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FUND ESTABLISHED TO HELP DEFRAY MATTHEWS' EXPENSES, RAHALL SAYS

HUNTINGTON, W. VA. -- In conjunction with Bob McEwen and the Trinity Episcopal Church, Nick Rahall announced today that a fund has been established to help defray the expenses incurred by an employee of his Congressional office who was severely injured in a July auto accident.

Rahall said that Frank E. (Matt) Matthews III of Huntington, a Marshall University junior and a summer employee in Rahall's Huntington District Office, suffered a broken neck resulting in paralysis below the neck in an auto accident on July 10, 1988, near Meyersville, Maryland on Interstate 70. "Matt was hospitalized at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, Maryland, and has since been transferred to Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colorado for rehabilitation," Rahall said. "Matt is unable to breathe without the use of respirator, and he remains paralyzed below his neck. Obviously, the expenses are great and this fund has been established to help meet these ever-rising costs."

Contributions to the Matt Matthews Fund can be made c/o Trinity Episcopal Church, 520 Eleventh Street, Huntington, WV 25701.

"Matt is a super young man facing an unbelievable battle. He desperately needs the support of his family and friends at this crucial point," Rahall said. "His father, Frank Matthews, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers official here in Huntington, and his wife, Jewell are valued and respected members of our community who need our support and our prayers. We cannot let them down."

Rahall urged his fellow West Virginians to do all they can to help the family meet this crisis. "Helping each other, that is the true 'Mountaineer Spirit'," Rahall pointed out.

The Matthews are members of the Trinity Episcopal Church, where Matt serves as a lay leader and usher. Matt was also commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the United States Army on May 13, 1988.