



National Military and Veterans Alliance

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January 20, 2015

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
House of Representatives
2112 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 303: The Retired Pay Restoration Act

Dear Congressman Bilirakis,

The National Military and Veterans Alliance, an organization composed of military associations and veterans organizations representing active duty, National Guard, Reserve, military retirees, veterans, families and survivors, writes to thank you for your leadership in addressing the issue of concurrent receipt for our disabled military retirees by sponsoring H.R. 303: The Retired Pay Restoration Act.

As you know, military retirement is earned by serving twenty or more years in the military, compensates for longevity of service, and is funded by the DoD. Disability pay is earned in connection with those years of service and compensates for pain and suffering, can be both combat and non-combat related, and is funded through the VA.

Prior to 2004 all disabled military retirees were forced to comply with the offset. Since 2004 military retirees with 20 or more years of service and a disability rating of 50 percent or higher are allowed to receive both their military retirement pay and their VA disability compensation without the offset. However, current law does not eliminate the offset for those service-connected disabled military retirees with 20 or more years of service and with VA ratings of 40 percent and below. No other federal employees are penalized for retiring and having a disability.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance is committed to the notion that by not being allowed to receive both retired pay and VA compensation, a veteran who was wounded in combat or otherwise disabled as a result of his or her service but has a rating less than fifty percent is actually paying for being wounded or disabled out of his or her military retired pay.

We encourage you to move this legislation quickly in order to ensure that America's disabled military retirees receive the financial benefits that they have earned as a result of their faithful service to our nation.

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We salute your efforts and leadership in addressing this important issue and we would like you to know that you have our continued thanks for your efforts on behalf of America's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

Member Organizations, National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA)

American Logistics Association	Military Order of the Purple Heart
American Military Retirees Association	Military Order of the World Wars
American Military Society	National Association for Uniformed Services
American Retirees Association	National Defense Committee
American WWII Orphans Network	Reserve Officers Association
Army Navy Union	Society of Military Widows
Gold Star Wives of America	The Flag and General Officers Network
Japanese American Veterans Association	The Retired Enlisted Association
Korean War Veterans Foundation	Vietnam Veterans of America
Military Order of Foreign Wars	