



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION FOR AGIF H.R.303

WHEREAS, the American GI Forum of the United States (AGIF-US) whole-heartedly support our military, veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 303 passage, would amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or combat- related special compensation; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, Congress has enacted legislation to progressively expand eligibility criteria for relief of the retired pay disability offset and reduce the burden of financial sacrifice on disabled military retirees; and

WHEREAS, absent adequate funding to eliminate the sacrifice for all disabled retirees, Congress has given initial priority to easing financial inequities for the most severely disabled and for combat-disabled retirees; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of maximizing eligibility within cost constraints, Congress effectively has authorized full concurrent receipt for all qualifying retirees with 100- percent disability ratings and all qualifying retirees with combat-related disability ratings, while phasing out the disability offset to retired pay over 10 years for retired members with noncombat-related, service-connected disability ratings of 50 percent to 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, in pursuing these good-faith efforts, Congress acknowledges the regrettable necessity of creating new thresholds of eligibility that understandably are disappointing to disabled retirees who fall short of meeting those new thresholds; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of Congress that military retired pay earned by service and sacrifice in defending the United States should not be reduced because a military retiree is also eligible for veterans' disability compensation awarded for service-connected disability; and

BE IT RESOLVED. the AGIF-US whole-heartedly supports passage of H.R.303 - Retired Pay Restoration Act

WHEREAS, the American GI Forum of the United States (AGIF-US) whole-heartedly support our military, veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, under current law, if a defrauded Veteran passes away before their case with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is resolved, the Veteran's family cannot seek reimbursement for the defrauded funds; and

WHEREAS, S263 passage of the Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reissue misused benefits to a beneficiary's estate in cases where the beneficiary predeceased reissuance; and

WHEREAS, will provide reissued benefits to either the Veteran's estate, successor, or next inheritor; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan legislation would make a simple fix to help defrauded Veterans and their families receive the support they need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, the Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act is endorsed by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wounded Warrior Project, and the American Legion; and

BE IT RESOLVED. the AGIF-US whole-heartedly supports passage of S263, Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act of 2023

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2023 LULAC National Convention on August 5, 2023.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President