From August 1944 to March 1945, Staff Sergeant George Costage fought gallantly during thirty-five combat missions as a gunner in a B-24 bomber over occupied Continental Europe. Congressman Bilirakis worked with Costage to have his service record corrected to reflect his achievements in aerial combat over occupied Continental Europe during World War II.

â€œThe bravery and courage exhibited by Sergeant Costage in each of these successful missions played an important role in the liberation of millions and ultimately the defeat of Nazi Germany,â€ said Bilirakis. â€œUnder very trying and life threatening conditions, Sergeant Costage demonstrated his skill and outstanding proficiency in aerial combat. I am honored to have the opportunity to help recognize this local hero for his heroism and courage during World War II.â€

**This event is open to the media. All media inquiries should be directed to John Tomaszewski at (202) 225-5755. For event information or directions, please contact Congressman Bilirakisâ€™s Palm Harbor office at (727) 773-2871.**