

[REDACTED]

Dear C-SPAN,

During your viewer call-in program on the morning of April 1st, Brian Lamb made a comment to the effect that it might be interesting for viewers to see a "thin brush" look at the retirement program for our Congressional members. I, for one, would appreciate a detailed look at their retirement plan. Assuming you run such a segment, please include when the former member begins drawing his retirement checks. Is it immediately following leaving office (even after one term), at age 62/65, or on a sliding scale based on time spent on the Hill? One viewer called in to say that the retirement is based on 2% per year of "service" of the member's last income. Two percent per year for someone who "served" for 2, 4, or 6 years isn't much money. And, depending on when the member begins drawing that money, may be less of a drain on our public.

[REDACTED]

I am not "pogr mouthing" what I'm receiving. My retirement is based on my "base" pay and does not address the "perks" I enjoyed while on active duty; my tax exempt pay such as housing and food allowances. Most of the time I was on active duty, I was either in a "war" zone, traveled to countries where I was required to wear civilian clothes to become less of a target, or was required to be in mobilization status which meant that I might be thrown to anywhere on the globe at a moments notice to fight and, perhaps, die. I accepted that job and its risks willingly because I believed in our country. From what I have heard from your call-in shows, many of your other viewers have served in the military, whether or not they retired.

I am absolutely fed up what Congress has done TO my country versus done FOR my country! I am anxiously awaiting information from Dallas on how I can help get H. Ross Perot on my Florida ballot in November. I am finishing letters to my D.C. representatives to let them know how I feel on many issues. I am telling them that I consider them to be the servants of US, the people. I was angry while I was in Vietnam (and after) about Johnson trying to run the war from D.C.. That anger does not compare to the anger I have come to feel in the past few years. For the first time in my 52 years, I am bellowing at Congress and telling my representatives that I am holding their feet to the fire.



By my earlier remarks, I may have given the impression that I consider myself to be a "war hero" or some other kind of hero. I do not feel that way but am proud of my service to our country. [REDACTED] went against the system to have the U.S.A.F. do what I felt was the proper thing to do for us taxpayers. Had I not fought the system, [REDACTED] I do not regret having done what I thought was proper.

If you do a segment on Congressional retirement, I suggest you compare it to the retirement systems for the military, the U.S. civil service folks [REDACTED] the U.S. Postal Service, and to a fair representation of retirement in the civilian sector at the same or comparable level.

Thanx,

[REDACTED]  
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