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Save Our Benefit Welcomes New Organization Aboard

Organizations Join Together to Reach Common Goal

Washington, D.C. (July 9, 2012) – The Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits today announced that the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) has joined the Coalition. FRA is the second organization in two weeks to become a “Valued Associate” in the Coalition’s efforts to protect shopping benefits for military personnel and their families. The Fleet Reserve Association represents current and former enlisted Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel and their families. Its principal program is its legislative advocacy work on Capitol Hill focused on pay, health care, benefits and quality of life programs.

“The FRA has represented the Sea Service Community for over 87 years,” said Patrick Nixon, President of the Coalition to Save Our Military Shopping Benefits. “FRA has been a historical leader in the fight to protect benefits and pay for members of the Sea Service community.”

Save Our Benefit advocates for the protection of the military resale system, which saves military families millions each year with its shopping benefits and provides billions of dollars in on-base aid. These benefits are being threatened by efforts to balance the budget, the Deficit Reduction Panel, looming sequestration, and various individual and committee measures taking place in Congress.

“Recently, Save Our Benefit urged Congress to protect military resale programs from cuts or consolidation. These benefits are vital to the families and we welcome anyone with similar goals,” Nixon said.

“The work of the Save Our Benefit Coalition is very important, and we’re pleased to support these efforts as a Valued Associate organization,” said Joe Barnes, FRA’s National Executive Director. “The military resale system is an essential part of the military benefits package, and we must work together to ensure adequate and sustained funding and support for DeCA and the military Exchange Systems.”

In addition to its advocacy work, since 2000 the Association's scholarship program (now under the FRA Education Foundation) has provided more than 270 scholarships totaling in excess of \$1 million. FRA believes that educating service members and veterans is an important duty and has been instrumental in ensuring the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit was available to military personnel who previously had no education benefits.

For more information, please visit www.SaveOurBenefit.org.

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