



January 25, 2023

Honorable Members of the 118th Congress

Dear Members of the 118th Congress:

The Military Coalition (TMC), which represents more than 5.5 million current and former uniformed service members, veterans, their families, and survivors, is writing to ask you to sign on as original cosponsors for the Major Richard Star Act (H.R.1282/S.344) and ensure it is included into the FY24 National Defense Authorization Act or pass as a standalone bill. The Star Act received strong support in the House with 336 cosponsors and 67 cosponsors in the Senate in the 117th Congress.

The Star Act would support more than 50,300 combat-injured veterans with concurrent receipt of vested retired pay and VA disability. Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset 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 lifelong injury paid by the 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.

TMC, as represented by those organizations listed on the attached, appreciates your leadership on this important issue and urges you sign on as an original cosponsor and include the Star Act in the FY 2024 NDAA and ensure timely passage this year.

Sincerely,

President,
The Military Coalition

See attached list of organizations

TMC Organizations:

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)
American Veterans (AMVETS)
Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
AMSUS, Society of Federal Health Professionals
Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)
K9s for Warriors
Marine Corps League (MCL)
Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
National Military Family Association (NMFA)
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
The Independence Fund (TIF)
United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)
VetsFirst/United Spinal Association
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)