

# VETERAN'S CORNER

## New Shot at Medical Retirement for Some Vets

The DoD Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR) is re-evaluating Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) and Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) disability ratings for some Veterans medically separated between September 11, 2001, and December 31, 2009, to ensure a correct disability retirement determination was made. Veterans who received a combined disability rating of 20 percent or less and were not found eligible for retirement can apply to have

their MEB/PEB disability rating reviewed for fairness, consistency, and accuracy. Former reserve members with greater than 20 years of total federal military service but fewer than 20 years of active duty, who meet the above criteria, are also eligible to apply.

Learn more about the PDBR and how to apply. Questions on the PDBR can be sent to [PDBRPA@afncr.af.mil](mailto:PDBRPA@afncr.af.mil).

## Congressional Committee Advances Title 32 Veteran Status Legislation

Yesterday, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee favorably reported out of committee, H.R. 1025, legislation intended to grant Veteran Status to guardsmen who have served 20 years but have not been under at least 180 continuous days on Title 10 orders.

It may come as surprise to most that a guardsman, who serves twenty years in uniform, is not automatically considered a veteran. Currently, if members of the National Guard and Reserve have not served a qualifying period of active duty service, they are not considered to be veterans under Federal law. Just one of the requirements, barring many Title 32 Guardsmen from being recognized as veterans, is that they did not serve at least 180 continuous days on federal status.

Congressman Tim Walz introduced, H.R. 1025, the Honor America's Guard-Reserve Retirees Act of 2011. At the end of the 111th Congress, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 3787, which was a similar bill also sponsored by Congressman Walz. While the bill passed the House,

it died in the Senate at the end of the last Congress.

H.R.1025 would amend Title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law. The bill will extend veteran status to National Guard and Reserve members who qualify for retirement after 20 years, but were never activated long enough to meet current statutory requirements in order to attain veteran status. What this bill will not do is provide any additional veteran benefits that individuals retiring with at least 20 years are not already entitled to.

The next step is for H.R. 1025 to be considered by the full House of Representatives before moving on to the Senate for consideration. The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States applauds Congressman Walz's dedication to recognizing Title 32 soldiers and airmen as veterans after twenty years of service, and we look forward to working with the Congressman and his colleagues to advance the bill in the Senate.

### Report of Change of Contact

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW City, St, Zip+: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

NEW EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

RETIREES ONLY: IF NO INTERNET ACCESS, CHECK HERE: [ ]

Email or send to: WNGEA Executive Director, 2400 Wright St, Dist Box 45, Madison, WI 53704  
or [WNGEA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:WNGEA@YAHOO.COM)