

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

Jan. 21

STATEMENT RE: DRAFT EVADERS PARDON BY PRESIDENT CARTER

I RESPECT PRESIDENT CARTER FOR FOLLOWING THROUGH ON HIS PROMISE TO PARDON DRAFT EVADERS. HE HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO SET FORTH A NEW SPIRIT FOR THE NATION, AND I FEEL HIS VICTORY ON NOV. 2, PROVED THAT A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORTED THE PARDONING OF THOSE WHO ELECTED NOT TO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES.

HOWEVER, I WOULD HAVE HOPED THAT SOME TYPE OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE HAD BEEN REQUIRED OF THOSE WHO WERE PARDONED. THERE WERE MANY WHO SERVED AND SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM, EVEN THOUGH THEY FELT THE WAR WAS WRONG. I BELIEVE THEIR COMMITMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.