



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RAHALL REVELS IN RESPONSE OF U.S. TROOPS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today spoke before the House floor on supporting our troops in the Persian Gulf. The following are excerpts from the Congressman's statement:

"None of us wanted war. None of us wanted any loss of innocent American lives, or the innocent lives of our allied troops. Yet I cannot express -- there are no sufficient words in the English language to adequately explain -- my sense of absolute awe of the magnificent job our troops, and those of our allied countries, have accomplished in making their decisive strike against Iraq.

Their success, their effectiveness, which has been described as "precise and surgical", can also be described as absolutely brilliant. In the words of General Norman Schwarzkopf, they are truly the thunder and lightening of Operation Desert Storm.

Mr. Speaker, I have a sense of the Congress resolution, H. Con. 23, which I have introduced that calls upon our allies to pay their fair share, and for the President of the United States to pursue commitments from those allies to increase their contributions to the Gulf War costs.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in bringing this Resolution to the floor of the House and to vote to pass it, to assure that our outstanding troops can, without fail, continue to be resupplied with the arms and equipment they need to sustain them in the War against Iraq, and the liberation of Kuwait.

Mr. Speaker, I was able to talk to several West Virginia soldiers from my home district, who are assigned to Saudi Arabia, but who had returned home for a few days emergency leave before returning there. Those soldiers begged me to allow them to do their duty as they saw it. They wanted, in their own words, to "go in, get the job done and come home... period.

So far, we have been successful beyond our wildest dreams. For even we did not realize how well trained, how very ready, and how very able are armed forces are. I hope that this war will end quickly, but to do that we must be sure that the allied forces have the commitments they need from the allies involved and their families at home.

It was Thomas Jefferson who said: "Peace is our Passion." Peace is still our passion in the United States, and it will remain so through the very efforts to obtain peace that are being carried out in the Gulf Region today."

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