



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

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MILITARY COALITION HONORS REPRESENTATIVE TIM WALZ

Alexandria, Va. — The Military Coalition (TMC), an influential Washington, DC-based consortium of 34 military and veterans groups, presented its highest leadership awards on October 5, 2011 to Representative Tim Walz (D-MN) and Brian Kessler, Walz's legislative assistant, for their leadership in seeking quality-of-life improvements for servicemembers, veterans, their families and survivors. The awards ceremony was held at the Reserve Officers Association Building on Capitol Hill.

Walz, himself a retired Army National Guard Sergeant Major, was recognized for his leadership in pursuing legislation to authorize veteran status for Reserve component retirees, improve veterans' transition services, improve disability and traumatic brain injury rehabilitation programs, and protect servicemembers from mortgage abuses.

Colonel Steve Strobridge (USAF-Ret), TMC Co-Chair and Government Relations Director of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), said, "Congressman Walz knows first-hand the sacrifices involved in a military career and has taken an active leadership role in ensuring America does the right thing by those who serve and have served. While he's been particularly active on initiatives affecting the National Guard and Reserve, his determined and persistent leadership support has extended to every segment of the military population – currently serving, Guard/Reserve, retired, survivors and family members."

MCPO Joseph Barnes (USN-Ret), TMC Co-chair and National Executive Director of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), said, "We're extremely gratified and proud to honor Rep. Tim Walz, who is the most senior enlisted person ever to serve in the House of Representatives. On the Veterans' Affairs Committee and working closely with all of the military and veterans organizations, he has epitomized the true leader who makes sure his troops and their families are taken care of."

“The legislators are the champions,” said Colonel Herb Rosenbleeth (USA-Ret), TMC President and National Executive Director of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, “and their staffs expend huge amounts of effort in crafting legislation, working with military associations to fill in the details, and coordinating our mutual efforts to get other legislators and the public on board. Brian Kessler has been a great supporter on a wide variety of key issues affecting the military and veterans’ community. His work on the veteran status and transition legislation has been especially noteworthy.”

TMC represents the interests of more than six million members around the world, including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and retired members and veterans of the seven uniformed services, plus their families and survivors. For more information visit www.themilitarycoalition.org.

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