



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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Major Richard Star Act

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), on behalf of nearly 440,000 Guardsmen across the 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia, urges Congress to pass the “Major Richard Star Act” to eliminate pay and disability offset.

Military retirees with 20 or more years of service qualify for retirement pay based on their dedicated service to our nation. These retirees may also qualify for disability compensation for any injuries caused or aggravated by their military service; however, these pays have an offset that does not allow certain veterans to receive their full, earned compensations.

In 2004, EANGUS successfully advocated that Congress implement concurrent receipt for retirees rated at 50 percent disabled or higher. Those who are 40% disabled and below and/or those unable to complete 20 years of service due to service-connected injuries or illness have an offset in pays preventing them from receiving their full compensation. Approximately 210,000 veterans, known as Chapter 61 retirees, are facing this situation. Of those, around 42,000 retirees receive an exemption called Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) due to injuries incurred in combat.

EANGUS has long argued that retired pay and V.A. service-connected disability compensation are fundamentally different benefits granted for various reasons. Military retired pay is an earned benefit for vested years of service. Service-connected disability compensation is for injury. To deny retired pay because of a disability is an injustice.

The Major Richard Star Act would provide total offset relief. This also reduces the number of people still awaiting total concurrent receipt. It commensurately minimizes the cost of total concurrent receipt for all retirees who should keep their retired pay and disability compensation.

For further information on the Richard Star Act contact EANGUS at eangus@eangus.org.