

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

# Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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Washington, D.C. --- Vietnam veterans and their families only have until January 2, 1985 to file a claim for benefits for themselves and their children for any present or past disabilities under Agent Orange litigation brought by Vietnam veterans, Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today.

"Veterans must file now to protect their rights under the settlement," Congressman Rahall emphasized. "The claim is not the final presentation of a case. It merely starts the process."

The massive Agent Orange litigation, the largest product liability case in history, has been tentatively settled, pending final approval by the court. Under the settlement, a \$180 million trust fund will be established.

Vietnam veterans can receive a copy of the claim form needed to file under the settlement, plus a booklet explaining the litigation and the claims forms, by writing the Vietnam Veterans of America, Box 3499-A, Washington, D.C. 20010.

Under the settlement, veterans must file by January 2, 1985 for present and past disabilities. For disabilities that first appear after January 2, veterans can file later but they must file within four months of the development of the disabilities.

Benefits can be awarded for disabilities suffered by a veteran and for birth defects believed to be related to exposure. Next of kin can file for death benefits.

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