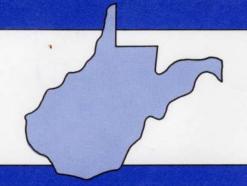
PRESS RELEASE



V.S. Congressman Nick Rahall

WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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CONTACT: KENT KEYSER Acting Press Secretary Phone: (202) 225-3452

JOSEPHINE POST OFFICE TO REMAIN OPEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U. S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D - W. Va.) announced today that the Washington Headquarters office of the Postal Service advised him late on May 23rd that the Service has decided not to close the Josephine Post Office after the congressman objected.

"When the announcement of closing came in to my office, I immediately contacted the Postal Service's Washington Headquarters, expressing my strong opposition to closing the office at Josephine," said Rahall. "The Postal Service here in Washington changed its mind, stating in a letter to me that they will put an acting post master in the facility, and 'that there are no definitive plans at this time to propose closing the Josephine office.'"

Initially the Postal Service had announced the Josephine Post Office would be closed because of the former Postmaster's retirement.

"I continue to take the U.S. Postal Service to task about closing small post offices in our State, and particularly in southern West Virginia especially when they try to close offices due simply to retirements," said Rahall. "I have advised them that our State is bearing a disproportionate share of small post office closings compared with other states, and I want it stopped."