

Tennessee Advocates Urge Senate Action For 1,762 Combat Injured Veterans

With \$25.3M/yr at stake, advocates urge Blackburn & Hagerty to bypass Wicker objection using S.Amdt 4056 for TN retirees.



Nashville, Tennessee Jan 1, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Tennessee's economy is losing more than \$25.3 million a year because the US Senate has not fixed a federal retirement offset that targets

combat injured, medically retired veterans, according to data released by veterans advocates. The loss traces back to a single Senate objection and the silence that followed it.

There are 1,762 combat injured, medically retired veterans in Tennessee currently affected. Under current law, these veterans must waive their Department of Defense retired pay dollar for dollar to receive VA disability compensation.

At a conservative average loss of \$1,200 per month in retired pay per veteran, Tennessee loses approximately \$2,114,400 every month, or \$25,372,800 per year—money that would otherwise circulate through households and local businesses. For affected families, this equates to \$300 a week missing from budgets for groceries, fuel, prescriptions, utilities, school expenses, and rent.

“One sentence in Washington is costing Tennessee families \$300 a week,” said Senior Chief Shane Junkert, USN (Ret.), founder of [54KVeterans.org](https://www.54KVeterans.org). “On paper, this bill has the support. In reality, one senator stopped it, and the Senate did not force a vote. Tennessee families are still paying the price.”

Recent media coverage

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMYuPw4ELTA>

In 2021, Senator Wicker publicly described himself as a cosponsor of the Major Star Act in a Memorial Day column, calling it a commonsense fix for combat injured retirees.

Tennessee’s military footprint

Tennessee is home to Fort Campbell, one of the Army’s highest-tempo formations, Naval Support Activity Mid South, and a broad network of Guard, Reserve, and veteran communities. Many of the 1,762 affected veterans trained, deployed, or served through these installations and returned home with combat injuries that ended their careers early.

“It is not acceptable for Tennessee to supply the force and then watch wounded retirees lose retirement pay that was earned through service,” Junkert said. “Imagine you’re a Tennessee veteran losing your monthly pension, and a senator from Mississippi does not even give your Tennessee senators a chance to restore it.”

Next legislative steps

Advocates are urging Tennessee Senators Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty to publicly support S.Amdt. 4056, the vehicle to carry the Major Star Act into the defense funding process.

“Tennessee should not have to wait on Mississippi Sen. Roger Wicker’s blockade to be lifted,” Junkert said.

About 54KVeterans.org

[54KVeterans.org](https://www.54KVeterans.org) is a grassroots coalition of combat injured veterans advocating for passage of the Major Star Act to end the Chapter 61 retirement offset for eligible combat injured medical retirees.

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

**\$25,372,800
YEARLY LOSS**

**\$2,114,400
MONTHLY LOSS**

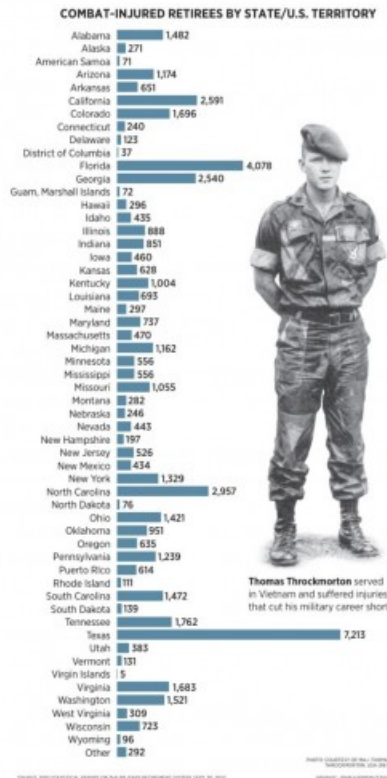
**1,762
TENNESSEE VETS
AFFECTED**

Blocked

Senator Roger Wicker blocked the Major Richard Star Act on Oct 8, 2025. This "Wounded Warrior Tax" siphons millions from our state economy.

**TENNESSEE VETERANS DESERVE
THEIR FULL RETIREMENT PAY.**

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



**ONE MAN BLOCKED
54,000 VETERANS**

It wasn't a vote. It was a veto.

**76 SENATORS
SUPPORTED IT**

76 Senators said YES.
Every Veteran Group said YES.

**1 SENATOR
BLOCKED IT**

Roger Wicker said NO.
One man stood between 54,000 veterans and their livelihood.

Break the Blockade. Sign the Petition:
change.org/54KVeterans #MajorStarAct #VeteranBetrayal

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Source : 54K Veterans

[See on IssueWire](https://www.issuewire.com)