

Muslim Americans make up a vital part of our nation's diverse, multicultural fabric; every day, they make valuable contributions to the arts, the economy, academia, government, military services, and much more.

If it is passed, Amendment No. 13 would only further stigmatize and alienate a vibrant community of Americans who have been subject to harassment and discrimination for years, and especially under the Trump Administration.

We are better than that and I urge all Members to join me in rejecting this terrible legislation.

INSURING SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENCY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing to discuss the Social Security Administration's Annual Trustee Report. This report is a strong reminder that Congress must act to address the Social Security Trust Fund shortfall to ensure the stability of Social Security for generations to come. The longer Congress delays dealing with this impending crisis, the fewer options we will have to address the shortfall.

Social Security is an essential program that prevents elderly Americans from falling into poverty once they reach retirement age or are disabled. Currently, Social Security covers 61 million seniors, and 171 million Americans pay into the system. The Trust Fund is divided into two divisions: Old-Age and Survivors insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI). These funds cover the 41.2 million retired workers, the 8.8 million disabled workers, and their families.

The long term viability of Social Security is undoubtedly under threat. The Baby Boomers are beginning to retire which is putting significant pressure on the fund. Since Social Security collects fewer revenues than it previously did, it will be forced to draw from the 2.8 trillion dollars in asset reserve. The Social Security Administration Trustee's report estimates that reserves are in danger of depletion by 2034. We cannot let this happen. A reduction in benefits for our seniors would be devastating for many of my constituent, who depend on Social Security payments as their only income in retirement. If benefits decrease, seniors who have paid into the system could be forced to choose between paying for their groceries, their utility bills, or their essential medication.

There are common-sense steps that Congress can take to stabilize the program and insure its presence for the next century. The Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, Congressman JOHN LARSON, has introduced H.R. 1902—the Social Security 2100 Act. I am a proud co-sponsor of H.R. 1902, which would simultaneously increase benefits for current and future seniors, reduce payroll taxes for middle class and working class Americans, and secure the solvency of the program until 2100.

This is accomplished by asking the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share by raising the payroll tax cap on incomes above \$127,000. There are reasonable solutions that both Democrats and Republicans should be able to support.

Congress cannot afford to abandon our seniors. We must address the Social Security shortfall now. Therefore, I call an Speaker RYAN to bring H.R. 1902 to the floor for a vote.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF VIETNAMESE AMERICANS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a House Resolution recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Vietnamese Americans.

I represent part of one of the largest Vietnamese communities in the United States, and I am proud to recognize the valuable contributions of 1.7 million Vietnamese Americans currently living in the United States. The United States is home to the largest number of individuals of Vietnamese descent outside of Vietnam. Additionally, Vietnamese Americans make up the fourth largest Asian American population. Currently, more than 70,000 reside in California's 46th Congressional District.

In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, approximately 800,000 Vietnamese refugees fleeing persecution resettled in the United States. Today, Vietnamese Americans contribute to American society through their work in business, education, science and technology, engineering, mathematics, literature and the arts, gastronomy, the armed forces, and public service at every level of government.

Vietnamese Americans add to the rich cultural and religious diversity of our Nation. As a member of the Congressional Vietnam Caucus, it is critical that we continue to represent and celebrate our Vietnamese families, friends, and neighbors, and recognize their significant contributions to American society.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably detained on July 13, 2017 during Roll Call No. 360, the Blumenauer Amendment No. 13 to H.R. 2810.

Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 360.

HONORING WORLD WAR II
VETERAN ED GREEN

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize my good friend Ed Green for his many years of service to this country, beginning with his time in the U.S. military and continuing thereafter with his many philanthropic endeavors.

During World War II, Ed proudly served as a member of the Navy, operating in a largely clandestine capacity. He lived and worked aboard armed Merchant Marine vessels, consistently risking his life to ensure the safety of those at home.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, Ed continued his selfless dedication to helping others. He became an active member of the Freeland American Legion Post 473, a group committed to mentoring youth and promoting patriotism, honor, and devotion to service members and veterans within its community. Ed was also involved with the long-standing Veterans of Foreign Wars 5010. He served as Commander of the Military Order of the Cooties Pup Tent 38 in order to help bring smiles to the faces of fellow veterans and residents of the VFW National Home for Children.

Ed's service to his community extended to various local philanthropic projects. For 60 years, he placed flags on the headstones of veterans at Vine Street Cemetery, and when the Standard Speaker newspaper ceased printing flags next to the obituaries of veterans, Ed was responsible for having the newspaper reinstate the practice. Additionally, he spent more than 50 years fighting for disability ratings from the Veterans Administration for hearing loss. He took the lead in organizing countless events during the past many decades, including Flag Day, Veterans Day, and Memorial Day celebrations that took place at locations such as the Laurel Mall and Calvary Cemetery. There is no doubt as to the profound impact Ed has had on the lives of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ed for all he has sacrificed to serve our country and for all he has contributed to the Hazelton community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR SCOTT C. SCHROEDER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Command Sergeant Major Scott C. Schroeder. After 31 years of dedicated service, Command Sergeant Major Schroeder became the Command Sergeant Major for FORSCOM—a post he held for 3 years.

After enlisting in the United States Army in 1983, he began his career as an electronics mechanic at Fort Bliss, Texas. Serving at military installations all over the world allowed Command Sergeant Major Schroeder to gain