

**House Committee of Veterans Affairs
Member Day 2025**

**3 Minutes
December 4, 2025**

Thank you, Chairman Bost and Ranking Member Takano for holding this hearing and providing me the opportunity to urge you, Chairman Bost, to allow a vote on the Major Richard Star Act.

This critical and bipartisan piece of legislation will rectify an injustice that has kept combat disabled veterans from receiving their full military and retirement benefits.

Currently, over **50,000 combat-disabled veterans** who were medically retired are being shortchanged. Because of an outdated and unfair policy, they're forced to give up a portion of their retirement pay just to receive the disability compensation.

This is wrong, and it must end.

That's why we must vote and pass the **Major Richard Star Act**, which is a bipartisan effort to finally correct this injustice that has affected thousands of our nation's heroes.

Military retirement pay and disability compensation are **two separate benefits**. One is earned through years of dedicated service.

The other is owed because of injuries sustained while defending our country.

These brave men and women shouldn't be punished for getting hurt in the line of duty.

This bill is named in honor of **Major Richard A. Star**, a father, husband, and combat veteran who was medically retired due to injuries sustained in war. Sadly, Major Star lost his battle with cancer in 2021. But his legacy lives on through this bill, and in our commitment to do right by those who've served.

The **Major Richard Star Act** would allow veterans to receive both retirement and disability benefits without an offset.

It's supported by all leading **Veteran Service Organizations**, and it has overwhelming bipartisan support with over **300 cosponsors** in the House alone.

That means with 300 votes, this bill will pass the House, but it needs to pass committee first. You, Chairman Bost, are the gatekeeper first and Speaker Johnson is the second. Don't deny this justice for veterans.

This is not just a policy change.

It's a matter of fairness.

A matter of dignity.

A matter of honoring the promises we make to those who wear the uniform.

I stand with our veterans. This is a pragmatic way to show you really support veterans by passing legislation that will actually improve their lives.

Thank you, and I yield back.