



**Position Paper**  
**Military Retiree Appreciation Day**

**Issue:** America’s military retirees represent approximately .5% of its total population. Those who faithfully serve their country for twenty or more years show a dedication to service unrivalled by any other profession. Career military service men and women serve daily with the knowledge that they can be sent anywhere in the world and be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect and defend America’s interests and ideals. Their service is voluntary and often requires decades of extreme personal sacrifices. Currently, these consummate professionals are not officially and separately recognized or honored by the government or people of the United States.

**Background:** Military retirees dedicate the best working years of their lives to the defense of our nation. The knowledge, skill, and professionalism that these career service members maintain represent the backbone of our military and, through their mentorship and leadership, they are responsible for ensuring that our military remains the most highly trained and technically and tactically proficient fighting force in the world.

When career military service members retire after twenty, thirty, or more years, their service rarely ends. After careers dedicated to service, most military retirees continue to serve in their local communities, governments, schools and in many other areas where dedicated professionalism aimed at contributing to something larger than themselves is necessary. Whether volunteering in a 501(c)3, as a coach, scoutmaster or in a place of worship or while working second careers as police officers, doctors, or teachers, military retirees enrich their organizations by bringing proven dedication, leadership, discipline, commitment, organizational skills, and a “can do” attitude their post-military endeavors.

**AMRA Position:** Because military retirees are dedicated, focused, well-trained, well-disciplined, and well-educated and bring the best qualities of American citizenship to lifelong service within the United States and their local communities as stable, responsible, citizens and neighbors and because these qualities bring balance, focus, and stability to local communities, the American Military Retirees Association supports an effort by Congress to encourage the American people to honor the past and continued service of military retirees by supporting the goals and ideals of a “Military Retiree Appreciation Day”.