

**PALM HARBOR, Fla. (Oct. 26)** -- U.S. Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-Fla.), representing Florida's 9th Congressional District including portions of Pasco, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties, will be hosting two seminars on consumer fraud and identity theft on Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007.

The first seminar will be held at the New Tampa Regional Library on 10001 Cross Creek Boulevard in Tampa, Fla., from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The second seminar will take place at St. Petersburg College's Tarpon Springs Campus on 600 Klosterman Road in Tarpon Springs, Fla., from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Congressman Bilirakis will be joined by officials from the Federal Trade Commission and U.S. Postal Service, legal experts and members of the law enforcement community.

Among the topics to be discussed include mail and cyber fraud as well as identity theft crimes against the elderly and consumers. Information will also be provided about efforts to curb identity theft and consumer fraud in the community and what steps the public can take to better recognize and protect against these crimes.

In addition to the seminars, an on-site industrial shredder will be available for the public to dispose of personal and sensitive documents. These items include all types of paper (staples and paper clips are okay), unwanted/expired credit cards and floppy computer disks. Items that will not be accepted include three-ring binders, VHS tapes, DVDs and compact discs.

To RSVP or to obtain additional information on these seminars, please contact Congressman Bilirakis's Palm Harbor District Office at (727) 773-2871.