

RAHALL *Report*

THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

by Congressman Nick J. Rahall

I have had the honor, for the past year, to serve as the Commander of the Congressional Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. On December 1, 1981, the Civil Air Patrol will be forty years old, and I want to pay a special tribute to those West Virginians who are involved in this worthwhile organization.

The Civil Air Patrol is a group to which the American people owe a significant debt of gratitude. It is an organization which having been born out of the turbulent years of World War II, made significant demands and sacrifices from its members, including the lives of some, in the name of honor, justice, and national pride.

The CAP has a proud and exciting history. It is a history of men and women who, in responding to the needs of their country, not only proved that there is strength in private aviation, whether in war or in peace, but in the process set the high standards of conduct and performance which characterizes the CAP today.

This organization in many ways is, and has always been, a perfect example of American initiative--that rare combination of people and circumstances that tends to bring out the best in us, and to be ready to give the best so that ours is a safe, proud, and strong nation.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the Civil Air Patrol went on coastal patrol duty, and its members flew 86,685 missions covering 24 Million miles in 244,600 hours of flying time. As the result of these efforts, 173 submarines were sighted, 83 bombs and depth charges were dropped on 57 of them, and a number of the subs were destroyed.

Today CAP members, while not involved in as exciting of missions, their work has been impressive. They operate the most comprehensive emergency communications network in the U.S., and flew hundreds of thousands of hours in search and rescue missions that have resulted in hundreds of lives saved.

The level of patriotism and volunteerism that has characterized the Civil Air Patrol for 40 years is still alive, and I would like to congratulate all those involved with the CAP on this special anniversary.