

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2005

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hunter and Ranking Member Skelton:

We write to respectfully seek your consideration for a hearing of the Armed Services Committee on H.R. 948, to amend Title 10, United States Code, to provide that members of the National Guard who served in the counties declared Federal disaster areas in response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, and who served under State duty so that they could immediately assist in the response to the terrorist attacks should have that service counted as Federal active duty for purposes of military retirement credit.

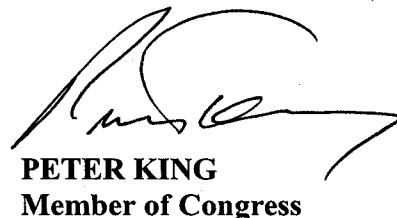
The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were an unprecedented event in American history. At Ground Zero in New York City and the Pentagon in Virginia, thousands of first responders, including members of the National Guard, worked during the following days and weeks to help with the rescue, cleanup, and security efforts. Several hundred members of the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry responded to the World Trade Center site, but were not serving under federal active duty. As a result, these days of service do not count toward their military retirement credit. However, other Companies in the 1st Battalion were activated under federal duty and served at West Point to help with its security. Because *all* of these National Guard members clearly aided in the federal response, we strongly believe that they should have those days counted toward their military retirement credit.

Our legislation will ensure that the members of the National Guard who responded in the counties that were declared disasters because of the terrorist attacks will receive federal military retirement credit for that service regardless if they were serving under federal or state active duty. We would deeply appreciate your sponsorship of this legislation and your consideration for a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee on this issue. We are sure that you agree that this would be a substantive way to show our gratitude to these brave men and women by giving them the retirement benefits to which they are entitled.

Please feel free to contact us at your convenience on this matter, or our staff members appointed to assist with this legislation, Jennifer Keaton with Representative Maloney at 5-7944 or Adam Paulson with Representative King at 5-7896. Thank you in advance for your consideration and response to this request.


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


PETER KING
Member of Congress