

Florida Vets Lose \$58.72M Yearly as 54K Veterans Urges Action for 4,078 Combat Injured Retirees

With \$58M/yr at stake, advocates ask Scott & Moody to bypass Wicker objection using S.Amdt 4056 for 4,078 vets.

THE **WOUNDED** VETERAN **TAX**: BLEEDING FLORIDA VETERANS DRY

\$58,723,200 YEARLY LOSS



\$4,893,600 MONTHLY LOSS



4,078 FLORIDA VETS AFFECTED



**Senator Roger Wicker blocked the
Major Richard Star Act on Oct 8, 2025.**

**This "Wounded Warrior Tax"
siphons millions from our state
economy.**

FLORIDA VETERANS DESERVE THEIR FULL RETIREMENT PAY.

**DEMAND ACTION. SIGN THE PETITION:
change.org/54KVeterans**

Jacksonville, Florida Jan 1, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Florida's economy is losing more than \$58 million a year because the US Senate has not fixed a federal retirement offset that targets combat injured, medically retired veterans, according to new data released by advocates. Advocates say the legislation has stalled following an objection in the US Senate, leaving Florida families financially impacted.

There are 4,078 combat injured, medically retired veterans in Florida currently affected by the offset. Under current law, these veterans, who were retired early due to combat injuries, must waive their Department of Defense retired pay dollar for dollar to receive VA disability compensation.

At a conservative average of \$1,200 per month in lost retired pay per veteran, Florida loses approximately \$4,893,600 in economic activity every single month. That totals \$58,723,200 per year, money that should be supporting Florida mortgages, grocery stores, and small businesses.

"This isn't just a line item in a budget," said Senior Chief Shane Junkert, USN (Ret.), a decorated combat veteran leading the advocacy campaign. "This is \$300 a week that 4,078 Florida families earned through service and sacrifice, which the Senate is refusing to pay them."

Recent media coverage

A Mississippi news report has covered Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker's objection and the billboard campaign calling attention to the stalled legislation.

<https://youtu.be/zMYuPw4ELTA?si=26FSOF5n0MsQeuEF>

Florida is not just another state on the list. It is a backbone of America's global military reach. Home to US Central Command and US Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, as well as key hubs like Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, and Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida trains and houses some of the nation's highest tempo warfighters.

Many of the 4,078 veterans affected by this offset are the same special operators, aviators, and sailors who deployed from Florida bases to execute the nation's most dangerous missions. They returned home with combat injuries that ended their careers early, only to find the government they served is stripping away their earned retirement pay.

"Florida commands the wars, but when our troops come home broken, the Senate treats their retirement like a luxury item we cannot afford," Junkert said. "These are men and women who served in the highest tempo units in the military. To tell them \$58 million is too expensive while Washington passes massive defense spending bills is an insult to every service member in this state."

In 2021, Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker publicly described himself as a [cosponsor of the Major Richard Star Act](#) in a Memorial Day column, calling the fix a commonsense way to correct an injustice for combat injured retirees.

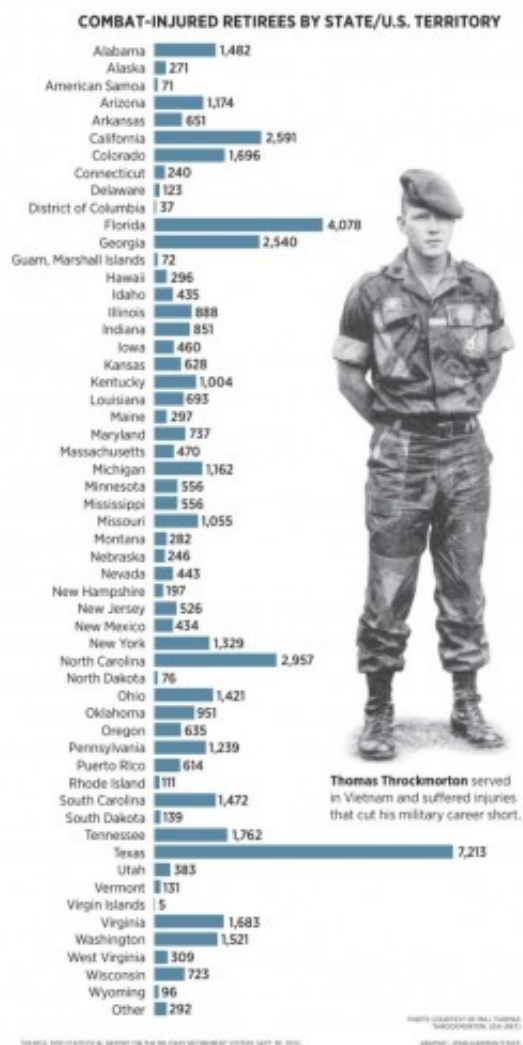
Next legislative steps

Florida Senators Rick Scott and Ashley Moody are being urged to publicly support [S.Amdt. 4056](#) as the vehicle to carry the Major Richard Star Act language in the defense funding process.

“Florida has one of the largest veteran populations in the country,” Junkert said. “When you cut their retirement, you hurt the entire state. Florida’s Senators have to fight for that \$58 million, not sit quietly while it is taken away.”

About 54KVeterans.org

[54KVeterans.org](#) is a grassroots coalition of combat injured veterans dedicated to passing the Major Richard Star Act to end the Chapter 61 retirement offset for eligible combat injured medical retirees.



Comb Span

Thomas Throckmorton served in Vietnam and suffered injuries that cut his military career short.

He healed again to help m people to

“Well, the doctor qu surgery. I serve a fe prematur

“I never fi the durati retired of retiremen pay. After were cut : shortchar

Because combat, I to benefi The bene generatic

“I’m ... at I to help m people to

While Cor for combi special cc come clot ton stress

“The thing is why, if I compens ceipt ... w

Media Contact

54k Veterans

*****@54Kveterans.org

817-771-3577

Source : 54K Veterans

[See on IssueWire](#)