



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 14, 2010

The Honorable Tim Walz
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walz and Congressman Latham:

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, is writing in support of a proposed technical amendment to your bill, the *Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act, H.R. 3787*, to authorize veteran status in Title 38 for National Guard and Reserve members of the Armed Forces who are entitled to a non-regular retirement under Chapter 1223 of 10 USC and who were never called to active federal service during their careers.

The current language of the bill would amend Section 106 of Title 38 to accomplish the change. It is our understanding that Rep. Walz is considering offering a substitute amendment to the bill by placing the change in Section 101 of Title 38.

TMC continues to strongly support the principle embodied in your bill, namely that career Guard and Reserve members who were never called to active duty over a full service career and are entitled to military retired pay, TRICARE health coverage and numerous veterans' benefits, deserve to be "veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States."

The Coalition expressed its collective support for your bill in a letter dated October 7, 2009 (enclosure) and we continue to strongly endorse the legislation.

The intent of your bill is to honor and recognize the service and sacrifice of these career reserve component members as veterans, not to authorize veterans' benefits for this cohort over and above those benefits that they are already entitled to under law.

TMC appreciates the fact that H.R. 3787 enjoys growing bi-partisan support including the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA).

The Military Coalition continues to endorse the intent of H.R. 3787 and looks forward to the bill being taken up and passed in the House as soon as practicable.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
Signatures attached

Enclosure (7 October 2009 TMC Support Letter)

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
Association of the United States Navy
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.
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
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
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



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 7, 2009

The Honorable Tim Walz

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Walz and Congressman Latham:

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, is writing to express our appreciation and strong support of your draft legislation, the Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act, a bill that would authorize veteran status to military retired members of the National Guard and Reserves who were never called to active duty and thus do not qualify as "veterans" under Title 38.

All members of the Selected Reserve volunteer for service to the nation and are liable for activation in its defense. In the event that a Reserve Component member has not been called to federal active duty during a twenty-year-or-more service career, we believe that their service should qualify them for full veteran status under the law.

The nation recognizes that our military cannot function without the Guard and Reserve. The large numbers of Reserve Component members who have been called to serve in OEF/OIF qualify as veterans. However, some reservists' mission is to prepare other members of their units for deployment. By virtue of that mission, they may never deploy themselves. Other reservists who were ready to deploy had they been needed, were not called to active duty during their careers. Under current law, even if they serve twenty years or more and qualify for military retired pay, health care (TRICARE) and other benefits they are not designated as veterans of the Armed Forces.

For these servicemembers, the issue is one of honor and pride in recognition of their service and sacrifice.

The Military Coalition thanks you for your leadership in sponsoring this initiative and we look forward to working with you to ensure the legislation is enacted.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
Signatures attached

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
Association of the United States Navy
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
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