

provision in the Senate Defense authorization bill allowing so-called concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability pay by disabled military retirees.

Some officials have been quoted in recent newspaper articles as stating that retired pay and disability pay are "two pays for the same event" and that receiving both would be "double-dipping" not permitted other retirees. These statements are simply not true.

Career military retired veterans are the only group of Federal retirees required to waive their retirement pay in order to receive VA disability. Other Federal retirees get both disability and retirement pay.

This antiquated law that denies our veterans concurrent receipt in effect implies wrongly and unfairly that disabled military retirees neither need nor deserve the full compensation they earned for their 20 or more years served in uniform.

Military retirement pay and disability compensation are earned for entirely different purposes and therefore a disabled veteran should be allowed to receive both. Current law ignores the distinction between these two benefits.

Military retired pay is earned compensation for the extraordinary demands and sacrifices inherent in a military career. It is a reward promised for serving two decades or more under conditions that most Americans find intolerable.

Veterans' disability compensation, on the other hand, is recompense for pain, suffering, and lost future earning power caused by a service-connected illness or injury. Few retirees can afford to live on their retired pay alone, and a severe disability only makes the problem worse by limiting or denying any postservice working life. A retiree shouldn't have to forfeit part or all of his or her earned retired pay as a result of having suffered a service-connected disability.

Likewise, the administration's assertion that if concurrent receipt passes "1.2 million veterans could qualify" for extra payments is simply not credible. The Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs previously informed Congress that about 550,000 disabled retirees would qualify if the Senate concurrent receipt plan were approved. But the new administration speculation that an additional 700,000 might apply for and be granted disability ratings is an unfounded exaggeration.

The administration's argument that funding benefits for America's disabled veterans would hurt current military personnel is also misleading. Congress is not cutting funding for those who are now serving our country in order to provide benefits for those from previous generations who served loyally and made tremendous sacrifices. Congress will appropriate the money to pay for it.

Enacting my concurrent receipt legislation will not cause service members

to live in substandard quarters, as some Defense leaders try to claim in a misguided attempt to turn one generation of patriots against others.

Moreover, at a time when our Nation is calling upon our Armed Forces to defend democracy and freedom, we must be careful not to send the wrong signal to those now in uniform. All who have selected to make their career in the U.S. military now face an additional unknown risk in our fight against terrorism. If they are injured, they would be forced to forego their earned retired pay in order to receive their VA disability compensation. In effect, they would be paying for their own disability benefits from their retirement checks unless my legislation is enacted.

We must send a signal to these brave men and women that the American people and Government take care of those who make sacrifices for our Nation. We have a unique opportunity this year to redress the unfair practice of requiring disabled military retirees to fund their own disability compensation. It is time for us to show our appreciation to these men and women.

Finally the assertion that the veterans who would benefit from concurrent receipt are already doing well financially is ridiculous. NBC News recently aired three news stories documenting the dire situation that veterans are facing today. The Pentagon has acknowledged that its studies of retiree income included very few seriously disabled retirees.

On July 8, 2002, I sent a letter to the President urging him to support the inclusion of a concurrent receipt provision in the final Defense Authorization Act. Our veterans have heard enough excuses. Now it is time for them to receive the benefits they earned.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER DAVID G. MANERO, U.S. NAVY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding Naval Officer, Commander Dave Manero, for the tremendous work he has done as a member of my staff during the second session of the 107th Congress. It is my privilege to recognize his many career accomplishments and to commend him for the superb service he has provided the Navy, the great State of Mississippi, and our Nation.

Commander Manero is the son of Carmen and Rosemary Manero of Highland Park, NJ. He earned his commission through NROTC at the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He received his Wings of Gold from Helicopter Training Squadron Eight at NAS Whiting Field, FL, on July 7, 1989.

Following flight school, Commander Manero reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light, HSL, 41 where he received training in the SH-60B Seahawk with a follow-on tour at

the HSL-45 'Wolfpack.' While assigned to the Wolfpack, he deployed in USS *Paul F. Foster*, DD-964, as Detachment One Operations Officer in support of Operation Desert Storm. During the Gulf War, he worked in close coordination with British Lynx helicopters in the destruction of six hostile surface combatants. He subsequently cruised as Detachment Three Maintenance Officer embarked in USS *Jarrett*, FFG-33, in support of Operation Southern Watch. He was presented with the 1991 Naval Helicopter Association national "Aircraft of the Year" and the 1993 Wolfpack "Officer of the Year" awards.

Commander Manero's next assignment included selection for the Navy's Advanced Education Program where he attended a two-year Masters Program at Harvard University. He graduated in 1995 with a Master of Public Policy specializing in International Affairs and Security. After graduate school, Commander Manero was assigned as Flag Lieutenant, Commander Carrier Group ONE located in San Diego, CA. He deployed to the South Pacific embarked in USS *Blue Ridge*, LCC-19, and Arabian Gulf in USS *Carl Vinson*, CVN-70, as a member of the fly-away Joint Forces Air Component Commander's staff.

Commander Manero returned again to the East Coast where he attended the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School and graduated in December 1997 with Class 112. In January 1998, he reported in to the Naval Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Squadron in Patuxent River, MD where he served as a Test Pilot and as the Sea-Control Department Head. A Member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, he has accumulated over 2800 flight hours in over 30 different aircraft types.

In May 1999, Commander Manero reported to the HSL-43 'BattleCats' where he served as Training Officer, Detachment Officer-in-Charge and Squadron Maintenance Officer. Prior to his detachment from his department head tour, he was selected for Commander and was nominated for the prestigious 'John Paul Jones Inspirational Leadership' award. Dave is currently assigned as a Legislative Fellow on my staff and has made tremendous contributions towards shaping our Navy's future through the DD(X), Littoral Combat Ship, LHD, and LHR programs. He also was instrumental in securing over \$108 million in Military Construction funding for Mississippi. I offer my sincere congratulations for Dave's recent selection to command. He will depart my staff in December to take command of a squadron in mid-2004.

Throughout his most distinguished career, Dave has served the United States Navy and our Nation with pride and excellence. His awards include the Air Medal, two Strike Flight, the Navy Commendation Medal, five, two with Combat Valor distinction, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and numerous other campaign and unit distinctions.

Commander Dave Manero has been an integral member of my staff and has contributed greatly to the best-trained, best-equipped, and best-prepared naval force in the history of the world. Dave's superb leadership, integrity, and limitless energy have had a profound impact on my entire staff and will continue to positively impact the United States Navy and our Nation. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish Dave, his wife Justina, and their children Michael and Elizabeth "Fair Winds and Following Seas" and the best of luck in their bright future.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES B. HECKER, U.S. AIR FORCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding Air Force officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jim "Scorch" Hecker, upon his departure from my staff. Lieutenant Colonel Hecker was selected as an Air Force Fellow to work in my office during the Second Session of the 107th Congress due to his professional reputation and superior knowledge of Defense issues, the United States Air Force requirements process, and the military presence in my home State. He has been a valued team member and it is a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and the superior service he has provided the United States Senate, the Air Force, and our Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel Hecker, the son of Rick Hecker and Cindy Walker, was a graduate of the Air Force Academy where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. Since then, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker has spent the majority of his career patrolling the world's skies as an Air Force fighter pilot. Following flight training, he began his service flying the F-15C "Eagle" in the 8th Fighter Squadron, 49th Tactical Fighter Wing at Holloman AFB, NM. When the F-15C's left Holloman AFB, so did Lieutenant Colonel Hecker. He was reassigned to the 390th Fighter Squadron, 366th Wing, Mountain Home AFB, ID. During this tour, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker was instrumental in bedding down the F-15C aircraft in the first Composite Wing in the Air Force. After this tour, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker attended the Air Force Weapons School at Nellis AFB, NV with a follow-on tour at the 44th Fighter Squadron, 18th Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. As the squadron Weapons Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker was the lead pilot responsible for preparing the squadron to go to war. During this tour, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker deployed in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH where he led combat missions patrolling the skies over Iraq enforcing the no-fly zone. In July 1998, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker was handpicked to return as an instructor at the Air Force Weapons

School where he deployed in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE. Lieutenant Colonel Hecker led 10 combat missions and was the focal point in the Combined Air Operations Center C5 Strategy Cell for resolving air-to-air issues. In 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Hecker left the cockpit to serve on the staff of the Secretary of the Air Force in Washington, DC as an Air Force Senate Liaison Officer and then was selected to serve as a Military Legislative Fellow during the 2nd session of the 107th Congress.

Lieutenant Colonel Hecker quickly became a valued member of my staff sharing his proven operational experience and insightful knowledge on a number of Department of Defense issues, including defense health care, operational beddown of C-17 and C-130J aircraft, various weapons systems, military construction, university research programs, and economic development projects. Specifically, Jim was instrumental in helping the Air Force gain Congressional support for the F/A-22 aircraft and solve the weather radar problem with the WC-130J aircraft at Keesler AFB. He helped me articulate a successful case for adding funding for additional maintenance training simulators and military construction projects that will help ensure the successful beddown in Jackson, MS of the first ever C-17 aircraft assigned to the National Guard. He successfully negotiated with Northrop Grumman Corporation to move the production of the Global Hawk's wing as well as full assembly of the Fire Scout to Mississippi. Lieutenant Colonel Hecker's coordination with the staffs of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee led to over \$108 million in military construction funding for Mississippi's military bases.

Lieutenant Colonel Hecker is married to the former Terrie Lee Draney of Colorado Springs, CO. They have two children, 7 year-old son Jaden and 5 year-old son Colton. The Congress and the country applaud the selfless commitment his entire family has made to the Nation in supporting his military career. Among Lieutenant Colonel Hecker's many awards and decorations are the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, and Air Force Achievement Medal along with numerous other campaign and unit distinctions.

Lieutenant Colonel Hecker will return to the Air Force at Langley AFB, VA where he will once again control the skies in the F-15C. I have appreciated greatly Lieutenant Colonel Hecker's contributions to my team and I will miss him. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish Lieutenant Colonel Hecker and his family "Good Hunting and God-speed."

HOLLADAY JOHNSTON RICHARDSON

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, our friend and distinguished colleague, STROM THURMOND, has a lost a dear member of his Senate Family. Holly Richardson's courageous battle with breast cancer ended early Monday morning. I do not use the word courageous lightly; if there ever was a courageous cancer patient, it was Holly Richardson. She fought until the end and never gave up.

Holly was one of the most delightful people I have ever met. She was STROM THURMOND's right, hand lady for almost 25 years and she meant so much to the entire Thurmond family. Holly's strong faith helped her immeasurably and while we all mourn her passing, we know where she is.

Her obituary in this morning's Columbia, SC, newspaper, *The State*, poignantly describes this remarkable lady, as does the article about her in today's Charlotte Observer. I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the State, Columbia, SC, Oct. 1, 2002]

HOLLY JOHNSTON RICHARDSON—LONGTIME
THURMOND CONFIDANTE
(By Lauren Markoe)

WASHINGTON.—Holly Johnston Richardson—confidante, gatekeeper and personal adviser to U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond since 1978—died Monday of breast cancer.

"Early this morning, I lost one of my closest friends and staff members," Thurmond said in a statement issued by his office. "She was a member of my extended family in every sense of the word."

The Summerville native was 48. Since 1979, Richardson functioned as Thurmond's master scheduler, making sure he was in the right place at the appointed time. Her supersized Rolodex included the numbers for scores of average South Carolinians and several heads of state, and she could get most of them on the phone in seconds.

But generations of staffers say it was her Southern charm, impeccable manners and love for Thurmond that made her one of the most important people in his life.

"I've seen the senator cry twice. When his daughter died and today, when Holly died," said Mark Goodin, a former press secretary and adviser to Thurmond. "She was always there for him. I don't think anybody ever thought she would go before he did."

Thurmond's daughter Nancy Moore Thurmond died in a car crash in 1993. The oldest living and longest-serving senator, he will turn 100 on Dec. 5.

Chris Kelley Cimko, Thurmond's press secretary from 1993 to 1997, said Richardson went well beyond her office duties in her service to Thurmond, particularly before he began living at Walter Reed Army Medical Center last year.

"When she was cooking Sunday night, she would make a double batch of whatever it was and make sure it was in his refrigerator," said Cimko.

"Like all trusted staff members, Holly Richardson had my ear," Thurmond's statement continued. "What she probably never knew fully is that she had my heart."

Richardson met the Thurmond family after joining his 1978 re-election campaign, just