

January 9th, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
United States House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives:

On behalf of the National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan advocacy group comprised of the organizations listed below, we offer our steadfast support for the Pay Our Coast Guard Act and we urge you to immediately pass this bill to ensure the funding of our Coast Guard's pay and benefits.

This legislation makes continuous appropriations for Coast Guard pay during a government shutdown. The impact the shutdown is having today on our Coast Guard servicemembers is unnecessary and must be rectified to eliminate the negative effect to our Coast Guard members and their families. As a branch of our military, the Coast Guard must be viewed differently than all other agencies affected by the current and future government shutdowns.

The Pay Our Coast Guard Act, introduced by both Senator Thune and Representative DeFazio, will allow the Coast Guard to conduct its mission by providing for sums, as necessary, to provide pay and allowances to members of the Coast Guard, including reserve components who perform active service and inactive duty training. Their bill also calls for pay for civilian employees of the Coast Guard, and such sums as necessary to provide pay and allowances to contractors of the Coast Guard and to provide for Coast Guard retired pay.

Services under the control of the Department of Defense are being paid and we must provide a way for our oldest service, the Coast Guard, to be paid as well. No member of our military should be expected to carry out duties in the service of our protection while worrying about their ability to provide basic necessities for themselves and/or their families.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance urges each of you to act quickly on behalf of our Coast Guard service members, retirees, and family members.

Sincerely,



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## **National Military and Veterans Alliance Member Organizations Supporting this Legislation**

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 World Wars  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
Reserve Officers Association  
Sea Service Family Foundation  
Society of Military Widows  
The Flag and General Officers' Network  
The Independence Fund  
Vietnam Veterans of America