

February 2nd, 2018

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly
U.S. House of Representatives
2238 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Connolly,

The National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), a non-partisan group comprised of the undersigned military and veteran service organizations, is pleased to offer our support for H.R. 1928, the Families of Fallen Service Members First Act. Should a government shutdown occur, your bill will eliminate the possibility of military surviving families experiencing any delays in receiving death gratuities and related benefits.

As you may know, the surviving family of a service member who dies on active duty is entitled to a tax free "death gratuity" in the amount of \$100,000. These surviving families rely on this money in the immediate aftermath of their service member's passing. In the event of a government shutdown, this and other financial benefits can be delayed. NMVA strongly believes that these families should be insulated from any financial ramifications that are the result of Congress failing to fund the government.

One of the benefits of military service, whether in peace or in a time of war, is the peace of mind that comes with knowing that the family of a service member will be taken care of through the provision of known financial benefits. Politics should, under no circumstances, ever interfere with that peace of mind. The Families of Fallen Service Members First Act will ensure that the families of our service men and women receive the financial benefits promised to them, regardless of infighting on Capitol Hill.

NMVA thanks you for your leadership on this issue and your commitment to service members, veterans, retirees and their families. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



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National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Letter

American Logistics Association
American Military Retirees Association
American Military Society
American Retirees Association
Army Navy Union
Association of the United States Navy
AMVETS
Military Order of Foreign Wars
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Reserve Officers Association
Society of Military Widows
The Flag & General Officers Network
The Retired Enlisted Association
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
Vietnam Veterans of America