



Retired Public Employees Association

165 Jordan Road • Troy, NY 12180 • (518) 869-2542 • e-mail: mail@rpea.org
John J. McPadden, *President* Edward C. Farrell, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S., by Senator Larkin
In Senate Civil Service & Pensions Committee

A., by Assemblyman Dendekker
In Assembly Governmental Employees Committee

AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law, the education law and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to supplemental military retirement allowances for members of public retirement systems of the state

The **Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA)** supports this bill which would provide a supplemental military retirement allowance to retired veterans who served during periods of conflict.

This bill would provide an identical allowance to certain veterans who retired before they were allowed to buy back up to three years of service credit for their combat military service. The law, when enacted, only provided for this credit to veterans in active service to State or local governments and excluded veterans who had already retired.

It is only just that retired veterans receive equal recognition for their military service as their active counterparts. This situation is made even more unfair because when the original military buy-back law was enacted, it left out certain periods of combat and had to be subsequently amended. The amendment also excluded those veterans who had retired during the interim period, making the exclusion of retired veterans from the law even more illogical and unfair.

The Legislature has made a commitment to correct the law as it relates to veterans who served in more recent military conflicts, but even that proposal excludes the applicability to retired veterans. If the current inequity in the law is going to be corrected, it most certainly should include veterans who have already retired.

For these reasons, **RPEA** strongly urges passage of this bill.