



National Military and Veterans Alliance

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January 16, 2009

The Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry E. Brown, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ortiz and Congressman Brown:

The National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA), representing 31 military and veterans associations with a combined membership of over 3.5 million members, strongly supports your proposed legislation entitled “The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act.”

The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act would repeal current law that stipulates a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for each dollar of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) a surviving spouse receives.

The DIC offset to SBP means that surviving spouses and children are not taken care of the way military retirees and active duty personnel expected their surviving spouses to be provided for after their death. In fact, due to this inequitable offset, many surviving spouses lose the majority—or all too often—the entire amount of their SBP annuity. This is especially true of survivors of enlisted personnel.

Your sponsorship of The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act would correct this clear inequity, which is a major goal of our Alliance.

The NMVA thanks you for your support of our troops and their survivors and urges your colleagues to co-sponsor “The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act,” to repeal the offset to SBP. We look forward to your success.

Sincerely,

American Logistics Association
American Military Retirees Association
American Military Society
American Retirees Association
American WWII Orphans Network
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Armed Forces Marketing Council
Army Navy Union
Catholic War Veterans
Gold Star Wives of America
Japanese American Veterans Association
Korean War Veterans Foundation
Legion of Valor
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Military Order of Foreign Wars
Military Order of the World Wars

National Association for Uniformed Services
National Gulf War Resource Center
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Naval Reserve Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Reserve Enlisted Association
Reserve Officers Association
Society of Military Widows
The Retired Enlisted Association
TREA Senior Citizen League
Tragedy Assistant Program for Survivors
Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
Vietnam Veterans of America
Women in Search of Equity

“Representing the Total Force”