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February 11, 2019

The Honorable Walter B. Jones
U.S. House of Representatives
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Fax: (202)-225-3286

Dear Congressman Jones:

On behalf of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), I want to thank you reintroducing “The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act” (H.R. 464) which would authorize the retention of the full final month’s retired pay by the surviving spouse (or other designated survivor) for the month in which the member was alive for at least 24 hours.

As you know, many of our surviving spouses are unaware that the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) should be notified immediately on the death of the military retiree and are surprised to learn of this requirement. Those who had joint bank accounts, in which retirement payments were made electronically, gave little if any thought that DFAS could swoop down and recoup any overpayments of retirement pay from such accounts. This action could easily clear the account of any funds remaining whether they were retirement payments or money from other sources.

On behalf of our Association I would like to extend our appreciation for your unwavering support to this much needed legislation, and we will work with The Military Coalition (TMC) to gather cosponsor for HR 464. The FRA point of contact is John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs, at 703/683-1400 ext. 110; email john@fra.org.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. SNEE
National Executive Director

TJS:jd:dt