

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chair, House Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member, House Armed Services
Committee

20 June 2023

Dear Chair Rogers and Representative Smith,

On behalf of the veterans, military personnel, and their families who are members of, and represented by, the member organizations of the National Military & Veterans Alliance (NMVA), and especially for the more than 50,000 combat disabled military retirees currently suffering from the U.S. Government's unfair reduction of their military retirement to pay back their Veterans Affairs disability compensation, we wholeheartedly **endorse *The Major Richard Star Act of 2023 (H.R. 1282)*, ask for the Committee to include it in the Committee's reported version of the *Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act*, and call for the full House's quickest passage.**

Despite the overwhelming bipartisan support of Members of the House both in the 117th Congress and in this 118th Congress (335 and 321 cosponsors in each of those Congresses, respectively), *The Major Richard Star Act* has languished for years, with no hearing, no markup (except tomorrow's – for which we are thankful), and no other action taken by either your Committee or the House, despite being placed on the Consensus Calendar in the 117th Congress, and the sponsor of the bill, Representative Bilirakis of Florida, so moving on May 31st of this year for this Congress. There is no reason why these combat-disabled veterans, who were medically retired short of the usual 20-year retirement cycle, are denied the exact same benefits that disabled veterans with 20 years or more of service who get to draw both their military retirement and their disability compensation, simply because the former combat disabled veteran may have served one or more days less than 20 years.

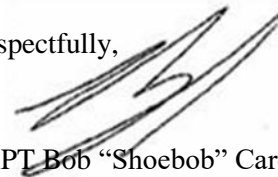
Reducing military retirement pay due to a combat disability simply because the government can do it, based upon some belief that while the disabled veteran may have earned both the military retirement and the disability compensation benefits, that those veterans don't need "all that money" is one of the most egregious acts the undersigned organizations have seen exercised by the very government these combat disabled veterans swore to defend. But now – with 45 Members of your Committee also cosponsors of this legislation – now is the time to rectify this injustice and restore the earned benefits and pay for these men and women.

Thank you for your consideration and expected support of the men, women, and families of the United States military, disabled in the service of their country, and who now desperately ask for the help that only Congress can provide.



Ken Greenberg
National Executive Director
Jewish War Veterans
Co-Chair, NMVA

Very Respectfully,



CAPT Bob "Shoebob" Carey, USN (Ret)
Chief Bottle Washer
National Defense Committee
Co-Chair, NMVA

Signing Organizations

National Defense Committee (NDC)	Jewish War Veterans of the United States (JWV)
American GI Forum (AGIF)	AMVETS
Vets4Vet Leadership	Wounded Paw Project
Operation First Response	Catholic War Veterans
Armed Forces Retirees Association (AFRA)	Heroes Athletic Association (HAA)
Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA)	American Logistics Association (ALA)
America's Warrior Partnership (AWP)	Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
The Enlisted Association (TREA)	The American Military Society (AMS)
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)	The Armed Forces Marketing Council (SFMC)
National Gulf War Resource Center	Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
Burn Pits 360	Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officers Association (USCG CWOA)	American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)	Sea Service Family, Foundation
Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW)	The Independence Fund (TIF)
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)	TBI Warrior Foundation
Veteran Warriors	Japanese War Veterans Association (JWVA)
Association of the U.S. Navy (AUSN)	Gold Star Wives (GSW)