



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 14, 1991

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RAHALL ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS FLIGHT TRAINING

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) today announced the availability of federal financial assistance for veterans who wish to pursue careers in aviation.

"I am pleased that these benefits have been extended to provide our nation's veterans with the opportunity to excel in such a rewarding field," said Rahall. "It is a fitting tribute to the men and women who have given so much to our country."

The flight training benefit program was extended to an additional group of veterans through recent amendments to the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). Previously, the program only applied to those persons who entered military service after June 30, 1985. It now covers those who entered military service after December 31, 1976.

"The aviation industry is growing so rapidly that the demand for qualified professionals could outgrow the supply of available pilots," said Rahall. "This outstanding program will provide qualified veterans with the assistance needed to pursue an aviation career while ensuring that one of our nation's largest industries will have the means to expand."

It is estimated that the commercial aviation industry will hire between 52,000 and 62,000 pilots over the next ten years.

The veterans' flight training benefit program provides 60 percent of the reimbursable costs for dual training. To qualify, an individual is required to have a private pilot certificate, a second-class medical, and would have to enroll in a FAA-approved (part 141) program.

Veterans seeking more information about the flight training benefit program are encouraged to contact the Huntington Veterans Affairs Office at 640 Fourth Avenue in Huntington, West Virginia.

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AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

500 E Street, SW • Suite 920 • Washington, DC 20024
Telephone (202) 479-4050 • FAX (202) 484-1312

May 30, 1991

JUN - 6 AM 11:56

Steve
Honorable Nick Joe Rahall II
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rahall:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, representing over 300,000 general aviation pilots nationwide, would like to bring to your attention the exceptional Vocational Flight Training Benefits Program recently made available to our nation's veterans through the passage of H.R. 180 (P.L.102-16).

We appreciate your support of this measure and would like to assist you in spreading the word about this important program. Already, our offices have been inundated with calls concerning these benefits and I understand that many congressional offices are receiving similar inquiries.

This legislation was enacted on March 22, after unanimously passing both the House and Senate. It allows veterans who are eligible under the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) or Chapter 32, to receive financial assistance to pursue a career in aviation. It parallels a bill passed in the 101st Congress extending these benefits to veterans eligible under the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

AOPA has worked closely with members of the House and Senate to see this crucial legislation passed before the benefits for VEAP veterans expire. AOPA President Phil Boyer called the passage of H.R. 180, "a victory for those veterans who wish to join the ranks of aviation."

X Enclosed is a sample press release and information packet regarding the program which will assist you in informing the veterans in your District. We hope that you will find this information useful.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call at (202) 479-4050.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Chapman
Vice President & Legislative Counsel
Office of Legislative Affairs



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SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative _____ announces financial assistance for
veterans flight training

Representative _____ (), announced today the availability of federal financial assistance for veteran's who wish to pursue careers in aviation. "I am pleased that these benefits have been extended to provide our nation's veterans with the opportunity to excel in such a rewarding field," said _____. "It's a fitting tribute to the men and women who have dedicated so much to our country."

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"The aviation industry is growing so rapidly that the demand for qualified professionals could outgrow the supply of available pilots," said _____. "This outstanding program will provide qualified veterans with the assistance needed to pursue an aviation career while ensuring that one of our nation's largest industries will have the means to expand," continued _____. It is estimated that the commercial aviation industry will hire between 52,000 and 62,000 pilots over the next ten years.

The veterans flight training benefit program provides 60 percent of the reimbursable costs for dual training. To qualify, an individual is required to have a private pilot certificate, a second-class medical, and would have to enroll in an FAA-approved (part 141) program.

Veterans seeking more information about the flight training benefit program are encouraged to call their local Veterans Administration office or your representative's office directly.



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Veterans Flight Training Benefits Program

Background

Effective April 1, 1991, veterans flight training benefits which were originally established for military personnel covered under the Montgomery G.I. Bill have been extended to cover those veterans who are eligible for assistance under the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP).

Public Law 101-237 established a four year flight training assistance program for those veterans and reservists who entered the armed services after June 30, 1985. With the passage of Public Law 102-16, this program has been expanded to include those persons who entered the service after December 31, 1976. The coverage for both groups of service personnel is scheduled to expire on October 1, 1994.

Assistance Available

The flight training benefits program, administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, entitles veterans to receive up to 60% reimbursement for advanced dual flight training or ground instruction after meeting certain eligibility qualifications. The amount of assistance varies under the benefits program with the allocation formula based on the veterans length and type (active or reserve duty) of service.

Additional Assistance may be available in the form of a "kicker". In order to determine the amount of this assistance, the Veterans Administration must, on a case by case basis, examine

the commitments made by the veteran to the armed services. While the rules are flexible on how much "kicker" assistance a person may receive, the maximum amount cannot exceed \$10,800.

Eligibility Requirements

Those veterans wishing to participate in the flight training benefits program must obtain a private pilot's license and maintain a current second class medical certificate. In addition, an applicant must show an interest in using the training as part of their present or future occupation or vocation. Eligibility is further based on the student's enrollment in an FAA-approved, Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 141 program.

Students will only receive reimbursement for flight training which is in pursuit of advanced licenses and ratings. This includes instrument rating, multi-engine ratings, certified flight instructor certificate and commercial pilots license. Reimbursement for these ratings and licenses is limited to the minimum ground and flight instruction time requirement contained in FAR Part 141.

Additional Information

More information concerning the veterans flight training benefits program can be obtained by contacting the nearest Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office.