



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 19, 2008

The Honorable Thelma Drake
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Drake:

The Military Coalition, a consortium of nationally prominent military and veterans organizations, representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, thanks you and Congressman Bilirakis for your combined leadership for introducing H.R. 5987 that guarantees pay increases for the uniformed services in excess of the Employment Cost Index (ECI) through 2013.

Congress and the Administration have provided military pay raises that exceeded ECI for the past nine years and their combined efforts have reduced the "pay gap" from a high of 13.4% in 1999 to now 3.4%. Your bill continues to shrink the "pay gap" with military pay raises that will again exceed ECI by .5% and acknowledges the selfless service of our men and women in uniform.

You and Congressman Gus Bilirakis continue to promote the interests of members of the uniformed services and this bill recognizes the sacrifices service members and their families endure.

The Coalition sincerely appreciates your leadership in championing this initiative and stands ready to work closely with you to gain maximum co-sponsorship support.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(signatures enclosed)

cc: Congressman Gus Bilirakis

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 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 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