

Throughout the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, NAUS will identify and track certain bills that address issues important to our members. Over time the list will expand to include newly introduced bills replacing older or less comprehensive bills. We must do this because of space limitations. While we support any and all bills that lead towards the achievement of a legislative goal, we place the most emphasis on the more comprehensive bills. **Note:** While space limitations may preclude a special write up on a bill, it does not mean that no action is taking place on the bill. Readers are encouraged to write their members of congress to cosponsor and support the enactment of the bill's provisions. Also appearing will be some bills for information purposes to readers interested in the issue so that they can make their position known to their congressional delegations. During the legislative process, we can expect to see some of the provisions of both House and Senate stand-alone bills included in a bill that Congress sends to the President for his action. This is especially true about large authorization bills involving national defense or veterans' benefits.

The Library of Congress provides free online information concerning Congress and the legislative process through a website named THOMAS, located at [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov). This is an easy to use tool to help you track bills in which you are interested but we do not list due to space limitations. This is especially true about bills involving veterans' issues. For veteran bill tracking we recommend you go to the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs websites at [veterans.senate.gov](http://veterans.senate.gov) or [veterans.house.gov](http://veterans.house.gov). THOMAS also provides access to other congressional committees for you to do independent research. The dates in each summary generally denote the time of the bill's introduction.

### Defense

**H.R. 24** – (340 Cosponsors), Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-NC), 1/6/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. **Companion Bill: S. 504** – (No Cosponsors), Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS), 02/27/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.*

**H.R. 206** – (8 Cosponsors), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), 1/6/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Improve the readiness of State defense forces and to increase military coordination for homeland security between the States and the Department of Defense.

**H.R. 296** – (7 Cosponsors), Rep. Steve Buyer (R-IN), 1/8/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Revise the process by which a member of the Armed Forces is retired for disability and becomes eligible for retirement pay.

**H.R. 593** – (44 Cosponsors), Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA), 1/15/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Expand the authorized concurrent receipt of disability severance pay from the Department of Defense and compensation for the same disability under any law administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover all veterans who have a combat-related disability.

**H.R. 707** – (241 Cosponsors), Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL), 1/27/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Provide monthly vouchers to members of the Armed Forces serving in overseas operations or hospitalized due to a disease or injury incurred as a result of service in such operations, that a member may transfer to another person to permit the person to mail, without charge, correspondence and small parcels to members of the Armed Forces.

**H.R. 816** – (192 Cosponsors), Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX), 2/3/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Extends moratorium on all TRICARE fees and Prescription copay increases.

**H.R. 1182** – (193 Cosponsors), Rep. Jon Carter (R-TX), 02/25/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency.

**Companion Bill: S. 475** – (44 Cosponsors), Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) – 05/21/09 – *Ordered to be reported by Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Signed by President 11/11/09 and became Public Law 111-97.*

**H.R. 1308** – (47 Cosponsors), Rep. Mike McMahon (D-NY), 03/04/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Direct the Secretary of Defense to adopt a program of professional and confidential screenings to detect mental health injuries and ultimately reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans.

**H.R. 1592** – (No Cosponsors), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), 03/18/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Guarantee a pay increase for members of the uniformed services for fiscal years 2011 through 2014 of one-half of one percentage point higher than the Employment Cost Index.

**H.R. 1633** – (35 Cosponsors), Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN), 03/19/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Authorize a member of the Armed Forces to designate anyone as the person authorized to direct disposition of the remains of the member if the member dies on active duty.

**H.R. 1701** – (11 Cosponsors), Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC), 03/25/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Directs the Secretary of Defense to establish a special review board for certain former members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder or a traumatic brain injury.

**H.R. 1864** – (66 Cosponsors), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), 04/01/09 – *Referred to House committee on Armed Services.* Provide a pay increase of 3.4 percent for members of the uniformed services for fiscal year 2010.

**H.R. 2302** – (5 Cosponsors), Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), 05/07/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Limit recoupment of separation pay, special separation benefits, and voluntary separation incentive from members of the Armed Forces subsequently receiving retired or retainer pay. **Companion Bill: S. 1008** – (4 Cosponsors), Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), 05/07/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.*

**H.R. 2647** – Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO), 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. Authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of

Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes. **Signed by President on 10/28/09 and became Public Law 111-84.**

**S. 66** – (2 Cosponsors), Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI), 1/6/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.* Permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft.

**S. 67** – (No Cosponsors), Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI), 1/6/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.* Authorize certain disabled former prisoners of war to use Department of Defense commissary and exchange stores.

### Flag Amendment

**H.J.Res. 47** – (78 Cosponsors), Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), 4/30/09 – *Referred to House Committee on the Judiciary.* A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving Congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. **Companion Bill: S.J. Res. 15** – (26 Cosponsors), Sen. David Vitter (R-LA), 05/06/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary.*

### Guard & Reserve

**H.R. 208** – (119 Cosponsors), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), 1/6/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Ensure that members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who have served on active duty or performed active service since Sept. 11, 2001, in support of a contingency operation or in other emergency situations receive credit for such service in determining eligibility for early receipt of non-regular service retired pay. **Companion Bill: S. 644** – (13 Cosponsors), Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), 03/19/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.*

**H.R. 270** – (70 Cosponsors), Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH), 1/7/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Provide for continuity of TRICARE Standard coverage for certain members of the Retired Reserve. **Companion Bill: S. 731** – (21 Cosponsors), Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE), 03/26/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.* (Gray-Area Retirees)

**H.R. 1695** – (48 Cosponsors), Rep. Frank Lobiondo (R-NJ), 03/24/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Reduce the minimum age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55.

**S. 262** – (3 Cosponsor), Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA), 1/15/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.* Improve and enhance the operations of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve mobilization and demobilization processes of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

**H.R. 1798** – (1 Cosponsor), Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), 10/19/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.* Provide for the automatic enrollment of demobilizing members

of the National Guard and Reserve in health care and dental care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

### MGIB & Educational Benefits

**H.R. 114** – (No Cosponsors), Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), 1/6/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Allow veterans to elect to use, with the approval of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, certain financial education assistance to establish and operate certain businesses.

**H.R. 3337** – (16 Cosponsors), Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), 7/12/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Provide for the use of entitlement under Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Program for the pursuit of apprenticeships and on-job training.

### NOAA

**H.R. 300** – (No Cosponsors), Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI), 1/8/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources.* Provide for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

### Coast Guard

**H.R. 3619** – (1 Cosponsor), Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN), 11/2/09 – *Placed on the calendar.* Authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010.

### Health Care & Medicare

**H.R. 237** – (2 Cosponsors), Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), 1/7/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit to military retirees for premiums paid for coverage under Medicare Part B.

**H.R. 484** – (38 Cosponsors), Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL), 1/13/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic healthcare services and benefits for certain new beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

**H.R. 667** – (43 Cosponsors), Rep. John Salazar (D-CO), 1/23/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Improve the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury in members and former members of the Armed Forces, to review and expand telehealth and telemental health programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**H.R. 917** – (1 Cosponsors), Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY), 2/9/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Increase the health benefits of dependents of members of the Armed Forces who die because of a combat-related injury.

### Social Security

**H.R. 235** – (312 Cosponsors), Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), 1/7/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* Amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions. **Companion**

**Bill: S. 484** – (30 Cosponsors), Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA), 2/25/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.*

**H.R. 238** – (No Cosponsors), Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), 1/7/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to provide for an improved benefit computation formula for workers affected by the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977 who attain age 65 during the 10-year period after 1981 and before 1992 (and related beneficiaries) and to provide prospectively for increases in their benefits accordingly. (Social Security Notch)

**H.R. 2365** – (54 Cosponsors), Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), 05/12/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* Require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increase for Social Security and Medicare benefits.

**S. 86** – (1 Cosponsor), Sen. David Vitter (R-LA), 1/6/08 – *Referred to Senate Committee on the Budget.* Establish a procedure to safeguard the Social Security Trust Funds.

## Taxes

**H.R. 147** – (87 Cosponsors), Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY), 1/6/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their income tax payment to provide assistance to homeless veterans.

**H.R. 161** – (7 Cosponsors), Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), 1/6/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 increase in taxes on Social Security benefits.

**H.R. 309** – (1 Cosponsor), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), 1/8/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain current and former service members to receive a refundable credit for the purchase of a principal residence.

**H.R. 322** – (1 Cosponsors), Rep. Gene Green (D-TX), 1/8/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* Amend Title II of the Social Security Act to remove the limitation upon the amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving benefits under such title.

**H.R. 1203** – (201 Cosponsors), Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), 02/25/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.* Allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

**Companion Bill: S. 491** – (46 Cosponsors), Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA), 02/25/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.*

**H.R. 1221** – (19 Cosponsors), Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), 02/26/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* Amend Social Security Act to repeal the windfall elimination provision and protect the retirement of public servants.

**H.R. 1276** – (5 Cosponsors), Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS), 03/03/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* Amend Social Security Act to ensure that the receipts and dis-

bursements of the Social Security Trust funds are not included in a unified Federal budget. (Lock-Box)

**H.R. 1624** – (5 Cosponsors), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), 03/19/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.* A tax exclusion on active duty military pay up to the highest rate paid for an E1 pay grade.

**S. 207** – (No Cosponsors), Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), 01/12/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.* Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for health insurance premiums.

## Veterans

**H.R. 23** – (168 Cosponsors), Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), 5/12/09 – *Passed by House and Senate.* Direct the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II.

**Companion Bill: S. 663** – (47 Cosponsors), Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE), 03/19/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*

**H.R. 84** – (No Cosponsors), Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL), 1/6/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Establish standards of access to care for veterans seeking health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**H.R. 190** – (1 Cosponsor), Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), 1/6/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Ensure that veterans in each of the 48 contiguous States are able to receive services in at least one full-service hospital of the Veterans Health Administration in the State or receive comparable services by contract in the State.

**Companion Bill: S. 239** – (1 cosponsor), Sen. Jean Shaheen (D-NH), 1/14/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*

**H.R. 293** – (13 Cosponsors), Rep. Steve Buyer (R-IN), 1/8/09 – *Referred to House Committee Veterans' Affairs.* Direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a grant program to provide reintegration services through programs and facilities that emphasize services for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

**H.R. 297** – (9 Cosponsors), Rep. Steve Buyer (R-IN), 1/8/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Provide for an increase in the amount of subsistence allowance payable by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans participating in vocational rehabilitation programs.

**H.R. 403** – (41 Cosponsors), Rep. Al Green (D-TX), 6/16/09 – *Passed by House and sent to Senate.* Provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans.

**H.R. 950** – (17 Cosponsors), Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), 2/10/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Increase educational assistance for certain veterans pursuing a program of education offered through distance learning.

**H.R. 1016** – (125 Cosponsors), Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), 06/23/09 – *Signed by President 10/22/09 and became Public Law 111-81.* Provide advance appropriations authority for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**H.R. 1171** – (4 Cosponsors), Rep. John Boozman (R-AR), 02/25/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*

## Bills Pending in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress

Reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program for fiscal years 2010-2014. On 3/30/09 passed in House and sent to Senate. *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.*

**H.R. 1211** – (51 Cosponsors), Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-SD), 02/26/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Expand and improve healthcare services available to women veterans, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, especially those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**H.R. 1256** – (178 Cosponsors), Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), 06/22/09, – **Signed into law by President; became P.L. 111-31.** Protect the public by providing Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products. Bill also contains a provision to increase the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA).

**H.R. 2342** – (1 Cosponsors), Rep. Mike Michaud (D-ME), 05/11/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a family caregiver program to furnish support services to family members certified as family caregivers. **Companion Bill: S. 801** – (27 Cosponsors), Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), 9/25/09 – *Placed on Senate Calendar.*

**H.R. 2243** – (72 Cosponsors), Rep. Steve Buyer (R-IN), 5/5/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Provide for an increase in the amount of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Companion Bill: S. 1118** – (3 Cosponsors), Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), 5/21/09 – *Hearing held by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on 10/21/09.*

**H.R. 3155** – (9 Cosponsors), Rep. Mike Muchaud (D-ME), 7/27/09 – *Passed by Full House and sent to the Senate.* Provide certain caregivers of veterans with training, support and medical care.

**H.R. 3365** – (28 Cosponsors), Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), 7/31/09 – *Referred to house Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health.* Provide Medicare payments to Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities for items and services provided to Medicare-eligible veterans for non-service-connected conditions. (Medicare Subvention)

**H.R. 3403** – (4 Cosponsors), Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), 7/30/09 – *Referred to House Committees on Education, Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration.* Provide leave for family members of members of regular components of the Armed Forces and leave to care for covered veterans.

**H.R. 3407** – (21 Cosponsors), Rep. Steve Buyer (R-IN), 7/30/09 – *Referred to house Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Make certain improvements to laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to benefits for severely injured veterans and for other purposes.

**H.R. 3886** – (No Cosponsors), Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), 10/21/09 – *Referred to house Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse

certain volunteers who provide funeral honors details at the funerals of veterans.

**H.R. 4045** – (40 Cosponsors), Rep. Shelly Berkley (D-NV), 11/06/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Increase burial benefits for veterans.

**H.R. 4073** – (11 Cosponsors), Rep. John Hall (D-NY), 11/19/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Also known as the Rural Veterans Reimbursement Act. Increase the payments to certain veterans for certain travel expenses.

**S. 263** – (3 Cosponsor), Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA), 1/15/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Improve the enforcement of the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. **Companion Bill: H.R. 1474** – (28 Cosponsors), Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL), 3/12/2009 – *Referred to Military Personnel Subcommittee.*

**S. 404** – (1 Cosponsor), Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), 2/10/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Expand veteran eligibility for reimbursement of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for emergency treatment furnished in a non-Department facility. **Companion Bill: H.R. 1377** – (2 Cosponsors), Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), 03/31/2009 – *Passed in House and referred to Senate.* Expand veteran eligibility for reimbursement for emergency treatment in a non-VA medical facility.

**S. 543** – (14 Cosponsors), Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), 03/06/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Require a pilot program on training, certification and support for family caregivers of seriously disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces to provide caregiver services to such veterans and members.

**S. 1963** – (5 Cosponsors), Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), 10/28/09 – **Passed by Senate and sent to House on 11/19/09.** Provide assistance to caregivers of veterans, to improve the provision of health care to veterans.

### Pay & Compensation

**H.R. 108** – (8 Cosponsors), Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), 1/6/09 – *Referred to House Subcommittee on Military Personnel.* Extend military commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans with a compensable service-connected disability and their dependents.

**H.R. 303** – (119 Cosponsors), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), 1/8/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

**H.R. 333** – (119 Cosponsors), Rep. Jim Marshall (D-GA), 1/8/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-

connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service.

**H.R. 394** – (1 Cosponsors), Rep. Henry Brown (R-SC), 1/9/09 – *Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of the Medal of Honor special pension by up to \$1000.

**H.R. 423** – (No Cosponsors), Rep. John Mica (R-FL), 1/9/09 – *Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.* Provide compensation for certain World War II veterans who survived the Bataan Death March and were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese.

**H.R. 613** – (59 Cosponsors), Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC), 1/21/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces following their death.

**H.R. 775** – (304 Cosponsors), Rep. Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), 1/28/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.* Repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan to offset the receipt of veterans dependency and indemnity compensation. **Companion Bill: S. 535** – (54 Cosponsors), Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL), 03/05/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.*

**H.R. 810** – (No Cosponsors), Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), 2/3/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Reduce from age 57 to age 55 the age after which the remarriage of the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran shall not result in termination of dependency and indemnity compensation otherwise payable to that surviving spouse.

**H.R. 1591** – (9 Cosponsors), Rep. John Adler (D-NJ), 03/18/2009 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Clarify that the United States may not recover or collect any changes from a third party for hospital care or medical services provided by the VA to a veteran for a service-connected disability.

**H.R. 2254** – (217 Cosponsors), Rep. Bob Filner (D-CA), 06/05/09 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.* Clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam.

**H.R. 2270** – (6 Cosponsors), Rep. Steve Buyer (R-IN), 06/03/09 – *Forwarded to full House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Committee by the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.* Provide for the establishment of a compensation fund to make payments to qualified World War II veterans on the basis of certain qualifying service.

**S. 546** – (44 Cosponsors), Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), 03/09/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services.* Permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat Related Special Compensation.

**S. 801** – (24 Cosponsors), Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-FL), 05/21/09 – *Ordered to be reported by Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.* Enhance veterans' insurance benefits.

**Companion Bill: H.R. 2342** – (1 Cosponsors), Rep. Mike Michaud (D-ME), 05/15/2009 – *Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health.*

**S. 1444** – (No Cosponsors), Sen. John Kerry (D-MA), 7/13/09 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify meaning of "combat with the enemy" for purpose of service-connection of disabilities.

## Voting Rights

**H.R. 2393** – (43 Cosponsor), Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), 06/10/09 – *Ordered to be reported by House Committee on House Administration.* Amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Voting Act to improve procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters. **Companion Bill: S. 1026** – (34 Cosponsors), Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), 05/12/2009 – *Referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.*

**H.R. 3473** – (No Cosponsor), Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL), 07/31/09 – *Referred to House Committee on House Administration.* Direct the Presidential designee under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to carry out pilot programs to permit States to test the feasibility of using alternative methods, including the use of advanced electronic technologies and the Internet, to enable absent uniformed services voters to register to vote and vote in elections for Federal office.

**S. 1415** – (59 Cosponsors), Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY), 07/16/09 – *Reported to full Senate from Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.* Amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to ensure that absent uniformed services absentee voters and overseas voters are aware of their voting rights and have a genuine opportunity to register to vote and have their absentee ballots cast and counted. This bill was added as an amendment to the Senate version of the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act S. 1390.

### Former NAUS Staffer Max Beilke

Max Beilke was a long-time NAUS staff member who was working in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, and was killed by the terrorist attack, which slammed an airplane into the building. Max was the oldest person killed at the Pentagon that day. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

**NAUS encourages you to ask your elected officials to support the two below listed bills:**

**H.R. 3157** – (7 Cosponsors), Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN), 07/09/09 – *Referred to the House committee on Veterans' Affairs.* Designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, as the "**Max J. Beilke Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic.**"

**Companion Bill: S. 1483** – (1 Cosponsor), Sen. Amy Klobucher (D-MN), 07/21/2009 – *Referred to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.* **Hearing held by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee on 10/29/09.**