

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

Representing All Active Duty, Reserve, and Retired Enlisted Personnel of the U.S. NAVY ☆ U.S. MARINE CORPS ☆ U.S. COAST GUARD

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March 9, 2005

The Honorable Terry Everett U.S. House of Representatives 2312 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Everett,

On behalf of the FRA, I extend sincere gratitude for introducing H.R. 377, which significantly improves compensation for the families of service members who die in the line of duty.

The association strongly supports the intent of this legislation, but recommends that certain provisions be expanded. Specifically, the proposed \$100,000 death gratuity should be paid to survivors of all service members who die in the line of duty, not just those who die in Afghanistan and Iraq.

FRA also recommends the government provide \$100,000 in Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage to all members who elect \$300,000 in coverage for a total of \$400,000. This provision would serve as an incentive for members with families to elect the maxium SGLI coverage. The association also supports requiring spousal concurrence for election of less than the maximum coverage under SGLI.

FRA appreciates your efforts and applauds your continued and unwavering support of our military service members and their families.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH L. BARNES

National Executive Secretary

JLB:cjs:jhh