



**MARY JANE WILKINSON
LASALLE COUNTY CLERK**

June 20th, 2005

Congressman Jerry Weller
2701 Black Road, Ste. 201
Joliet, IL 60432

Dear Congressman Weller:

Enclosed please find a certified copy of Resolution #05-79 that was passed by the LaSalle County Board on June 13th, 2005 stating that the LaSalle County Board totally supports Congressman Weller's "COMBAT MILITARY MEDICALLY RETIRED VETERAN'S FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005 (H.R. 995) and strongly urges our Illinois United States Congressional Representatives to co-sponsor and pass H.R. 995.

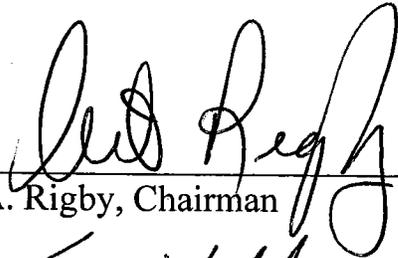
If you may have any questions in regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Mary Jane Wilkinson
LaSalle County Clerk &
Ex Officio Clerk of the
LaSalle County Board

MJW/clc

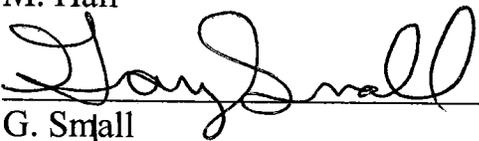
We, the undersigned members of the VAC & Information Technology Committee, do hereby recommend to the LaSalle County Board for approval of the attached Resolution.

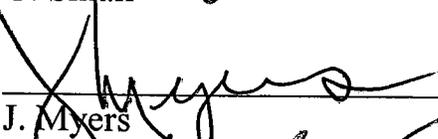

A. Rigby, Chairman

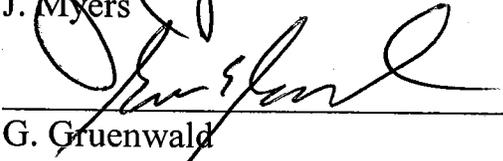

T. Walsh


J. Panzica


M. Hall


G. Small


J. Myers


G. Gruenwald

RESOLUTION

(#05-79)

WHEREAS, one of LaSalle County Board's goal is to see that the needs of our veterans and especially those who have fought our wars, barring the scars or losing their limbs are met. Our wounded combat soldiers only make up a small percentage of our military personnel, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense chooses to place our war wounded soldier on military medical retirement for their combat disabilities, paying an amount of retirement pension based on their years of service and rank as opposed to keeping them in the Armed Forces. In many instances, the combat wounded soldiers' medical retirement pension is higher per month than their service-connected disability compensation check from the Department of Veterans Affairs. For example, they may be military medically retired from the United States military as 100% service-connected for seven different service-connected disabilities and only be rated at 60% combined from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for the same disabilities, and

WHEREAS, most of these severely disabled combat veterans will not be able to procure employment as a result of the workman's compensation laws, which hold our corporations liable for all injuries of workers even if the injury is a direct result of their service-connected disabilities even if the service-connected disabled veteran signed a waiver to that effect. The signing of such a waiver would be considered as signing under duress, and

WHEREAS, Congressman Jerry Weller realizing this true travesty to our combat military medically retired war veterans has introduced in the 109th Congress H.R. 995, which is cited as the "COMBAT MILITARY MEDICALLY RETIRED VETERANS' FAIRNESS ACT of 2005", which would exempt those severely wounded combat veteran from the 20 years of service requirement in order to be eligible for "CONCURRENT RECEIPT". We must have all county board members and their friends contact our Illinois United States congressional representatives asking that they immediately co-sponsor H.R. 995.

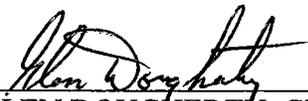
WHEREAS, proponents for "CONCURRENT RECEIPT" have argued that retirement pay is for those who are military retired, coming from the Department of Defense, and service-connected disability pay is for disabilities which incurred in service, which comes from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. They further argue that retired pay is earned by your sacrifices made while in uniform and compensation is for the impact of a service-connected disability on "future life and earning powers", and

WHEREAS, to further strengthen their argument for "Concurrent Receipt" they use the example of asking "How can the sacrifice of two legs and an arm be considered equivalent to being paid for performing honorable military service....." They are using an example that for the most part would only happen to the combat soldier and that person would not be permitted to remain in the military for 20 years or more because they could not pass the physical requirements or military readiness standards, and

WHEREAS, in accordance to the AMERICAN LEGION DISPATCH dated December 20, 2002 pertaining to "CONCURRENT RECEIPT" legislation, they state that it would affect 550,000 disabled veterans, but when the representatives amended it to require those retirees to have disabilities incurred because of wounds sustained in combat those affected fell to an estimated 30,000 retirees. This further illustrates that very few career military personnel have served on the frontlines of combat, so we should not disgrace ourselves by excluding our military medically retired from being included in an "CONCURRENT RECEIPT" legislation, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LaSalle County Board totally supports Congressman Weller's "COMBAT MILITARY MEDICALLY RETIRED VETERAN'S FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005 (H.R. 995) and strongly urges our Illinois United States Congressional Representatives to co-sponsor and pass H.R. 995.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to our entire elected Illinois United States Congressional senators and representatives.



GLEN DOUGHERTY, Chairman

ATTEST:



County Clerk

DATED: JUNE 13, 2005

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF LASALLE

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) SS.
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CERTIFICATE OF COPY

I, MARY JANE WILKINSON, County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of the LaSalle County Board within and for said County and State aforesaid, Do Hereby Certify the foregoing to be a true and complete copy of a Resolution approved by the LaSalle County Board of LaSalle County on the 13th day of June, A.D., 2005.

The original of which has been recorded in the Official Proceedings of the LaSalle County Board of LaSalle County and that I am the legal custodian of the same.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my hand and fixed the seal of said County, at my office in the City of Ottawa, Illinois, this June 20th, 2005.



Mary Jane Wilkinson

County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of the
LaSalle County Board

(LASALLE COUNTY SEAL)