

April 2, 2025

Dear Members of the 119th Congress:

The Military and Veteran Service Organizations (MSO/VSOs) listed below respectfully request you to cosponsor the *Major Richard Star Act* and ensure it is included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) or pass it as a standalone bill. Three quarters of the 118th Congress supported this bipartisan and bicameral legislation with 327 cosponsors in the House and 75 cosponsors in the Senate.

The *Major Richard Star Act* would provide concurrent receipt of earned Department of Defense (DoD) retirement pay for years of service and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation for more than 50,300 combat-injured veterans. Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a decrement where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by DoD, while disability compensation is for injury paid by VA. These two benefits, established by Congress for entirely different reasons, are nonetheless subject to a statutory offset. To reduce earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice and not the place to achieve savings.

We sincerely appreciate your leadership on this important issue and urge you to cosponsor and include the *Major Richard Star Act* in the FY 2026 NDAA this year.

Sincerely,

Air Force Sergeants Association
American GI Forum
American Legion
American Logistics Association
American WWII Orphans Network
America's Warrior Partnership
AMVETS
Armed Forces Retirees Association
Blinded Veterans Association
Blue Star Families
Burn Pits 360
Catholic War Veterans of the USA & Auxiliary
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the U.S. Coast Guard
Code of Support Foundation
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Services
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US
Gold Star Spouses of America
Grunt Style Foundation

Healing Household 6
Heroes Athletic Association
Hire Heroes USA
HunterSeven Foundation
Japanese American Veterans Association
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
K9s for Warriors
Marine Corps League
Military Chaplains Association
Military Family Advisory Network
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the World Wars
Mission Roll Call
National Defense Committee
National Guard Association of the United States
National Military Family Association
Non Commissioned Officers Association
Operation First Response, Inc.
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Project Sanctuary
The Ranger Leadership and Policy Center
Reserve Organization of America
Sea Service Family Foundation
Stronghold Freedom Foundation
Student Veterans of America
TBI Warrior Foundation
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
TREA: The Enlisted Association
United Through Reading
U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Wounded Paw Project
Wounded Warrior Project