

# RAHALL FOR West Virginia

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STATEMENT OF NICK J. RAHALL, II, OF BECKLEY  
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In the history of this Great State, twenty-nine men have been elected Governor of West Virginia. They were all courageous and talented individuals. While some were praised and others were scorned, none of them ever lacked a willingness to do whatever they could for the State they loved or for the State they were entrusted to lead.

To consider West Virginia's highest office is an immense undertaking. To be considered for the office, is a great distinction.

I consider myself a most fortunate individual. I was born and raised in this wonderful and beautiful State, as were both of my parents, and I am proud to bring up my family here.

Since 1976, I have been graced by the people of southern West Virginia to serve as their Representative in the Congress of the United States, where I am now the dean of a truly capable, hard working, and dedicated West Virginia House delegation. Congressmen Alan Mollohan, Bob Wise, and Harley Staggers, Jr, are public officials of whom West Virginians can be proud.

I have been deeply honored, as has my family, by the kind words of encouragement and support I have received from countless West Virginians concerning the Governor's race in 1984. They have spoken from the heart, whether or not they believed I should make the race, and for this I am most grateful and thankful.

I said I would not only outline my personal political plans today, but my dreams for this Great State and its people. These are not my dreams alone, for they are shared by every man, woman and child who live in West Virginia and hope to have a future here.

Foremost, I remain bullish on coal. I look to a time soon when the coal industry is again the driving and prosperous business it once was--an industry that will put coal miners in payroll lines--not unemployment lines.

I look to a time when the steel industry in our State, is again a dominant economic force for the good of West Virginia and the nation; and when steelworkers are again giving America what makes it work best--Americans at work.

I look to a time when new businesses seek out West Virginia. Vibrant businesses--both large and small--with new opportunities, fresh resources, and bright dreams. Businesses that invest in human capital--jobs for West Virginians--and who in cooperation with government, will train men and women for these new horizons.

I consider the interests of our State's senior citizens of utmost concern, for they are faced with higher utility bills and mounting health care costs, while living on fixed incomes or dwindling savings.

What the future holds for our educational system is imperative to the future of our democracy, for our teachers must be provided with the tools to perform their craft and mold future leaders.

West Virginia's public employees, and indeed all our federal employees, must no longer be made the scapegoats of inflation. Their services, talents, and dedication are the mainstay of our system of free government.



Those who farm the land, milk the cows, grow the tobacco, build and sell homes for new families, and who have the where-with-all to risk investments for West Virginia's future, need the capital to do what they do so well. Capital that is available at reasonable interest rates.

Under Governor Rockefeller, tourism in our Mountain State has expanded to levels never before envisioned. It is a growing, vital industry that must be nurtured at all levels.

And, I see a continued commitment to those men and women who have served their country with courage--our veterans. They deserve a fair deal for their priceless dedication, no matter what war or wars in which they were engaged.

To those parents of deceased or wounded Marines from Beirut and Grenada, many of whom I have talked with recently, I extend my prayers and ask for God's blessings. Your sons have fought and are still fighting for our country's interests in Lebanon, Grenada, and throughout the world. I salute them, I salute their families, and offer the nation's deepest gratitude.

There is no doubt in my mind, that West Virginians have paid, and continue to pay the price for peace and prosperity.

In short, the people of this Great State have dreams they deserve to have fulfilled. But, to fulfill those dreams, West Virginians need and deserve new opportunities--opportunities to allow them the simplest of human dignities, the chance to earn their own way for themselves and their families.

Over the past few years, efforts to deal with these situations have been frustrated by the Administration in Washington D.C. I have seen many worthwhile proposals to revitalize America and West Virginia slashed by those who do not believe government should be characterized by fairness and reasonableness.

During this period of time, we have all seen how quick-fix, ill-conceived policies can have a devastating effect on our people: the high interest rates; the reduction of funds for programs to assist education, the elderly, boost coal research, develop synthetic fuels, and black lung victims; regulatory reshuffling that has diminished worker safety and created hardships for deserving Social Security recipients; and worst of all, the Administration's cruel disregard for the unemployed. These are the policies I intend to continue to fight against in my current term in Congress.

Governor Rockefeller, his predecessors, and his successor, know full well that no State is an island. Support and assistance from the Federal Government is helpful to do the things necessary to fulfill people's needs and dreams. I see myself, and our Congressional delegation, as an important bridge between the Nation's Capital and the Mountain State to fulfill those needs and dreams.

I am very proud of the close working relationship I have with the residents of the 4th Congressional District. For over seven years, I have fought their fights, cared about their concerns, and have pushed to advance ideals that serve their best interests.

I love my work dearly. The experience of dealing with representatives from all over the United States is exhilarating. Each day brings new challenges, new prospects for a better future, and new associations with people from all over our State.

It has also been enlightening to have the opportunity to meet with leaders from other nations. Through these relationships, I have indeed found that the United States has a major role to play in maintaining world peace. It is also reassuring to know, that other nations want peace for their children, just as much as we do for our's.

But most of all, I love working for and fighting for my fellow West Virginians in our Nation's Capital.

A possible race for Governor has weighed heavy upon me and my family. I can assure you, my decision has not been reached easily, quickly, nor without full consideration of all the factors involved.

While I most certainly welcome the challenge, and am confident I would be successful--regardless of the opponent--my decision is; I will not be a candidate for Governor of West Virginia in 1984.