

TAPE FOR WEEK OF SEPT. 17

THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT MANY OF AMERICA'S MILITARY PERSONAL WERE EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS LEVELS OF LOW-LEVEL RADIATION DURING THE ABOVE GROUND ATOMIC WEAPONS TESTING PROGRAM OF THE 1940'S, 50'S, AND 60'S, OR DURING THE OCCUPATION OF NAGASAKI AND HIROSHIMA, AND SOME ARE NOW COMING DOWN WITH LEAKEMIA, THYROID CANCER, AND OTHER ILLNESSES IN LARGER THAN EXPECTED NUMBERS.

Therefore
~~NO ONE KNOWS JUST HOW MANY OF THESE VETERANS WERE OVER-EXPOSED, OR HOW MANY LATER DEVELOPED CANCER, BUT THE CASE OF ACTION BY CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF THESE "ATOMIC" VETERANS IS ALL THE MORE COMPELLING.~~ *For*

FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE JOINED IN SPONSORING *Legislator* ~~HR 5840~~, THE ATOMIC VETERANS RELIEF ACT. THIS MEASURE WILL OFFER THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR EXTENDING SERVICE-CONNECTED STATUS FOR CERTAIN AILMENTS CAUSED BY EXPOSURE TO RADIATION, THEREBY QUALIFYING THESE INDIVIDUALS FOR MEDICAL CARE AND DISABILITY BENEFITS UNDER EXISTING VA PROGRAMS.

A TERRIBLE INJUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE TO THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN, AND THEY SHOULD NOT WAIT ANY LONGER FOR RELIEF.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN, NICK RAHALL.