

March 22, 2001

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

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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.

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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 Slatius and Rebbitzin Rochel Slatius 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 Brith 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 Slatius are great Americans and even greater servants of God.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Rabbi Avigdor Slatius 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 Slatius 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 Slatius 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.

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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.

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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 achievements and help them in celebrating 50 years of support for symphonic music.

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TRIBUTE TO THE RONALD  
MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

**HON. HENRY BONILLA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 22, 2001*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Ronald McDonald House Charities for their contributions to the health and well being of Hispanic communities around this nation and the world. I would also like to recognize the CEO of the foundation, Ken Barun. Mr. Barun recently received a leadership award from the National Hispanic Medical Association. This award is but the latest of many accolades granted to this outstanding organization. Just last spring, the Ronald McDonald House Charities were recognized by the Hispanic Scholarship Fund as "one of the top ten corporate citizens . . . for the Hispanic community."

The Ronald McDonald House Charities address a variety of health care needs. Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles provide free medical, dental, and remedial care; as well as medical referrals and health education programs. The Changing the Face of the World program funds reconstructive surgery for children in developing countries with facial deformities. In addition, the Hand-in-Hand Saving Sight Program provides eye care to children around the world and the Kinship Center serves the needs of adoptive and foster families throughout predominantly Hispanic communities.

The generous and innovative programs of the Ronald McDonald House Charities also aid communities in furthering the education of their students. The Hispanic Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to promising Hispanic American college-bound students. To date, it has supported more than 6,000 students. In addition, the National Latino Children's Institute promotes policies and programs that value Latino youth and help build healthy Hispanic communities.

Whether it is providing quality, innovative health care to Hispanic families or encouraging students to pursue educational goals, Ronald McDonald House Charities are making a difference in Hispanic communities around the nation and world. I am pleased to commend Ronald McDonald House Charities and Mr. Barun on their many accomplishments.