

Former NALC legislative director died

Former NALC Legislative and Political Assistant to the President George Gould died on April 6 of pancreatic cancer. He was 79.

Gould was revered in labor union circles for his 28-year career of successfully working to advance NALC's legislative and political agenda of improving pay, benefits, work conditions and union rights for letter carriers, and strengthening the Postal Service.

Born in Schenectady, NY, Gould moved with his family to Southern California when he was 13. After receiving a bachelor's degree in political science from California State University at Long Beach, he became staff assistant to the speaker of the California Assembly, Jesse Unruh. He then moved to Washington, DC, and began a distinguished career as a congressional staffer.

Gould served as staff director of the House Subcommittee on Postal Facilities, Mail and Labor Management and the Subcommittee on Postal Personnel and Modernization of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, and was chief of staff to Rep. Charlie Wilson (D-CA). He served as staff director of the House Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services from 1976 to 1979, when he left Capitol Hill to take the reins of NALC's legislative and political program under the direction of then-NALC President Vincent Sombrotto.

As NALC's chief lobbyist, Gould oversaw significant advances for letter carriers on postal operations, as well as labor rights, job safety, health care and retirement issues. He was instrumental in advancing the political freedoms of federal workers through his advocacy efforts on the Hatch Act reforms of 1993. He also

was instrumental in building NALC's political advocacy capacity through what now is called the Letter Carrier Political Fund.

Gould was co-chairman of the Coalition to Preserve the Postal Service, a coalition made up of postal unions, postal-management groups, mailers and the Postal Service. He also served as chairman of the Committee on Legislative and Political Affairs of the Fund for Assuring an Independent Retirement (FAIR), which advocated for the protection and enhancement of federal employee pensions and other benefits. FAIR later became the Federal-Postal Coalition.

Gould retired from NALC in 2007, having served longer than anyone who had previously—or has subsequently—held the position.

"George was held in very high regard by thousands of NALC members and officers who got to know him over the years," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "He not only built one of the best political and legislative operations in the labor movement, but he was also a great mentor to many activists and lobbyists who still work in progressive circles today. George did a fantastic job promoting the interests of letter carriers on Capitol Hill for decades. Our members remain indebted to his great service."

Gould is survived by his wife, Diane, and a daughter, a brother and several grandchildren. A son, George Gould III, preceded him in death. A celebration of Gould's life will be held at a later date; in lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Blue Ridge Hospice in Winchester, VA. **PR**



George Gould