



Action Alert

Veterans Status for Reserve Members

Take Action!

HR 1025 Passes in the House. Help Needed in Senate

HR 1025 was passed in the House last evening. It was introduced by Congressman Walz, (D-MN) and original co-sponsored by Congressman Latham (R-IA), to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law

S. 491 Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act of 2011, introduced by Senator Pryor (D-AR) is similar bill that needs your immediate support!

These bills – honor Reserve Component members as Veterans, including Navy Reserve members that have served 20 years of honorable service, but are not receiving retired pay,. These bills do not provide for any new benefits other than what they receive at age 60. It does honor them as Veterans for having served at least 20 years.

Along with 35 other associations, AUSN has supported passage of this bill for over 6 years, and as Co-Director of National Military Veterans Alliance, and Co-Chair of The Military Coalition Guard and Reserve Committee we have led the way in passage of these bills.

AUSN strongly support this legislation, which would give the men and women who choose to serve our nation in the Reserve component the recognition that their service demands.

Many who serve in the Guard and Reserve are in positions that support the deployments of their active duty comrades to make sure the unit is fully prepared when called upon.

Unfortunately, some of these men and women serve 20 years and are entitled to retirement pay, TRICARE, and other benefits, but are not considered a veteran according to the letter of the law.

HR 1025 and S 491 are about honor. Honor is important to those who have volunteered to serve the nation in uniform. By analogy, this bill would confer honor and recognition but not trigger any new or unearned veteran's benefits. The bill is needed to confirm and perfect the real and perceived status of service men and women who have completed a full service career, are military retirees and have earned specific military and veterans' benefits but technically are not veterans under the law.

Finally, for decades Reserve service men and women have accomplished "real world" military duties at home and overseas but because of funding categories and manpower accounting mechanisms performed such duties on non-active duty (Title 10) orders. Thus, their contributions to the national security are de-valued and dis-honored since they are regarded as non-veterans. These bills are cost neutral!

Please take immediate action by clicking on TAKE ACTION (in blue) and ask your Senator's to pass S. 491. POC Ike Puzon, ike.puzon@ausn.org