

News Release

**Roscoe Bartlett**

Representing the 6th District of Maryland

Committees: Armed Services, Science, & Small Business



## Update on Initiatives Affecting Veterans and Military Retirees

- **HR 5037 – Respect for Fallen Heroes Act** – Legislation to prohibit disrespectful demonstrations at cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration and at Arlington National Cemetery. Passed by both House and Senate, signed into law by President Bush
- **HR 42 - The Freedom to Display the American Flag Act of 2005** – Introduced by Congressman Bartlett, this law will ensure the right of an individual to display the flag of the United States at their home. The House approved it on June 27. The Senate approved it on July 17. It was the first of ten on the American Values Agenda announced by the House Congressional leadership signed into law by President Bush.
- **S 1235 – Veterans’ Housing Opportunity and Benefits Improvement Act of 2006** - Legislation to provide adaptive housing assistance to disabled veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member and to make direct housing loans to Native American veterans; make modifications to the Advisory Committee on Veterans Employment and Training within the Department of Labor; provide Life and Health Insurance coverage to certain veterans and their family members; and for other purposes. Passed both Senate and House, signed by President Bush into law.
- **HR 1220 – Veterans Cost of Living Adjustment Act** – Cosponsored by Congressman Bartlett, this bill was signed into law on November 22, 2005. Effective December 1, 2005, the rates of disability compensation was increased for veterans with service-connected disabilities. Also increased were rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans.
- **HR 3625 – the Bartlett-Montgomery GI Bill** – Congressman Bartlett introduced this legislation to modernize the education benefits for servicemembers. This bill would allow servicemembers to transfer any unused portion of their GI benefits to their dependents. If transfer is elected, the eligibility period would be extended from 10 to 15 years. It would provide benefits for Guard and Reserve with 2 years cumulative not consecutive service in a five-year period.

Congressman Bartlett supports full concurrent receipt now and end to the unfair Survivor Benefit Program Offset with Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. In addition, Congressman Bartlett supports paid-up Survivor Benefits.