

Rep. Gus Bilirakis Urges Congress to Fairly Compensate Wounded Veterans

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Since 1891 wounded veterans have been saddled with regulations that prohibit the concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and veterans disability compensation. This outdated law currently affects several hundred-thousand disabled military retirees, unfairly forcing them to choose between retirement pay and disability compensation. This regulation makes them the only federal employees who are required to waive retirement pay for disability compensation.

"For over a century America's wounded veterans have had the unfair burden of choosing retirement pay or disability compensation - thereby forcing them to fund their own disability payments," Bilirakis said. "It is time for Congress to step forward and heed the call of every veteran and military organization in this country and provide fair compensation for our nation's wounded heroes."

Rep. Gus Bilirakis' two pieces of legislation will alleviate this unfair burden on our nation's wounded veterans. The Retired Pay Restoration Act would, among other things, provide for the concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability compensation for wounded veterans that have 20 or more years of service to this country.

The Combat-Related Special Compensation Act of 2007 augments the previous bill, allowing veterans forced from service before 20 years, due to combat-related injuries, to receive concurrent receipt of retired pay and disability compensation.

"The men and women that have so bravely defended this nation must know their service will not be in vain and that they will be fairly compensated for their sacrifices," Bilirakis added.

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