



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Kraemer;

Thank you for contacting me to share your views regarding our nation's veterans. Hearing from you helps me better represent Kentucky in the United States Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to respond.

Throughout my career, I have prioritized efforts to support the servicemembers and veterans who sacrifice so much to protect us all. In the 119th Congress, I have supported several items of veterans' affairs legislation that have become law, including the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025 (P.L. 119-42) and Veteran Fraud Reimbursement Act of 2025 (P.L. 119-56). The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, which was signed into law on November 25, 2025, aims to ensure that disability compensation and certain other VA-provided financial benefits keep pace with inflation and rising costs. On December 12, 2025, the Veteran Fraud Reimbursement Act became law, which seeks to reduce bureaucratic delays in reimbursing benefits to veterans who are the victim of fraud. I will continue to do everything I can to ensure our government upholds our obligation to servicemembers and their families.

As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I have sought to ensure that the almost 300,000 veterans who call Kentucky home have access to modern, state-of-the-art VA medical facilities. Since Fiscal Year 2009, I have secured more than \$1 billion to support the construction of a new VA Medical Center in Louisville to replace the aging Robley Rex VA Medical Center. As construction of the new Robley Rex VA Medical Center nears completion this year, please know that I will continue to provide careful oversight of the VA's operations in Kentucky to ensure this facility is completed in a timely fashion.

In your correspondence, you mentioned your support for the Major Richard Star Act (S. 1032), which was introduced by Senator Mike Crapo and Senator Richard Blumenthal on March 13, 2025 and was referred to the Senate Armed Services Committee. This legislation would permit veterans with a combat-related disability and fewer than 20 years of service to receive both full retirement pay and disability compensation from the VA. While I am not a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, please know that I will keep your thoughts in mind if S. 1032 is considered by the full Senate during the 119th Congress.

Again, I appreciate your active and informed participation in our democratic process. If you would like to receive periodic updates from my office, please sign up for my eNewsletter at www.mcconnell.senate.gov, become a fan of my page on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/mitchmcconnell and follow my office on Twitter @McConnellPress. In the meantime, I will continue fighting for Kentucky in the United States Senate and I hope you will continue to keep me informed of issues important to you.

Sincerely,

MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

