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Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
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November 29, 2006

The Honorable Michael Bilirakis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bilirakis,

On the occasion of your retirement from Congress, The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans' associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former servicemembers and their families and survivors, wishes to extend you our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support of servicemembers and their families and survivors.

Over the past 24 years, your service to our beloved America and the military and veterans community has been extraordinary. You have been a true champion in both words and action for those who have worn and continue to wear the uniform. You have fought uphill battles and, through personal perseverance, won significant changes that have substantively improved the quality of life for military retirees, veterans, and survivors – concurrent receipt, veteran cost-of-living increases, and annuities for survivors to name just a few.

The Coalition is extremely grateful for your energetic leadership, not only for carrying the banner for concurrent receipt for all these years, but for your personal concern and intervention on a wide variety of issues, large and small, that have had a profound, cumulative impact on uniformed members and their families. You have been as reliable and consistent a supporter as the military and veterans community has had in Congress during your tenure.

We hope you will take satisfaction in knowing that the depth of our appreciation for your career of support is reflected in the roster of The Military Coalition's annual awards – a roster on which no names but yours and your Chief of Staff Rebecca Hyder's appear more than once.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition  
(Signatures enclosed)

Air Force Association  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
Air Force Women Officers Associated  
American Logistics Association  
AMVETS (American Veterans)  
Army Aviation Association of America  
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States  
Association of the United States Army  
Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America  
Marine Corps League  
Marine Corps Reserve Association  
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America  
Military Officers Association of America  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Association for Uniformed Services  
National Guard Association of the United States  
National Military Family Association  
National Order of Battlefield Commissions  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
Naval Reserve Association  
Navy League of the United States  
Non Commissioned Officers Association  
Reserve Enlisted Association of the United States  
Reserve Officers Association  
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
United Armed Forces Association  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association  
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
Veterans' Widows International Network