

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 583 Session of  
2002

INTRODUCED BY SEMMEL, KELLER, HUTCHINSON, ALLEN, ARMSTRONG,  
M. BAKER, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BROWNE,  
BUNT, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CIVERA, COLEMAN, CORRIGAN,  
COSTA, COY, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DALEY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE,  
DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EGOLF, FAIRCHILD, FEESE, FICHTER,  
FORCIER, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GORDNER,  
GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS,  
JAMES, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, LEH, LESCOVITZ, LUCYK, MANN,  
MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McCALL, McGILL, McNAUGHTON, MELIO,  
R. MILLER, MUNDY, NAILOR, PETRARCA, PHILLIPS, PIPPY,  
PISTELLA, READSHAW, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SCHULER, SHANER,  
B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STEELMAN, STERN, R. STEVENSON,  
SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TURZAI, WANSACZ, WATSON,  
WILT, WOJNAROSKI, G. WRIGHT, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK, ZUG,  
J. TAYLOR, ADOLPH AND McGEEHAN, MAY 13, 2002

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, MAY 13, 2002

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress to amend Title 10, United States Code, to  
2 permit full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and  
3 other veterans compensation, including dependents'  
4 allowances.

5 WHEREAS, American servicemen and women have dedicated their  
6 careers to protect the rights we all enjoy; and

7 WHEREAS, Career military personnel endured hardships,  
8 privation, the threat of death, disability and long separations  
9 from their families in service to our country; and

10 WHEREAS, Integral to the success of our military forces are  
11 those soldiers and sailors who have made a career of defending  
12 our great nation in peace and war from the Revolutionary War to

1 the present day; and

2 WHEREAS, There exists a gross inequity in the Federal  
3 statutes that denies disabled career military personnel equal  
4 rights to receive veterans disability compensation concurrent  
5 with receipt of earned military retired pay; and

6 WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced in the Congress of  
7 the United States to remedy this inequity applicable to career  
8 military personnel dating back to the 19th century; and

9 WHEREAS, Veterans who are retired with a minimum of 20 years  
10 are denied concurrent receipt of hard-earned military longevity  
11 retirement pay and veterans awards for service-connected  
12 disability; and

13 WHEREAS, Career military personnel earn retirement benefits  
14 based on longevity of 20 years for honorable and faithful  
15 service and rank at time of retirement; and

16 WHEREAS, Veterans disability compensation serves a different  
17 purpose from longevity retirement pay and is intended to  
18 compensate for pain, suffering, disfigurement, chemical  
19 exposure, wound injuries and a loss of earning ability, with a  
20 minimum requirement of 90 days of active duty; and

21 WHEREAS, The prevailing idea that military retirement pay is  
22 free is false because there is a contribution to retirement pay,  
23 calculated to reduce military base pay and retirement pay by  
24 approximately 7% when pay and allowances are computed and  
25 approved by the Congress; and

26 WHEREAS, Traditionally a career military person receives  
27 lower pay and retirement than his or her civilian counterpart  
28 and has invested a life of hardships and long hours without the  
29 benefit of overtime pay and lack of freedom of expression  
30 through unions; and

1       WHEREAS, Allowances to dependents of veterans with a 30%  
2       disability are increased with the amount of disability; and

3       WHEREAS, The Department of Defense deducts the entire amounts  
4       of dependents' allowances, essentially leaving the disabled  
5       military retiree with no dependent allowance, a discrimination  
6       which extends to the families of military retirees; and

7       WHEREAS, It is unfair to require disabled military retirees  
8       to fund their own veterans compensation by deductions on a  
9       dollar-for-dollar basis in the Department of Defense; and

10       WHEREAS, No such deduction applies to similarly situated  
11       Federal civil service or congressional retirement beneficiaries  
12       who receive veterans compensation; and

13       WHEREAS, A statutory change is necessary to correct this  
14       injustice and discrimination in order to ensure that America's  
15       commitment to national and international goals is matched by a  
16       similar commitment to those who sacrificed on behalf of those  
17       goals; therefore be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
19       Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress to amend Title  
20       10, United States Code, to permit full concurrent receipt of  
21       military retired pay and other veterans compensation, including  
22       dependents' allowances; and be it further

23       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
24       the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense,  
25       the United States Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, the  
26       Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of  
27       Representatives, the chairs of the United States Senate and  
28       House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committees and each  
29       member of Congress from Pennsylvania.