



National Military Veterans Alliance
5535 Hempstead Way, Springfield, VA 22151

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June 1, 2011

Senator Jon Tester
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss, Senator Leahy, Senator Graham and Senator Tester:

The National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA), representing 34 military and veterans associations with a combined membership of over 3.5 million members, greatly appreciates your efforts over the past two years on behalf of all military personnel. We write in support of **S.866**, *Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction Act*, a bill to correct a technical problem in the FY2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The FY 2008 NDAA authorized National Guard and Reserve members to begin receiving retired pay earlier than age 60 for qualifying active duty service performed after 28 January 2008.

The intent of the early reserve retirement provision was to reduce the retirement age for service on active duty by three months for every 90 days spent on active duty over the course of one's career. However, the DoD interpretation of the law is resulting in the loss of retirement credit by many Reserve Component personnel.

Your legislation is urgently needed because many members of the Guard and Reserve are losing retirement credit for part or all of their qualifying active service since only those periods of service totaling 90 days served entirely within "any fiscal year" are being counted towards retirement under DoD implementation of the statute.

NMVA strongly supports legislation that would authorize early reserve retirement credit for cumulative 90-day periods of active duty service over two consecutive years.

Over 805,000 Reserve Component members have been called to active duty in support of OIF/OEF/New Dawn missions since September 11, 2001. Under DoD's "operational reserve" policy, the reserve forces play a central role in all U.S. military operations at home and overseas. Their reserve retirement compensation should continue to be modernized to help retain those willing to meet these arduous demands. Ensuring Reserve Component members do not lose credit for early retirement is critical to morale and career retention.

Your continued attention to those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces is greatly appreciated, and we stand ready to assist in any way possible. Please contact the NMVA Co-Director, Ike Puzon (AUSN) at (703) 548-5800 or Co-Director Rick Jones (NAUS) at (703) 750-1342 for more information.

Sincerely,

Co-Directors and Member Organizations
National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA)



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American Logistics Association	Military Families United
American Military Retirees Association	National Association for Uniformed Services
American Military Society	National Gulf War Resource Center
American Retirees Association	Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
American WWII Orphans Network	Paralyzed Veterans of America
AMVETS (American Veterans)	Reserve Enlisted Association
Armed Forces Marketing Council	Reserve Officers Association
Army Navy Union	Society of Military Widows
Association of the United States Navy	The Flag and General Officers Network
Catholic War Veterans	The Retired Enlisted Association
Gold Star Wives of America	TREA Senior Citizen League
Hispanic War Veterans Association	Tragedy Assistant Program for Survivors
Japanese American Veterans Association	Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees
Korean War Veterans Foundation	Veterans of Modern Warfare
Legion of Valor	Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Military Order of the Purple Heart	Vietnam Veterans of America
Military Order of Foreign Wars	Women in Search of Equity
Military Order of the World Wars	

cc: Senator Carl Levin
Senator John McCain
Senator Jim Webb