



“Buy Back” Is Back

On Thursday, October 19th, Derek Kilmer (D-WA) submitted H.R. 5995 into the record of the 118th Congress. The bill does not have an official title at this time. Its purpose is “To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that civilian service in a temporary position after December 31, 1988, may be creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes.”

That defines what we have been looking for in a bill to get credit for RCA time worked since 1988. Now you know as much as I do. The actual text of the bill will be released in the near future. We will have to wait on that for a little while.

Our biggest task is to write and or call our members of Congress and ask that they co-sponsor this bill, H.R. 5995.

The original co-sponsors were Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA), Gerald Connolly (D-VA), David Valadao (R-CA), and Don Bacon (R-NE). This week we have had three more members sign on as cosponsors, they are Joaquin Castro (D-TX), Greg Casar (D-TX) and Henry Cuellar (D-TX).

We have fourteen members of Congress from North Carolina. We are not going to get all fourteen members to cosponsor this bill; but I would like for all of us to work together to see just how many of them we can get to sign on and support this effort to finally get what we deserve; credit for time worked.

“The National Rural Letter Carriers’ Association (NRLCA) would like to thank Congressmen Derek Kilmer, David Valadao, Don Bacon, and Gerry Connolly for introducing the bipartisan Federal Retirement Fairness Act,” **said Don Maston, President, NRLCA.** “The NRLCA fully supports the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, which will give rural letter carriers the opportunity to buy back credit for service, something we have been advocating for a very long time. This bill ensures that rural letter carriers, and other federal employees, who began their employment as non-

career workers and did not have the ability to make retirement contributions, are granted the opportunity to make catch-up retirement contributions so all of their time is accurately reflected as creditable service when they retire.”

There are letters on the NRLCA.org website and the NCRLCA.org website. These letters just need to have your name and address added to them. A few more words from you will always add to the impact.

On the NRLCA.org website, once you have logged in, click on the “Legislative” link. Then click on the “Legislative Updates” link in the box on the right side of the page. The Congressional Record page will open. At the bottom of the paragraph talking about H.R. 5995 is a link to the form letter to send to Congress.

There are links to other forms letters on that page that I hope you will consider sending to your Representative as well.

"No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence."

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Van Heath, Legislative Rep.