



Support Full Concurrent Receipt

Issue: Congress needs to fully eliminate the law that makes most disabled uniformed services retirees forfeit part or all of their military retired pay for VA disability compensation.

Background: For decades, MOAA has sought relief from a 19th century law that required a dollar-for-dollar offset of military retired pay for VA disability compensation. These benefits are paid for two distinct reasons:

- Retired pay is earned for a career of uniformed service;
- VA disability compensation is recompense for pain, suffering, and lost future earning power due to service-connected disabilities.

Congress has worked hard to make incremental progress on the issue.

- Thanks to their effort, we've fully restored earned service-based retired pay for 100% disabled retirees with at least 20 years of service and all combat-disabled retirees, without regard to length of service or percentage of combat-related disability.

623,000 disabled retirees still suffer from the offset.

- These major improvements have helped 304,000 disabled retirees – 33% of the total disabled retired population. But 623,000 disabled retirees still fund their disability compensation from the VA dollar-for-dollar from their retired pay.

Career military members earn their retired pay by service alone, and that those unfortunate enough to suffer a service-caused disability in the process should have any VA disability compensation from the VA added to, not subtracted from their service-earned military retired pay.

- In the case of members forced into medical retirement before 20 years of service, their service-earned retired pay should be vested at the rate of 2.5% times years of service times the applicable pay base. There should not be any distinction between members disabled for combat- vs. non-combat-related causes, as the impact on their quality of life and future earning power is the same in either case.

Recommendation: Please cosponsor H.R. 333 or S. 271, introduced by Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.) and Sen. Harry Reid, respectively. For incremental progress, please cosponsor H.R. 303, introduced by Rep. Gus Bilirakis (D-Fla.)