

January 16th, 2019

The Honorable Mark Takano  
Chairman  
Veterans' Affairs Committee  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Phil Roe, M.D.  
Ranking Member  
Veterans' Affairs Committee  
102 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Chairman Takano and Ranking Member Roe,

The National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), a non-partisan advocacy group comprised of the undersigned military and veteran service organizations, applauds Chairman Takano's re-introduction of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 and Ranking Member Roe's introduction of H.R. 203 with the same purpose.

Last year, this vital bill -- backed by a long list of Veterans Service Organizations -- would have provided vital care to Navy Vietnam War veterans who served aboard ship and were exposed to Agent Orange.

Despite overwhelming support in both the House and the Senate during the 115th Congress and its passage in the House of Representatives, two U.S. Senators blocked it from advancing out of committee due to the unfounded objections of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

NMVA pledges our support and assistance for these bills as we mount another fight to provide our veterans with the care they need. We thank 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 that, unlike last year, this bill receives the full support of lawmakers on behalf of our Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans.

Sincerely,



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**National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Letter**

American Military Society  
American Retirees Association  
AMVETS  
Armed Forces Retirees Association  
Army and Navy Union  
Association of the United States Navy  
Healing Household 6  
Military Order of Foreign Wars  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Military Order of the World Wars  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
ROA  
Society of Military Widows  
The Flag & General Officers Network  
The Independence Fund  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
Sea Service Family, Foundation  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
Vietnam Veterans of America