

## **NICK J. RAHALL II**

Former U.S. Representative Nick Rahall represented West Virginia's Third Congressional District. He served on both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and also on the Public Works Committee, for the entire 19 consecutive terms that he served in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served as the Ranking Member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and as Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, from 2007 through 2011.

First elected in 1976, Former Representative Rahall is recognized with the distinction of being the youngest-elected, longest serving Member in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives. And as the longest serving Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, he was a leader in every Federal Highway debate during his entire 38 year career.

Nick Rahall worked tirelessly to build and repair the Nation's highways, bridges and ports, improve and modernize thousands of airports, and to provide critical water, sewer systems and flood control projects throughout West Virginia and across the Nation.

As Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Nick Rahall he was afforded the opportunity to work on issues close to the hearts of many West Virginians – Such as preserving the State's rich coal history and jobs, expanding tourism opportunities, protecting hunting, fishing and other recreational activities. Through his leadership and close cooperation with the National Park System, the U.S. Core of Engineers and a wide variety of stakeholders, he was able to help preserve and safeguard special places across the Nation, for future generations to enjoy. He strived to honor the Committee's charge of serving the natural environment, wild lands, scenic vistas, fish and wildlife, tribal Indian sovereignty, and the American Public.

Nick Rahall's reputation as willing to work across Party aisles to get the job done was well known, and earned him deep respect and frequent cooperation from his Colleagues in Congress across the Political Spectrum.

Using his experience as owner and operator of Mountaineer Tour & Travel Agency prior to his election to Congress, Nick Rahall served on the Executive Committee of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus. This allowed him the opportunity to visit and work closely with all sectors of our domestic and off-shore Tourism industry.

Always advocating the U.S. best interest first, he has traveled the Middle East extensively, meeting with Kings, Queens, Princes and Presidents, urging and facilitating peace. In recognition of his efforts he has received both the Philip C. Habib Distinguished Public Service Award in 1993; and the Najeeb Halaby Public Service Award in 2004, which was presented to him by Queen Noor of Jordan.

Prior to his career in the U.S. House of Representatives, Nick Rahall owned and operated Mountaineer Tour & Travel Agency, partnered with his late father on a variety of business interests including Rahall Communications Corporation, and also served as a top aide to his lifelong mentor, the late U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd.

Nick Rahall is married to the former Melinda Ross of Ashland, Kentucky, has three children - Rebecca Rahall Parker, Nick Joe Rahall III and Suzanne Rahall, and has been blessed with three grandchildren so far.

