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RAHALL HONORS LATE CONGRESSMAN KEE IN CONGRESSIONAL REMARKS

Washington - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) today paid tribute to the late Congressman James Kee (D-W.Va.) who passed last weekend. In his remarks, which will be entered into the Congressional Record, Rahall praised Kee and his family for their dedicated service to the people of West Virginia.

"Jim Kee and his parents, through diligent and tireless public service to our great State, became true West Virginia legends," Rahall stated. "Few families in this nation have such a unique history as the Kee family."

Kee served in the House of Representatives from 1965 to 1973 and represented the former Fifth Congressional District of West Virginia. His defeat in the 1972 Democratic Primary came after the state lost a Congressional seat due to redistricting. That election also ended 40 years of Congressional Service by the Kee family.

"Jim's father, John Kee, was first elected to the House in the 1932 Roosevelt landslide. John's widow, Elizabeth, was elected to complete the unexpired term in a special election and Mrs. Kee was re-elected subsequently six times. She holds the distinct honor of being West Virginia's only woman to serve in the United States House of Representatives," Rahall said. "Upon his mother's retirement in 1965, Jim was elected to the office four times."

Rahall added that Kee was the torch bearer in Congress for issues relating to many West Virginia residents.

"He championed many causes close to my fellow West Virginians' hearts," Rahall said. "He introduced the very first bill in Congress dealing with the respiratory problems of coal miners, which later became known as the first black lung legislation. He sponsored and conducted the first congressional district-wide series of conferences dealing with narcotics and dangerous drug abuse in the United States."

Rahall informed colleagues that Kee remained active in community activities following his retirement, being an active member of the Lions Club, the American Legion, the Elks Club and other organizations dedicated to serving others.

In closing his statement, Rahall proclaimed, "Mr. Speaker, the people of West Virginia have lost a true friend, one who fostered many causes for the people of my great State of West Virginia. I am one of the many of his admirers who is honored to have known this great West Virginia legend. I would like to offer Jim's wonderful wife, Clara, and his fine children my love and prayers."