



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

July 24, 2007

The Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5 million current and former military service members and their families and survivors, is writing in support of your bill

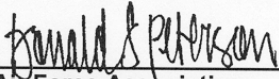
S. 1593, the Defenders of Freedom Tax Relief Act of 2007. Your bill will provide military members, veterans and their families with several tax breaks that they most assuredly deserve in light of their contributions to their nation.

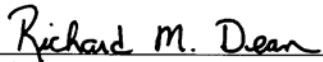
The bill will rectify a long-standing problem encountered by many disabled veterans when filing for disability compensation with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). The VA disability award is retroactive to the date of the application, and the affected members must file amended tax returns to recover income taxes on retired pay that should have been deemed tax-free disability compensation. Because current IRS rules preclude filing amended returns for more than three tax years, thousands of disabled retirees are taxed unfairly simply because of VA claim processing errors or delays. We agree strongly with you that IRS rules should be changed to allow amended returns for more than three years.

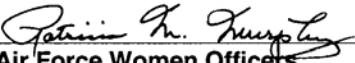
We commend the permanent extension of tax relief provisions allowing combat pay to be treated as earned income for purpose of earned income tax credit (ETIC) and penalty free withdrawals from retirement plans by reservists. Overall, the bill will greatly aid our younger military members who are carrying the lion's share of combat duties. The Coalition strongly supports your important initiative and pledges to work with you to secure its enactment.

Sincerely,


The Military Coalition  
(signatures enclosed)

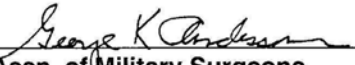
  
Air Force Association

  
Air Force Sergeants Association

  
Air Force Women Officers  
Associated

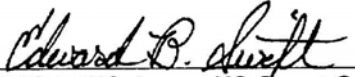
  
American Logistics Association

  
AMVETS  
Army Aviation Assn. of America


  
Assn. of Military Surgeons  
of the United States

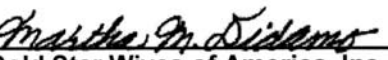
  
Assn. of the US Army

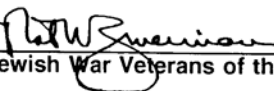
  
Commissioned Officers Assn. of  
the US Public Health Service, Inc

  
CWO & WO Assn. US Coast Guard

  
Enlisted Association of the  
National Guard of the US

  
Fleet Reserve Assn.

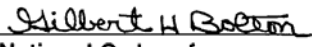
  
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

  
National Association for  
Uniformed Services

  
National Guard Assn. of the US


  
National Military Family Assn.

  
National Order of  
Battlefield Commissions

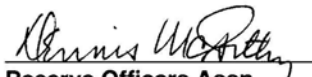
  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

  
Naval Reserve Assn.

  
Navy League of the US

  
Non Commissioned Officers Assn.  
of the United States of America

  
Reserve Enlisted Assn. of the US

  
Reserve Officers Assn.

  
Society of Medical Consultants  
to the Armed Forces

  
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

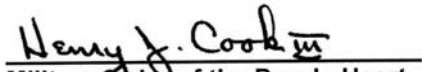
  
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

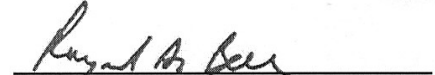
  
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

  
Marine Corps League

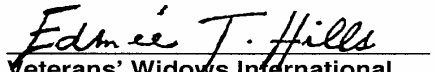
  
Marine Corps Reserve Association

  
Military Officers Assn. of America

  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

  
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US

  
Veterans' Widows International  
Network. Inc.