

# news from ... Congressman **Nick Rahall**

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## Rahall Introduces Bill To Protect Veterans Preference in Hiring

Washington, D.C. -- Fourth District Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) has introduced legislation which would shore up an important provision of the Veterans Preference Act.

"My bill, H.R. 1132, upholds the principle of giving our veterans preference when contracting out the positions of guard, messenger, elevator operator, and custodian by a Federal agency," Rep. Rahall said. "This principle, implemented in the Veterans Preference Act of 1934, has not been practiced to the fullest by some federal agencies. H.R. 1132 would prohibit Federal agencies from separating a veterans preference eligible from one of these positions because of a contract award."

"In recent years, the opportunity for veterans to secure employment in these positions has been decreasing. A major reason for this decrease is the conversion of many of these positions to contract performance," Rep. Rahall pointed out. "I believe that this legislation is an important and necessary step in insuring a continuation of the Act's original intent -- to protect our nation's veterans and make their transition back into civilian life as easy as possible."

"We owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans for the sacrifices they have made so that we can live free -- a debt which we can never fully repay," Rep. Rahall stated. "It is our obligation to help them in any way we can. Hopefully, through enactment of this legislation, we can show our veterans that we care and have not forgotten them."

Among the cosponsors of the bill is Rep. Sonny Montgomery (D-Miss.), the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.