

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 Wilson Boulevard • Arlington, Virginia 22201-3385 • (703) 841-4300

9 October 2013

General Gordon R. Sullivan United States Army (Ret.) President

> The Honorable John Boehner Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives 1011 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

On behalf of the members of the Association of the United States Army, I write to urge you to bring Rep. Barber's amendment to the Pay Our Military Act, titled the Fallen Heroes and Families Assistance Act, to the floor for a vote. This amendment would make appropriations available to continue the payment of a death gratuity and particular death-related compensation in the event of the death of members of the Armed Forces and certain other persons who pass away during a government shutdown.

It is unconscionable that family members who have lost a loved one in service to the nation should be faced with the loss of compensation for transportation to Dover AFB, the loss of a dignified transfer of remains, and the loss of access to death gratuity funds.

I urge you to bring this amendment to the floor of the House immediately for a vote. It is the least we can do for the families of our fallen heroes.

Sincerel GORDON R. SULLIVAN

General, USA Retired

GRS/wbl