



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAHALL AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

New York, NY -- The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, a group dedicated to trumpeting the contributions made by ethnic Americans, has bestowed the Congressional Medal of Honor on U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) for his work in fostering greater ethnic pride among Arab-Americans.

The medal, which has been awarded to such legends as Stan Musial, Gregory Peck and Arnold Palmer, was created in 1986.

"I am honored by this prestigious award," said Rahall. "It makes me feel like I have done my ancestors proud and I will always treasure it."

Rahall, born of Lebanese descent, has been an active voice in the Arab community, consistently calling for a more even handed approach to U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. He has lobbied intently for the reopening of universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and was an outspoken critic of undue condemnation of Arab-Americans during the Persian Gulf War.

The medal presentation, which will be performed on the historic island, will coincide with the centennial celebration of Ellis Island. Late author, Alex Haley, will also be awarded a medal posthumously.

The Ellis Island Medals of Honor were established by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the New York Statue of Liberty Centennial Commission.

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