

ATTN: PIERRE

# NICK RAHALL

## WORKING HARD FOR YOU

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### Rahall / Brewster Debate Raises QUESTION On Brewster's Record

In a debate at Prichard last Saturday evening, which was widely covered by the media, Nick Rahall and Marianne Brewster squared off on the issue of funding for the arts. Marianne Brewster hid her record on the issue.

During the debate, Ms. Brewster stated she would oppose all funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. However, records reveal that she is a board member of an arts organization that has benefited from the National Endowment for the Arts.

"I've wondered why Marianne has never talked about her record of service to West Virginia. The only thing public-related position I understand she has ever held is to serve on the board as a director of the Mercer County Alliance of Arts. Saturday night she didn't defend her board membership, instead she chose to hide it so she could make some political hay. Either she is a hypocrite or she knows nothing about the only public service she claims to be involved with. Either way, she needs to explain this obvious contradiction," Steve Spina, Rahall's spokesman, said.

The Mercer County Alliance for the Arts is the governing board of the Bluefield arts and crafts program. Over the years it has received funding from the Arts and Humanities division of the WV Department of Culture and History. The latest was an \$1000.00 for Fiscal Year 1990. The state provides these grants, which are dependent upon receiving federal funding from the National Endowment of the Arts.

Nick Rahall has been a vocal critic of the NEA's funding of some very questionable so called "art" projects last year. He joined U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) this year in trying to amend the NEA's grant procedures to insure questionable projects are never funded again.

"The Congressman doesn't think you should throw the baby out with the bath water. West Virginia students and other artists received \$1.5 million in grants in 1989 from state and federal agencies, over 34% was due to NEA funds. Congressman Rohrabacher, a member of Ms. Brewster's party, thanked Congressman Rahall for his support of Rohrabacher's provision saying, 'Our position, history will show, was a correct one... We will at least be consoled that we did our best to prevent such demonstrable waste of tax dollars and abuse of the fundamental values of the American people. Our vote was the courageous vote.'"

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