

Veterans Groups Unite Behind Major Richard Star Act, Urge Senate Action

With VSOs and grassroots aligned, advocates urge Senate to bypass Wicker objection via S.Amdt. 4056 to restore benefits for 54,000 veterans.

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

Washington, D.C, District of Columbia Jan 1, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.Issuewire.com)) - Wounded veterans and major national veterans organizations have unified behind a single, targeted fix in federal law, stating that the only remaining barrier to enactment of the **Major Richard Star Act** is action by the United States Senate.

The Major Richard Star Act would end a retirement offset affecting approximately **54,000 combat-injured, medically retired veterans**. Under current law, many of these veterans see their Department of Defense retired pay reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount of VA disability compensation they receive, often eliminating their earned retirement pay entirely.

“Veterans service organizations have been asking Congress to fix this for years,” said **Senior Chief Shane Junkert, USN (Ret.)**, a decorated combat veteran and advocate with 54KVeterans.org. “There is no division among veterans or VSOs on this issue. The only unresolved question is when the Senate will allow a vote.”

A Narrow Fix, Not a New Benefit

Advocates emphasize that the Major Richard Star Act applies only to a specific group: veterans medically retired under **Chapter 61** due to combat-related injuries who did not reach 20 years of service. The legislation does not alter VA disability ratings, reduce benefits, or create a new entitlement.

Instead, the bill would allow eligible combat-injured medical retirees to receive both the military retired pay they earned through service and the VA disability compensation awarded for their injuries. Veterans who complete 20 years of service already receive both benefits under existing concurrent receipt law.

“Retired pay compensates service. Disability compensation addresses injury,” Junkert said. “They are established under different laws for different purposes. Treating them as the same has penalized the very veterans Congress says it wants to support.”

Broad Support Among Veterans Organizations

Major national veterans organizations — including **The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Disabled American Veterans (DAV)** — have consistently supported the Major Richard Star Act, describing the retirement offset as an inequity affecting combat-injured retirees.

Advocates say the alignment between VSOs and grassroots veterans is unusually strong, with no competing proposals or policy disputes surrounding the fix.

Veterans Funding Advocacy Efforts

In the absence of Senate action, groups of combat-injured veterans have begun funding advocacy efforts themselves. Through PassTheAct.org, small donations from veterans and their families have paid for billboards and public awareness campaigns, including in Mississippi, identifying the procedural block preventing a vote.

<https://youtu.be/zMYuPw4ELTA?si=Fy2EsseWt1ChaRX4>

A national petition at **Change.org/54KVeterans** has also collected signatures from veterans and families across the country calling on Congress to pass the legislation.

“These are veterans who already lost part of their income to this rule,” Junkert said. “Despite that, they are contributing what they can to make sure the issue is not ignored.”

Legislative Status and Path Forward

On **October 8, 2025**, Senator **Roger Wicker of Mississippi** objected to advancing the Major Richard Star Act by unanimous consent, preventing a recorded Senate vote. Senator Wicker has previously cited procedural concerns regarding the bill. Requests for comment from his office regarding the current amendment were not returned by publication time.

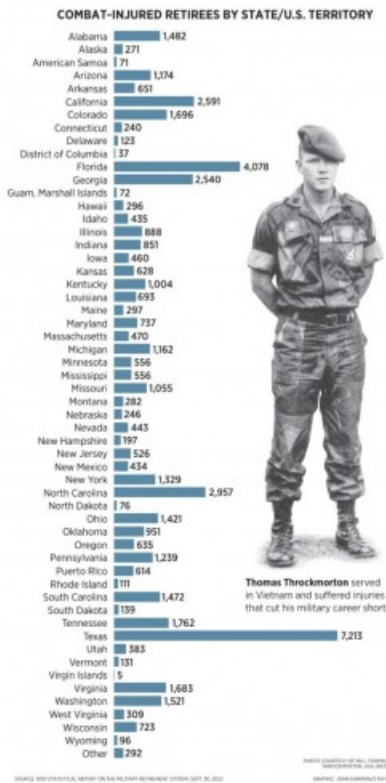
On **December 16, 2025**, Senator **Richard Blumenthal** filed **S.Amdt. 4056**, which would attach the Major Richard Star Act to defense appropriations legislation. Supporters argue the amendment provides a clear path to bypass the procedural objection and require an on-the-record Senate decision.

“S.Amdt. 4056 puts the issue where it belongs — before the full Senate,” Junkert said. “It will show whether senators stand with combat-injured retirees or with continued delay.”

About [54KVeterans.org](https://www.54KVeterans.org)

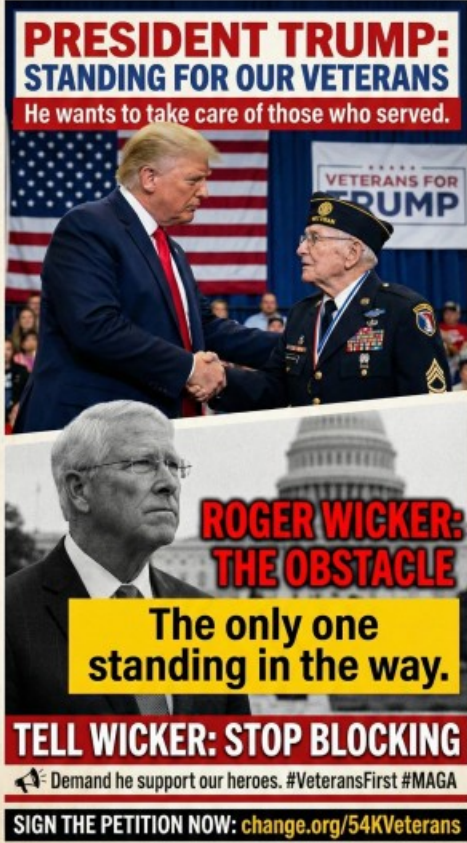
[54KVeterans.org](https://www.54KVeterans.org) is a grassroots coalition of combat-injured veterans advocating for passage of the Major Richard Star Act. The organization is led by Senior Chief Shane Junkert, USN (Ret.), a decorated combat veteran who completed six deployments during 18.5 years of service before being medically retired due to combat-related injuries. The coalition represents approximately **54,000 veterans nationwide** affected by the Chapter 61 retirement offset.





Comb

Thomas Throckmorton served in Vietnam and suffered injuries that cut his military career short. He healed again to arms fire. The helicopter was thrown on 24 places bullet wounds. "Well, the doctor told me surgery. I serve a few premature. "I never fit the duration of retirement pay. After were cut short because combat. To benefit the generation. "I'm... all to help people to. While for combat special come to stress. "The thin is why, if I compens cept ... W



PRESIDENT TRUMP:
STANDING FOR OUR VETERANS
He wants to take care of those who served.

ROGER WICKER:
THE OBSTACLE
The only one standing in the way.

TELL WICKER: STOP BLOCKING
Demand he support our heroes. #VeteransFirst #MAGA
SIGN THE PETITION NOW: change.org/54KVeterans

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Source : 54K Veterans

[See on IssueWire](#)