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

Fax: (202) 225-3286

Dear Representative Jones:

On behalf of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), I want to thank you for introducing "The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act" (H.R. 3011) 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.

Surviving spouses who are unaware that the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) should be notified immediately on the death of the military retiree 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.

The Association appreciates your attention to this much needed legislation and stands ready to assist you in its passage. The FRA point of contact is John Davis, Director of Legislative Programs, at the above numbers or (john@fra.org).

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. SNEE
National Executive Director

TJS:jd:tw