

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 5, 1987

CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT
202-225-3452

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.

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Veterans
Administration

1987 JAN 20 AM 9:02

Week of 2/14/87

In Reply Refer To: (002)

January 16, 1987

Honorable Nick Joe Rahall, II
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20215

Dear Mr. Rahall:

As a former member of the Congress and a veteran who has visited many patients, employees, and volunteers in VA hospitals, I invite you to personally participate in an All-American recognition event for some very special veterans.

The week of February 14, 1987, is the time of our "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans." During this week, individuals, officials, and groups are invited to pay tribute to the men and women who served to defend our Nation and who presently need care and cheer.

VA medical centers across the Nation are planning a series of events to say "thank you" to veterans, their families, and the volunteers who have devoted many hours of love and energy to the care and support of hospitalized veterans.

I urge you to participate. Hospitalized veterans and their families will be grateful. Your example will encourage others to continue visiting and volunteering throughout the year.

Please telephone your VA medical center director and tell him that you would like to come by. You will be rewarded far beyond our genuine gratitude.

Best wishes and warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

Burt

BURT L. TALCOTT
Associate Deputy Administrator

Enclosure

Copy to FB 1/21/87

Advise him you are
pers. descended of Dyke Pisey
of BKU U.A. & will be at his
hospital on Fri. 2/13
for lunch

I have talked w/
Pisey & we
agreed to Fri.
2/13 noon

Gerry
P.R.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

EVENT: National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans

WHEN: The week of February 14th each year

WHERE: At all VA medical facilities which include 172 medical centers, 228 outpatient clinics, 116 nursing homes, and 16 domiciliaries nationwide.

THEME: Their Courage Protected Our Freedom... May Our Love Heal Their Wounds.

HONORARY PATRON: First Lady Nancy Reagan

CHAIRMAN: Ernest Borgnine, actor and World War II veteran

PURPOSE: The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans is a program with four purposes: (1) to pay tribute and express appreciation to the thousands of veterans hospitalized each year; (2) to establish and promote a continuing awareness of these Americans; (3) to enhance and broaden community involvement beyond those faithful volunteers whose concern for hospitalized veterans brings them to VA medical facilities throughout the year, and (4) to encourage Americans of all ages to participate and to interest them in serving as hospital volunteers year-round.

Observing the National Salute on the week of Valentine's Day is uniquely appropriate. 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.

BACKGROUND: The National Salute became an official Veterans Administration program in 1978, having been initiated in 1974 by "No Greater Love, Inc.," a national humanitarian organization. The VA's Voluntary Service serves as coordinator of the event.

NICK J. RAHALL II
4TH DISTRICT, WEST VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 1987

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Mr. Burt L. Talcott
Associate Deputy Administrator
Office of Congressional
and Intergovernmental Affairs
Veterans Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Talcott:

Thank you for your notice pertaining to the upcoming "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans."

I have contacted Dyke Pisegna of the Beckley, W. Va. VA and I plan to visit his hospital on Friday, February 13.

The Veterans of our nation made this country what it is today and we should honor them as so deserved.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

NJR/br

*Jan,
letter has been
written.*