



Major Richard Star Act

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), on behalf of nearly 450,000 Guardsmen across the 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia, urges the 118th Congress to Legislate and pass the "Major Richard Starr Act."

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.

In 2004, EANGUS successfully advocated that Congress implement concurrent receipt for retirees rated 50 percent disabled or more significant. However, remaining to be approved are 40% disabled and below and those unable to complete 20 years of service due to service-connected injuries or illness. There are approximately 210,000 of these individuals, known as Chapter 61 retirees. Some retirees who suffered from injuries incurred in combat are eligible for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) which mitigates some loss in pay due to the offset. There are approximately 42,000 of these individuals.

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 Congressional Budget Office estimates that eliminating full concurrent receipt would cost more than \$30 billion over ten years. The incremental approach chips away at the total cost by eliminating subsets of the population still awaiting concurrent receipt of both pays.

The veterans most needed are those with combat injuries and less than 20 years of service. 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 more information on the Major Richard Star Act or any other National Guard issues, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Hollinger at kevin@eangus.org or contact him direct at (202) 670-1826