



THE MILITARY COALITION

March 16, 2015

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

Dear Congressman Walz:

The Military Coalition, a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, writes to thank you for your leadership in once again introducing **the Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act**. This bill would grant veteran status to members of the Reserve Components who served a career of 20 years or more and are military retirees, but who through no fault of their own are not recognized by our government as "veterans."

The individuals covered by your legislation have already earned most of the benefits granted to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and yet they do not have the right to call themselves veterans because their service did not include sufficient duty under Title 10 orders. Because of this they feel dishonored by their government. Your legislation simply authorizes them to be honored as "veterans of the Armed Forces" but prohibits the award of any new benefit.

The "Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act" is a practical way to honor the vital role members of the Reserve Components have had in defending our nation throughout long careers of service and sacrifice. And it can be done at no-cost to the American tax-payer because of your legislation.

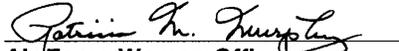
We look forward to the early passage of your bill in the House and we are hopeful both chambers of Congress will take favorable action so we can see it signed into law this year.

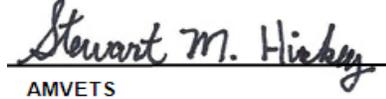
You have been the champion for this bill in the House and we remain grateful. We know you understand the importance of the honor of being recognized as a veteran and we sincerely appreciate your steadfast support and leadership on this issue that is very important to so many members of the National Guard and Reserve.

The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)


Air Force Association

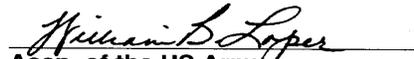

Air Force Sergeants Association


Air Force Women Officers
Associated


AMVETS


Army Aviation Assn. of America

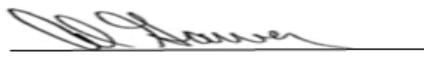

AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals


Assn. of the US Army

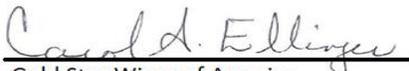

Association of the United States Navy


Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public
Health Service, Inc

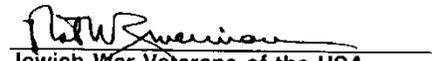

CWOA, US Coast Guard


Enlisted Association of the
National Guard of the US


Fleet Reserve Assn.


Gold Star Wives of America


Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans
of America


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Marine Corps League

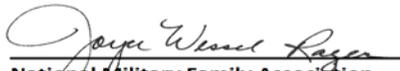

Marine Corps Reserve Association


Military Officers Assn. of America


Military Order of the Purple Heart

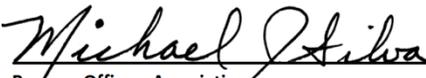

National Association for
Uniformed Services


National Guard Assn. of the US


National Military Family Association

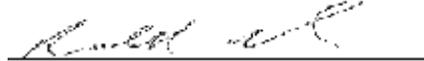

Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

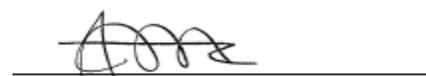

Non Commissioned Officers Assn.
of the United States of America


Reserve Officers Association


The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA


The Retired Enlisted Assn.


USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.


US Army Warrant Officers Assn.


Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US


Vietnam Veterans of America


Wounded Warrior Project