



Action Alert

**Legislative Alert #112-8: SUPPORT S. 491 and H.R. 1025, The Honor America's
Guard-Reserve Retirees Act
VETERANS**

[Take Action!](#)

Issue Background: Retired members of the Guard and Reserve, and Members of Congress, may not know that a Reservist can successfully complete a Guard or Reserve career but not earn the title of "Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States," unless the member has served on Title 10 active duty for other than training purposes. Title 38 excludes from the definition of "Veteran career," those reservists who have not served on Title 10 active duty for other than training purposes. Drill training, annual training, active duty for training, and Title 32 duty are not deemed qualifying service to qualify for "Veteran" status. The Arizona State Legislature recently passed similar state legislation, HB 2165, which amends Arizona Revised Statues to specifically grant veteran's preference points in the public sector hiring process to members of the Reserve and National Guard who otherwise would not meet the Federal definition of "veteran."

Action Required: Contact your Senators and urge them to support consideration and passage of S. 491, introduced by Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR) on 4 March 2011, and H.R. 1025 (respectively), introduced by Representative Tim Walz (D-MN-01), that passed the House on 11 October 2011, which would amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law.

Details (To Be Put Into Letter):

On 11 October 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1025, a bill introduced by Representative Tim Walz (D-MN-01) which would authorize Veteran status under Title 38 for Guard and Reserve members of the Armed Forces who are entitled to a non-regular retirement under Chapter 1223 of 10 USC but were never called to active federal service during their careers, through no fault of their own. H.R. 1025 was sent to the Senate where it still awaits action by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Currently, as it exists in the U.S. Code, a reservist can successfully complete a Guard or Reserve career but not earn the title of, "Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States," unless the member has served on Title 10 active duty for other than training purposes. Title 38 excludes from the definition of "Veteran career," those reservists who have not served on Title 10 active duty for other than training purposes. Drill training, annual training, active duty for training, and Title 32 duty are not deemed qualifying service to qualify for "Veteran" status. For example, the service of our Guard and Reserve members serving in Operation Noble Eagle would not qualify them to earn the status of "Veterans of our Armed Forces" because it is technically a "training"

status.

The bills, S. 491 and H.R. 1025, would not bestow any benefits other than the honor of claiming Veteran status for those who honorably served and sacrificed as career Reserve Component members. Given their dedication and service, our Reserve Component deserves nothing less.

Take Action: You can e-mail the ‘Details’ section or edit as you desire. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use Contact Congress as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org.