

May 30, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael Burgess
Chair, House Committee on Rules

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Ranking Member, House Committee on Rules

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chair Burgess, and Representative McGovern:

On May 21, 2024 a number of veteran and military supporting organizations sent you a letter (a copy of which is attached) urging you waive House Rule XXI, Clause 10 (the “CUTGO Rule”) during consideration of the *Major Richard Star Act* (H.R. 1282) – including during consideration of its inclusion in the Fiscal Year (FY) 25 *National Defense Authorization Act* – as the *Major Richard Star Act* previously was reported favorably out of the House Committee on Armed Services by unanimous consent.

Given the expedited coordination of that letter in the veteran and military advocacy community, many organizations, including many members of the National Military & Veterans Alliance, were unable to provide their consent to signing that letter before it was sent forward to you. **Therefore, the below members of the National Military & Veterans Alliance wish to align with the sentiments of that attached May 21 letter, and respectfully request you waive the CUTGO Rule during all consideration of the *Major Richard Star Act*, whether as stand-alone legislation or as an amendment.**

In June of last year, 34 member organizations of the National Military & Veterans Alliance sent the House Armed Services Committee a letter of endorsement for the Major Richard Star Act, and our collective support for this bill has not waived in the last year. As we stated in that previous letter (a copy of which is also attached), 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 egregiously capricious acts exercised by the very government these combat disabled veterans swore to defend.

But now is the time finally to rectify this injustice and restore the earned benefits and pay for these men and women.

We stand ready to assist the House Leadership and the House Committee on Rules in bringing this legislation to a full vote by the House as soon as possible, and its enactment into law. You may contact us at the email and phone number below.

Very Respectfully,



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



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

(next page for signatories)

Signing Organizations

National Defense Committee (NDC)

Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV)

Copy:

The Honorable Thomas Emmer, Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Katherine Clark, Minority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives
Members of the U.S. House Committee on Rules

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess
Chairman, Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Ranking Member, Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Chairman Burgess, and Ranking Member McGovern:

The Military and Veteran Service Organizations (MSO/VSOs) listed below respectfully request you waive House Rule XXI, Clause 10, "CUTGO rule" on the *Major Richard Star Act* (H.R. 1282) for inclusion in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This legislation was reported out of the House Committee on Armed Services with unanimous consent and is supported by more than two-thirds of the 118th Congress, with 326 cosponsors in the House.

Currently, our combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a decrement where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of Veterans Administration (VA) disability received. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by the Department of Defense (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 in the DoD personnel account.

We sincerely appreciate your leadership on this important issue and urge you to waive the rule and include the *Major Richard Star Act* in the FY 2025 NDAA.

Sincerely,

Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
Air & Space Forces Association (AFA)
The American Legion (TAL)
American Veterans (AMVETS)
Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Blue Star Families (BSF)
Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
Chief Warrant and Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWO)
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
The Independence Fund (TIF)
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)

K9s for Warriors

Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)

National Defense Committee (NDC)

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)

National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)

National Military Family Association (NMFA)

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

Reserve Organization of America (ROA)

Student Veterans of America (SVA)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)

USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)

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.

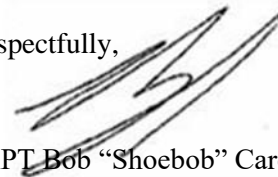
Reducing military retirement pay due to a combat disability simply because the government can do it, based upon some belief that while the disabled veteran may have earned both the military retirement and the disability compensation benefits, that those veterans don't need "all that money" is one of 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 American Veterans Association (JAVA)
Association of the U.S. Navy (AUSN)	Gold Star Wives (GSW)
	Stronghold Freedom Foundation