Washington, DC – Last night, the House of Representatives passed Walz's Honoring America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act of 2011.

Walz's legislation grants full veteran status to members of the guard and reserve components who have served at least 20 years, but have not been called up for federal active duty. Under current law, these men and women cannot call themselves veterans.

"These men and women took an oath to defend our nation at any cost and have dedicated their lives in service to our country," said Walz. "This is about giving them the honor and recognition they deserve."

-30-