

REFERENCE TITLE: Major Richard Star Act

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HCM 2017

Introduced by
Representative Blackman

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS THE MAJOR RICHARD STAR ACT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, more than 54,000 combat-injured veterans nationwide,
4 including approximately 1,172 in Arizona, were medically retired before
5 completing 20 years of service due to combat or combat-related injuries;
6 and

7 Whereas, under federal law, these veterans are denied a portion of
8 their earned military retirement pay because it is offset
9 dollar-for-dollar by Department of Veterans Affairs disability
10 compensation, a policy commonly referred to as the "wounded veteran tax";
11 and

12 Whereas, in Arizona alone, affected veterans lose approximately
13 \$1,200 per month in earned retirement benefits, resulting in more than
14 \$16.9 million per year in lost income that would otherwise be spent in
15 Arizona communities; and

16 Whereas, financial stability is a critical factor in veteran
17 well-being, and predictable earned income helps veterans remain housed,
18 meet basic needs and maintain stability for themselves and their families;
19 and

20 Whereas, economic insecurity is a known risk factor for housing
21 instability, food insecurity and mental health crises among veterans, and
22 restoring these earned benefits would help reduce those risks for some of
23 Arizona's most severely injured veterans; and

24 Whereas, ensuring that combat-injured veterans receive the full
25 benefits they have earned supports not only individual veterans but also
26 the stability, safety and well-being of their families and local
27 communities; and

28 Whereas, military retirement pay is earned through years of
29 honorable service, while disability compensation is intended to address
30 the lifelong impacts of service-connected injuries, and these benefits
31 serve distinct and separate purposes; and

32 Whereas, a veteran who was wounded in service to this country should
33 not be forced to choose between retirement pay and disability
34 compensation; and

35 Whereas, this policy impacts communities across Arizona; and

36 Whereas, Congress has already authorized concurrent receipt of
37 military retirement pay and disability compensation for other categories
38 of disabled retirees, and the Major Richard Star Act would correct the
39 remaining inequity affecting combat-injured veterans who were medically
40 retired before 20 years of service; and

41 Whereas, members of Arizona's congressional delegation from both
42 parties have already cosponsored the Major Richard Star Act, demonstrating
43 strong bipartisan support for this legislation.

1 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
2 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

3 1. That the United States Congress immediately pass the Major
4 Richard Star Act.

5 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
6 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the
7 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of
8 Congress from the State of Arizona.