

## HR 4191

### Gold Star Spouses Non-Monetary Benefits Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Jun 25, 2021

**Current Status:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.

**Latest Action:** Subcommittee Hearings Held. (Oct 20, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4191>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Kim, Andy [D-NJ-3]	D · NJ		Jun 25, 2021
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Jun 30, 2021
Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]	R · NE		Jul 1, 2021
Rep. Gaetz, Matt [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Jul 1, 2021
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Jul 1, 2021
Rep. Waltz, Michael [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Jul 2, 2021
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Jul 13, 2021
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Jul 19, 2021
Rep. Carl, Jerry L. [R-AL-1]	R · AL		Jul 21, 2021
Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]	D · CO		Jul 22, 2021
Rep. Phillips, Dean [D-MN-3]	D · MN		Jan 6, 2022

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 25, 2021
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 25, 2021
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Oct 20, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **Gold Star Spouses Non-Monetary Benefits Act**

This bill addresses certain federal benefits for surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces, including those who have remarried.

For purposes of noncompetitive appointment to government employment, a surviving spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who was married to such member at the time they died while on active duty may be appointed as a military spouse, regardless of remarriage. Additionally, widows or widowers of certain veterans who served on active duty must be considered preference eligible for purposes of government employment, regardless of remarriage.

A surviving spouse who is eligible for the gold star lapel button is entitled to commissary and exchange privileges to the same extent and on the same basis as the surviving spouse of a retired member of the uniformed services. Such spouses are also entitled, upon request, to medical and dental care provided in facilities of the uniformed services.

A surviving spouse who is eligible for a gold star lapel button must be permitted to use commissary stores and certain retail facilities on the same basis as a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty.

In regard to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, the remarriage of a surviving spouse of a veteran does not bar the furnishing of non-monetary benefits to a surviving spouse who is eligible for a gold star lapel button. Such surviving spouses who are eligible for a gold star lapel button are also eligible for certain VA home loan programs.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Oct 20, 2021:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Sep 7, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Jun 25, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 25, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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