

Combat Infantrymen badge, the National Defense Service medal and the Vietnam Campaign medal. Ed was a civic leader and model citizen. He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, the Lexington Elks Club, the Lexington Lions Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Fiora will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I know the Members of the House will join in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife Clara "Betsy"; his son and daughter-in-law Major and Mrs. Edward L. Fiora; his sister Florine Frerking; and his grandchildren.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY THE COOPERATIVE MAIL RULE FOR NON-PROFIT MAILERS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to clarify the Cooperative Mail Rule that the United States Postal Service uses to limit the commercial use of non-profit mail.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, non-profit organizations provide many valuable services to citizens across the country. Nonprofit organizations are key in providing education and information about a variety of issues ranging from public health to participation in civic affairs. Nonprofit organizations are able to provide such services often by raising money through voluntary contributions rather than tax dollars.

Nonprofit organizations must rely on commercial entities to provide goods and services, and such goods and services cost money. Often, new or less-well funded nonprofit organizations must obtain these goods and services based on a contingency arrangement with a commercial business. The Postal Service has in recent years interpreted a postal regulation known as the Cooperative Mail Rule to disallow reduced rates for nonprofits based solely on their business relationships with commercial entities, even when the nonprofit's mail contains no commercial matter. This interpretation is inconsistent with the original intent of Congress in creating nonprofit rates.

The Cooperative Mailing Rule was originally designed to prevent commercial parties that do not have a nonprofit postal permit from entering into cooperative arrangements with nonprofit permit holders to mail commercial matter at the reduced nonprofit rates. In 1993, at the request of the Postal Service, Congress incorporated the Cooperative Mailing Rule into the United States Code to prohibit those types of cooperative arrangements.

The legislation I am introducing today allows qualified nonprofit organizations to mail at reduced rates regardless of whether they employ commercial companies to help them prepare and mail their letters or engage in other commercial arrangements. The mail must still relate to the respective nonprofit permit holders themselves and not promote or advertise products or services on behalf of a commercial entity. This will rectify the Postal Service's recent misapplication of the Cooperative Mailing Rule.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

TUNISIA 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people and government of Tunisia on the anniversary of the country's forty-fifth year of independence on March 20, 2001.

Our two countries have maintained a steadfast alliance since signing the Treaty of Peace in 1797. Whether securing Mediterranean shipping lines, fending off Nazi aggression in North Africa as part of the Allied defensive, or standing by us during the Cold War, Tunisia has always shown us her loyalty.

Today, Tunisia stands as an example to developing countries and the promise of North Africa. It has quickly progressed from a country that receives aid to a nation of growing financial influence through its efforts to privatize state owned companies, lifting of price controls and reducing tariffs, reforming the banking and financial sectors, and development of trade in order to create an aggressive free market economy. Today, over sixty percent of the population of Tunisians can be counted in the middle class. We congratulate the country on its progressive social and health programs and most extraordinarily for its leadership in the region as a supporter of women's legal rights.

Tunisia has also become a moderating force in the Middle East peace process, taking an active role within the international community in fighting terrorism, while maintaining internal stability in the face of external chaos.

I am pleased with the increasingly strong ties between the United States and Tunisia, and join the American people in congratulating the people of Tunisia on this historic occasion. I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

RECOGNIZING TWO GREAT AMERICANS

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to be here before you to recognize Rabbi Avigdor Slatos and Rebbitzin Rochel Slatos today. They are truly a special couple who have touched the lives of so many people throughout my district. This weekend, these people of God will be celebrating with their Synagogue, the Congregation Bnai Briith Jacob, upon their 20th anniversary of distinguished leadership in the city of Savannah. As a result, I felt compelled to make it known throughout the nation what the people of Savannah already know, Rabbi and Rebbitzin Slatos are great Americans and even greater servants of God.

Rabbi Avigdor Slatos has inspired our community to a new level of Torah appreciation through various classes, shiurim, and lectures.

In depth shiurim in Gemarah, Chumash, Halacha as well as beginners programs for those who have never experienced authentic Torah education. Rabbi Slatos has been actively involved in helping to build a day school for all Jewish children in the city of Savannah, and now has an enrollment of approximately 170 children. The Rabbi has also introduced a Kollel to Savannah which presents Torah classes on a variety of topics and issues for the entire community.

Rochel Slatos learned the importance of seniors growing up in the nursing home facility her parents owned in Chicago, Illinois. As a first generation American and a daughter of Holocaust survivors, she is keenly aware of the plight of her people and has been a distinguished companion in her husband's efforts to elevate spirituality and growth within the Savannah Jewish community. She has weekly adult education classes and has taught kindergarten in the Rambam day school for many years. Currently, she devotes much of her time to the senior citizens who live at Buckingham South, the retirement home she started next door to the synagogue. The Rebbitzin is among the first to arrive there every morning and is always the last to leave. Every night she tucks each person in before she goes home and many on her staff have told me that she is their personal hero.

Both the Rabbi and Rebbitzin have devoted their lives to our community and spreading the Word of God to whomever their paths may cross. It is this devotion that they share that compelled me to speak about them today. I am honored to know them and call them friends, but I am also honored to thank them on behalf of my district for their twenty years of service. I hope and pray to God they are able to do so for many more years to come.

SYMPHONY GUILD OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the 50th anniversary of The Symphony Guild of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Symphony Guild of Charlotte is dedicated to youth music education through its many projects which offer young people throughout the Charlotte Metropolitan Area varied opportunities to experience classical music. The Guild has supported the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Junior Youth Orchestra and has solely underwritten the Summer Resident Music Camp for over 30 years, sponsored the Young Artists Competition for over 20 years, and the Youth Festival for 14 years.

The Summer Resident Music Camp, the Youth Festival, and the Symphony Guild ASID Showhouse have received national recognition by the American Symphony Orchestra League and serve as models for other nonprofit organizations throughout the Nation.

The Guild has also been recognized locally for its long, continuous commitment to the cultural fabric of the Charlotte community with the prestigious Spirit Award from Royal and SunAlliance and the Mint Museum.

For these reasons, I am honored to recognize the Symphony Guild of Charlotte for its