

Congressman Nick Rahall

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 1985

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Rahall Introduces Bill To Extend Educational Benefits For Veterans

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II has introduced legislation which would extend the time limitation from 10 to 15 years for Vietnam-era veterans to complete their educational programs.

Veterans eligible for educational benefits under Title 38, chapter 34, are those veterans who served more than 180 days of active duty between January 31, 1955 and January 1, 1977, and who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The educational benefits provided to those veterans who qualify extend up to 10 years after discharge.

"To many veterans who served in active duty during the Vietnam era ten years is a relatively short period of time in the process of becoming readjusted to civilian life," Rep. Rahall pointed out. "At the end of 10 years, many veterans have just begun to take advantage of the educational opportunities that their benefits provide. It is my belief that an additional five years is needed in most cases to complete educational programs."

In order to give a five-year extension to all Vietnam veterans, the legislation also extends to December 31, 1989 educational benefits to those eligible veterans whose benefits have expired prior to the enactment of this legislation.

"These veterans served their country admirably and courageously at a very difficult period in our history. They deserve every opportunity to complete their education which they put aside out of a commitment to the freedom of American ideals. This is an opportunity for us to say once again that we have not forgotten," Rep. Rahall said.

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