News From_

Nick Rahall WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL TO VISIT VETERANS HOSPITAL IN OBSERVANCE OF SALUTE TO VETERANS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-W.Va.) announced today that in conjunction with the "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" he will visit the VA Hospital in Beckley, West Virginia.

The week of February 14 each year is designated as the week of observance. During that period, individuals, officials and groups are invited to pay tribute to the men and women who served to defend the United States and who presently need care and cheer.

"Observing the National Salute on the week of Valentine's Day is uniquely appropriate," Rahall said. "The traditional Valentine's Day sentiment of caring, loving and sharing combines easily with the Salute's theme to show our love and appreciation to hospitalized veterans."

Rahall will visit the Beckley Veterans Administration Hospital on Friday, February 13. The Congressman said the tribute has many purposes including community involvement.

"The salute in addition to paying tribute to our living heroes, gives us a chance to establish and promote a continuing awareness of these Americans," Rahall said. "It also serves to broaden community involvement beyond those faithful volunteers and encourages Americans of all ages to participate by serving as hospital volunteers year-round."

The National Salute became an official Veterans Administration program in 1978. The 1987 National Chairman is actor Ernest Borgnine, a World War II veteran.