



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8113

October 26, 2005

The Honorable Walter Jones, Jr.
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jones:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent military and veterans organizations, representing more than 5.5 million members plus their families and survivors, is writing to express our strongest support for H.R. 3478. This bill would allow military survivors additional savings options for the increased death gratuity amounts first authorized in the FY2005 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act and expected to be permanently authorized in the FY2006 National Defense Authorization Act.

The new \$100,000 death gratuity provides greatly improved compensation for the military survivors and their families. H.R. 3478's provision to allow survivors to invest death gratuity lump sums in Roth IRAs and certain other savings accounts is a logical extension of efforts to increase protections and benefits for military widows and their families.

The Military Coalition thanks you for introducing this legislation and for your leadership on issues affecting all servicemembers and their families. We pledge our strong support in seeking enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)