Legislation will provide better benefits to families of service members who make the ultimate sacrifice

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Washington, D.C. – Continuing his advocacy on behalf of service members, military families, and veterans, Congressman Jerry McNerney today introduced H.R. 5921, the Support for Families of the Fallen Act. This important bill improves benefits for surviving family members of military personnel who lost their life in service to our nation.

“Military families make tremendous sacrifices on behalf of our country,” said Rep. McNerney. “One of my most somber responsibilities is to visit with families who have recently lost a loved one fighting overseas. I’ve seen their grief, and I believe that providing extra help to these families is the right thing to do.”

Under current law, a payment is made to surviving family members of military personnel killed in action. Rep. McNerney’s bill increases this payment by an amount equal to the service member’s total contributions to the Social Security system.

These benefits would be made available to the families of military personnel killed on or after September 11, 2001. Active duty military personnel have paid into Social Security since 1957, and Reserve and National Guard members also contribute to Social Security through their civilian employment.