



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

May 21, 2007

The Honorable Sam Farr
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Representative Farr:

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 proposed legislation (H.R. 2234) to rectify a long-standing problem encountered by many disabled veterans when filing for disability compensation with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA).

While the majority of VA disability claims are resolved in less than a year, there are numerous cases where the VA may take several years to reach a final disability ruling. 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 where the delay is the result of extended VA claims processing time.

Your proposed legislation would allow filing of amended returns for more than three tax years based on VA approval dates, retroactive for no more than 15 years. This legislation is a very positive step in providing fair treatment to disabled military veterans. 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 (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 Officers Association
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces
The Retired Enlisted 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