

## 10/17/2003 Moran Announces Additional Benefits for Disabled and Retired Veterans

Moran Announces Additional Benefits for Disabled and Retired Veterans

More Veterans Eligible for Concurrent Receipt than Ever Before

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today supported the agreement to expand the number of military retirees eligible for concurrent receipt. The agreement, supported by the Senate and the White House, will be included in the conference report of the Department of Defense Authorization bill and passed this year prior to adjournment.

"This is a stride forward in our efforts to see that disabled American veterans receive both their disability and retirement pay," Moran said. "We need to do all we can to recognize veterans' sacrifices made to protect our freedoms. This step, which is not a total victory, has been a long time coming."

With this change in law, 250,000 additional military retirees will be eligible for both their retirement and disability pay. Under current law, retired, disabled veterans' retirement pay is deducted, dollar for dollar, from any compensation received for a disability. The result is that many disabled military retirees essentially pay for their own disability benefits from their retirement checks.

The new agreement would allow more retired, disabled veterans to be eligible for concurrent receipt than ever before. Specifically:

- Purple Heart - The plan continues to provide full concurrent receipt to all Purple Heart veterans who are retired after 20 years and who have a Veterans Administration (VA) disability rating of 10 to 100 percent.

- Combat-Related Special Compensation - Under current law, combat-related special compensation (CRSC) veterans 60 percent disabled and above have full concurrent receipt for disabilities related to combat situations. The new plan expands full concurrent receipt to all CRSC veterans with a VA disability rating of 10 to 100 percent.

- National Guard and Reservists - Very few retired reservists and national guardsmen now qualify under current law for the Purple Heart or CRSC concurrent receipt. The new plan removes this barrier and extends full concurrent receipt to all retired National Guard and Reservists who are Purple Heart recipients, or who are CRSC qualified.

- Remaining Military Retirees - Under current law, none of the remaining military retirees are eligible for concurrent receipt. The new plan establishes full concurrent receipt to the most disabled military retirees, 50 percent disabled and above. These payments would be phased-in over the next ten years at a increase of 10 percent per year.

Since coming to Congress, Moran has been a consistent supporter of providing disabled military retirees with concurrent receipt. During the past three years, he has urged the President, House leadership and the House Budget Chairman to eliminate the reduction in disability for veterans receiving retirement pay.

"This will allow thousands more American veterans to be eligible for benefits than ever before," Moran concluded.

###