Congressman's bill would ensure a 3.5% minimum pay increase for service members

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Washington, D.C. - Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor) has introduced H.R. 2027, the Military Pay Improvement Act, which would ensure that the minimum Fiscal Year 2008 increase for uniformed service members' basic pay would be 3.5%.

Under current law, military pay rates must be "reasonably comparable" to those in the private sector with similar skills, education, and experience. Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, the military's pay increase has not always met this criteria and a "pay gap" was created. H.R. 2027 seeks to further narrow the gap between the military and private sector pay scales.

"Our nation's brave men and women in uniform have fought gallantly to ensure the continued safety, security, and prosperity of this great nation," said Bilirakis. "I believe it is unacceptable that we task these men and women with extraordinary responsibilities, especially during wartime, and cannot compensate them accordingly. The debt we owe them for their sacrifices can never be repaid. However, my bill takes a small step in the right direction to show our appreciation for their valor."

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