

TAPE FOR WEEK OF DEC. 6

This is Congressman Nick Rahall.

Highway crashes cause more violent deaths every year than any other cause. In 1981, over 50,000 Americans were killed and 2 million more suffered serious injuries due to automobile collisions. Studies show that the majority of these violent deaths are caused by intoxicated drivers. Drunk driving has a high economic cost to our country----estimated at about \$24 Billion a year.

I have joined in effort in Congress that would set aside one week annually as a "National Drunk Driving Awareness Week" to ensure that the tremendous momentum that is building up around the country against this problem does not slip away.

It is the hope of the sponsors of this effort that such a week of awareness will ignite initiatives at the federal, state, and community levels aimed at raising the public outcry against the serious risks to life and limb posed by drunk drivers.

This is Congressman Nick Rahall.