

**WASHINGTON** – Congressman Spencer Bachus (R-AL) praised President Bush today for announcing that his 2006 budget proposal to Congress would include increasing the military death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000. Bachus and Congressman Dennis Moore (D-KS) introduced H.R. 292 on January 20<sup>th</sup> that called for this very same increase in military benefits.

"Having White House support in our efforts to raise the military death gratuity is a sign of growing momentum for our effort. The present death benefit is woefully inadequate to compensate families who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The fact that our bill has attracted so much bi-partisan support reflects the fact that most in Congress recognize a crying need," said Bachus.

Introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress less than two weeks ago, the Bachus-Moore bill has already garnered support from 182 Republicans and Democrats who

have joined them as co-sponsors in a concerted effort to pass this legislation.

The Bachus-Moore bill is a continuation of bi-partisan legislation they introduced last year in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress that had 219 co-sponsors. That bill was also endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America.

The proposal is also gaining support in the Senate, where several lawmakers have introduced bills to help the families of service members by raising the military death gratuity, including Senator Chuck Hagel (R- NE) and Senator Jeff Sessions (R- AL).

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