
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 404 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY PIELLI, SOLOMON, GILLEN, DELLOSO, JOZWIAK,
WEBSTER, MIHALEK, GUENST, WATRO, MUNROE, SANCHEZ, GIRAL,
BANTA, PICKETT, HILL-EVANS, PROBST, JAMES, MERSKI, STEELE,
KHAN, D. WILLIAMS, CERRATO, RYNCAVAGE, DONAHUE, CEPEDA-
FREYTIZ, MAYES AND ROZZI, APRIL 24, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 24, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to support the Major
2 Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282) to allow all medically retired
3 service members to receive full access to their much-deserved
4 retirement pay and benefits.

5 WHEREAS, Major Richard Star was an Iraq and Afghanistan
6 veteran who, after exposure to burn pits during his service,
7 received a diagnosis of lung cancer; and

8 WHEREAS, Due to his diagnosis, Major Richard Star was forced
9 to retire before completing 20 years of service and was
10 therefore unable to collect his retirement and disability
11 benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, For every dollar of disability pay they receive,
13 veterans with less than 20 years of service and a disability
14 rating of less than 50% will have their retirement pay reduced
15 by a dollar; and

16 WHEREAS, An estimated 50,000 retired service members are
17 ineligible for concurrent benefits under the current rules; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Budget Office, in
2 2022, the average offset was approximately \$1,900 a month; and

3 WHEREAS, The Major Richard Star Act would remove these
4 restrictions and ensure that all service members who have
5 medically retired can receive full access to retirement pay and
6 Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits; and

7 WHEREAS, After dying from his battle with lung cancer in
8 2021, Major Richard Star's widow claimed that his greatest goal
9 was to get legislation passed providing for the removal of these
10 restrictions; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States owes these benefits to its
12 veterans regardless of the cost associated with their
13 allocation; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
15 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United
16 States to support the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282) to
17 allow all medically retired service members to receive full
18 access to their much-deserved retirement pay and benefits; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
21 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call upon our colleagues in the
22 Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to urge the Congress
23 of the United States to support the Major Richard Star Act (H.R.
24 1282); and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
26 each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.