
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina ■ 5th District

News Release

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Spratt Says COLA Increases on the Way for Disabled Veterans, Civil Service and Military Retirees

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that disabled veterans, as well as civil service and military retirees, can expect to see new cost-of-living adjustments soon.

Disabled Veterans: The U.S. House this week approved a cost-of-living increase for veterans' disability compensation. The new cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) would take effect Dec. 1. It would be the same as the Social Security COLA, which is determined each year by the increase in the government's consumer price index. Last year, the COLA was 2.4 percent.

More than 2.6 million veterans receive compensation for diseases contracted or injuries sustained in the line of duty during active service. The amount of compensation varies according to the degree of disability.

Civil Service and Military Retirees: According to the Clinton Administration, civil service and military retirees will get a 3.5 percent increase in their retirement checks next year, the largest COLA for most retirees in a decade. The benefit is based on inflation data reported recently by the Labor Department.

Retirees and surviving spouses covered by the Civil Service Retirement System and military annuitants will receive the 3.5 percent COLA. People who retired under the newer Federal Employees Retirement System and who are 62 or older will receive a 2.5 percent increase.

About 2.4 million civil service retirees and survivors and about 2 million military retirees will receive the COLAs next year.

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