

TAPE FOR WEEK OF MAY 23

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

ACCORDING TO A STUDY ON THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE VIETNAM-ERA VETERAN, HALF OF THE VETERANS FROM VIETNAM NEVER RETURNED TO SCHOOL. ONLY A FIFTH OF THOSE WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM HAVE A COLLEGE DIPLOMA COMPARED TO NEARLY HALF OF THOSE WHO STAYED AT HOME.

NUMEROUS PROBLEMS HAVE CAUSED THESE BRAVE INDIVIDUALS NOT TO USE THEIR G.I. EDUCATION BENEFITS, AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON I HAVE JOINED IN CO-SPONSORING A BILL THAT WOULD EXTEND EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS UNDER THE G.I. BILL FOR VIETNAM-ERA VETERANS FOR AN ADDITIONAL TEN YEARS.

UNDER PRESENT LAW, THE VIETNAM VETERANS HAS TEN YEARS FROM THE DATE OF DISCHARGE OR NO LATER THAN 1989 TO USE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS. IN SEVERE ECONOMIC TIMES, LIKE WE ARE EXPERIENCING NOW, SCHOOL IS JUST NOT A POSSIBILITY FOR SOME VETERANS. THEREFORE, MY BILL ^{will help} THE OVER 9 MILLION VIETNAM VETERANS ^{by giving them} UNTIL 1999 TO USE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS UNDER THE ~~GI BILL~~.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL VETERANS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE THEIR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS, AND I BELIEVE THIS MEASURE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.