch Gruppe's US Sports Division, Prisma Sports.

"I am both humbled and proud to accept the appointment as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army in service to our men and women in uniform," said Conlin. "As the granddaughter of an Army officer who landed on the beaches of Normandy during WW II, I have grown up with admiration and gratitude for those that choose selflessly to serve our nation. This appointment will provide me the opportunity to share the Army's mission with my fellow Americans and provide contemporary examples of the sense of duty, leadership and diversity that are the story of today's Army."

She continued, "In this capacity I hope to create a bridge between the perception of a soldier's life and career and the actual accomplishments and career roles that are very similar to those in the civilian world; to include military veterinarians, nurses, pilots, musicians, culinary experts and members of law enforcement. The passion that I feel for and have seen demonstrated by today's Army will allow me to answer the ongoing question of 'what have you done for your country today.'"

**T. Carter Melton** (Virginia – West) has been the regional executive for the Anchor Healthcare Properties since October 2008. From 1978 to 2008, he served as the president and chief executive officer of Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg, Va. Previously, he served for five years on active duty with the U.S. Air Force, leaving the service as a captain. A decorated businessman and administrator, he has devoted more than two decades to civic and philanthropic work to include his service as a member of the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors.

"In these critical times, with American Soldiers deployed around the world in harm's way, every citizen has a responsibility to step forward in any way possible and support our armed forces and the men and women who serve on our behalf," said Melton. "I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to so serve the secretary of the Army and the soldiers for whom he is responsible in the capacity as a civilian aide."

**Robert M. Soeldner** (Massachusetts) is currently the vice president of operations for RR Donnelly, a global provider of integrated communications. Prior to this position, he was senior vice president for engineering, construction, and operations for DKRW Energy in Houston, Texas. A decorated West Point graduate and retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, Soeldner served in a variety of command and staff positions with armor and armored cavalry units in the United States, Germany, and Kuwait.

“Selection as the CASA for Massachusetts is an honor and a privilege for my wife, Mary Love, and I, as it permits us to return to ‘active duty’ with the Army family,” said Soeldner. “The CASA acts as a bridge connecting our outstanding senior civilian and military leaders with the selfless and inspiring communities of Massachusetts. The CASA serves as an advocate for our great soldiers and their loved ones by acting as a conduit to further the coordination between state, local and Department of the Army leaders.”