



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

1 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Suite 880 | Washington D.C., 20001 | 800-234-EANG (3264) | Fax 703-519-3849
www.eangus.org | www.eangusconference.org | eangus@eangus.org

Major Richard Star Act

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), representing over 440,000 Guardsmen across the 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia urges Congress to pass the “Major Richard Star Act” to eliminate pay and disability offset.

The Major Richard Star Act was re-introduced in the 118th Congress once again as H.R.1282 and S.344 by Rep. Gus Bilirakis and Sen. Jon Tester respectively. This bill provides that combat-disabled military retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). Currently thousands of veterans continue to be subjected to an offset that restricts them from receiving their full, earned compensation.

In 2004, Congress eliminated the offset for concurrent receipt for retirees rated at 50 percent disabled or higher. Those who are 40% disabled and below and/or those unable to complete 20 years of service due to service-connected injuries or illness have an offset in pay that prevents them from receiving their full compensation. Of those, around 42,000 retirees receive CRSC due to injuries incurred in combat.

EANGUS has long argued that retired pay and veteran service-connected disability compensation are fundamentally different benefits granted for various reasons. Military retired pay is an earned benefit for vested years of service. Service-connected disability compensation is for injury and to deny retired pay because of a disability is an injustice.

The Major Richard Star Act would provide total offset relief. Former Service members who were medically retired from the military with less than 20 years of service (Chapter 61 retirees) AND are eligible for CRSC would no longer have their benefits reduced by the current offset.

This legislation received an overwhelming majority of cosponsors in both chambers with 326 in the House and 74 in the Senate in the 118th Congress. If the legislation had been brought to a vote, this would have passed with the cosponsors alone. However, a deciding vote was delayed once again until the session ended. EANGUS urges the 119th Congress to reintroduce this bill and be the finalizing vote to ensure that this major issue is no longer ignored or delayed.

For more information regarding this issue or any other issues concerning the National Guard, contact the EANGUS legislative team at legislative@eangus.org.