



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 4, 1991

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NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) joined Tourism Caucus officers in introducing a resolution in the House designating the second week in May as National Tourism Week.

Since 1984, National Tourism Week has recognized the tremendous economic and cultural contributions that travel and tourism make to our nation. The bi-partisan Tourism Caucus spearheads this resolution in the House each year with coalition support from tourism industry officials around the nation.

With the war in the Gulf weighing heavily on everyone's minds, this year tourism is getting a different kind of attention. "Due to the Persian Gulf conflict people are more concerned about their safety while travelling," stated Rahall. "Both business and recreational travellers all over the world are opting to stay close to home."

"Nevertheless," continued Rahall, "this turn of events should not allow us to lose sight of the extensive contributions that travel and tourism make to our economy. Tourism is West Virginia's second largest industry which, in 1990, established thousands of new employment opportunities and earned \$2.5 billion for our state. The National Tourism Week resolution will continue to realize and celebrate this essential American industry," trumpeted Rahall.

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Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus

U.S. House of Representatives

H2-246

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-3935

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1991 JAN 32 AM 10:02

January 30, 1991

TO: Press Secretaries of Caucus Steering Committee members

FROM: Reba Campbell
Congressman Tallon's office

RE: Attached press release

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Attached please find a copy of a sample press release that you may be interested in using in conjunction with the introduction of National Tourism Week today. Your boss was an original co-sponsor of the bill.

A similar release was sent out by the Caucus to the tourism trade press.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Julie Franklin

KK, SS
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TO DO A RELEASE,
OR WAIT FOR
PASSAGE OF THE
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news ★ release

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For immediate release
January 30, 1991

Contact:

NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

WASHINGTON -- Congressman _____ joined Tourism Caucus officers in introducing a resolution in the House of Representatives designating the second week in May 1991 as National Tourism Week.

Every year, since 1984, the U.S. has celebrated National Tourism Week to recognize the tremendous economic and cultural contributions that travel and tourism make to our nation. The bi-partisan Tourism Caucus spearheads this resolution in the House each year with coalition support from tourism industry officials around the nation.

"In recent years, National Tourism Week has become one of our nation's most popular commemorative weeks," Congressman _____ said when the resolution was introduced. "Thousands of Americans in every state and territory participate in exciting events and tourism conferences. Governors in many states issue proclamations bringing attention to the importance of tourism in their states."

With the war in the Gulf weighing heavy on everyone's minds as this bill is introduced, the Congressman pointed out that, this year however, tourism is getting a different kind of attention. "With the war in the Gulf, we can't help but be concerned about our safety while travelling. Both business and recreational travellers all over the world are opting to stay close to home."

The Congressman went on to say that "nevertheless, we can't let this turn of events to allow us to lose sight of the tremendous contributions that travel and tourism make to our economy. Tourism means jobs in every Congressional district and tax revenue for our federal, state and local treasuries. Foreign visitor spending helps our international balance of payments."

In 1990, travel and tourism was our nation's largest retail industry and the second largest private employer in the U.S., generating nearly 6 million jobs and indirectly employing another 2.46 million Americans. Tourism is an essential American export, as over 38 million foreign travelers spend approximately \$44 billion annually in the U.S.

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W. Va.

Across the State

Tourism revenues continue to grow

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Tourism-related businesses contributed \$154 million more to West Virginia's economy in 1990 than in 1989, a study said.

West Virginia's tourism businesses earned \$2.5 billion in 1990, according to a study by the West Virginia University Center for Economic Research.

"You have to realize that our investment in West Virginia tourism produces remarkably high yields," said John Brown, state tourism and parks commissioner.

Last year's growth included 2,419 new jobs, a \$60 million boost in payroll expenses and \$4 million more in state tax revenues, the study said. The industry accounted for 40,379 employees, a \$461 million payroll and \$108 million in state taxes, the study said.

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