



HR0722

LRB104 21121 MST 35388 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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WHEREAS, The Major Richard Star Act would remove these restrictions and ensure that all service members who have medically retired can receive full access to retirement pay

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1 and disability benefits from the Department of Veterans
2 Affairs; and

3 WHEREAS, Mayor Richard Star lost his battle with lung
4 cancer in 2021, and his widow stated that his greatest goal was
5 to get legislation passed providing for the removal of these
6 restrictions; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States owes these benefits to its
8 veterans regardless of the cost associated with their
9 allocation; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we urge the U.S. Congress to support the Major Richard Star Act
13 to allow medically retired service members to receive full
14 access to their much-deserved retirement and pay benefits; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 delivered to the President of the United States, the U.S.
18 Senate Majority Leader, the U.S. Senate Minority Leader, the
19 U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. House of Representatives
20 Minority Leader, and all members of the Illinois Congressional
21 Delegation.