

comprehensive fund. This would allow all American workers access to their fair share of Social Security's worker-generated \$2.8 trillion surplus, to pay the benefits they earned. Except for preventing the cut, the bill would not change Social Security benefits or overall Social Security solvency, as projected in the Trustees Report released today.

Creating one unified trust fund for one Social Security is just common sense, and long overdue. In fact, it was unanimously endorsed by the bipartisan 1979 Advisory Council on Social Security—a distinguished federal advisory panel that was charged with making recommendations to Congress on all aspects of Social Security. They found that there was “no longer a need” for separate trust funds. The Advisory Council concluded that the two-trust fund system, with its need for periodic reallocations, “is cumbersome and can cause needless public worry about the financial integrity of the Social Security system.”

The bill has been endorsed by thirty-six organizations representing American workers, people with disabilities, and senior citizens. They know it's the right solution to protect Social Security.

The earned benefits of 11 million Americans are not something we can let hang in the balance. They are a solemn obligation. We have only one Social Security. I look forward to working with my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, to honor that obligation, so that we can move forward and find the best way to preserve and strengthen all of Social Security for the generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DENNIS CARROLL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO MADISON COUNTY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge Dennis Carroll on the occasion of his retirement. For more than three decades, Judge Carroll has served as judge of Madison Circuit Court, Division 6 in Madison County, Indiana. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District and especially Madison County are forever grateful for Judge Carroll's contributions to the Hoosier community.

Although he is an Illinois native, Judge Carroll spent most of his life in Indiana. He first came to Indiana to attend Anderson University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in English and Education in 1969. Upon graduating, he was a high school English teacher at Shenandoah schools in Indiana, and later decided to attend law school.

After graduating from the Indiana University School of Law in 1974, Judge Carroll and his wife, Emily, decided to lay down roots in Anderson, Indiana. He began his career in law serving as the first Executive Director of the East Central Indiana Legal Services Program. After three years, Judge Carroll returned to Anderson University as an adjunct professor and was Coordinator of the Pre-Law Studies Program. He also maintained a private law practice during his time with the University.

Judge Carroll is truly a leader in the judiciary and in his community. During his 34 year

tenure on the bench, he has served several terms as the Chief Judge of the Unified Courts of Madison County; was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Judicial Conference; and was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court to serve on the Supreme Court Select Committee on Judicial Ethics, the Indiana Judicial Conference Education Committee, and the State Judiciary Criminal Law and Policy Committee. Additionally, Judge Carroll was a visionary when it came to Problem Solving Courts. In 2007, he founded a specialty court for Madison County, the Mental Health Court. In 2010, that court became the first Mental Health Court to earn accreditation as certified by the State of Indiana. He applied for and was awarded a grant that expanded mental health services in the Madison County courts under the banner of Problem Solving Courts, one of only two courts in the entire country to receive such an honor.

In Madison County, Judge Carroll's contributions to the community go beyond his duties on the bench. He served on the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Anderson University, the Board of the Madison County Urban League, and is affiliated with Community Hospital Anderson.

His commitment to community led him to recruit people to fill public office and leadership roles in Madison County, including the current prosecutor and three judges. After Anderson University President James Edwards announced he would be retiring, Judge Carroll, as a member of the Anderson University recruitment committee, artfully orchestrated plans to recruit then Transportation and Security Administration Administrator John Pistole, an Anderson University alumnus, to return to Indiana to serve as the new President of Anderson University. This ensures that the strong legacy that past presidents have built at Anderson University will continue to grow.

Judge Carroll's contributions to Madison County are vast and impressive, and although he will be retiring from his judgeship, we are thrilled that he plans to continue to play an active role in making our community a better place. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I congratulate Judge Carroll on a well-deserved retirement and wish Judge Carroll and Emily the best as they move on to their next adventure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on July 16, 2015, I missed five recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call 443, YEA on Roll Call 444, NAY on Roll Call 445, NAY on Roll Call 446, and YEA on Roll Call 447.

HONORING NORTH PANOLA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable school, North Panola High School of Sardis, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

North Panola High School is a rural high school situated on the eastern edge of the Mississippi delta. For many years the high school has been a part of a school district that had been plagued by low test scores, violence and a negative school culture. The school district had been taken over by the state several times due to year after year low test scores.

In July of 2011, Robert King, Conservator of the North Panola School District, hired Jamone Edwards as the principal of North Panola High School. Jamone Edwards, a graduate of Mississippi State University and The University of Mississippi, was the youngest principal the school had ever witnessed. He brought innovative ideas and worked tirelessly to increase teacher morale and create a positive school culture. Under his leadership and the staff's support, the school has made significant gains in the accountability model in which schools are rated. Prior to the new leadership, for many years the school was considered low performing and on academic watch. During his tenure, the school rose to Successful, which is equivalent to a C school. In the 2013–14 school year, Mr. Edwards led the school to its first ever High Performing Status, which is equivalent to a B school. This is a remarkable achievement as the school had never experienced such success and recognition.

Additionally, since 2010, the school has many successes to celebrate. The school's graduation rate was at an all-time low of 49% in 2010. Since that time, the graduation rate has risen to 73% for the 2013–14 academic school year. Currently, the high school is projected to have a graduation rate of 85% for the 2014–15 accountability rating. In addition, Algebra I and U.S. History subject area test scores have surpassed the state's average, and English II and Biology I state test scores are slightly trailing the state's average.

North Panola High School has also made significant improvement in preparing students for college and acquiring scholarships. In 2010, the mean ACT score was 14.8. Since that time, several students of North Panola High School has scored 20 or better on the ACT. In 2010, the high school graduating seniors had generated \$150,000 in scholarship monies. In 2014, the high school graduating class of approximately 80 students received in excess more than \$2 Million in scholarship monies creating more opportunities for our children to succeed in college and careers after high school.

In March 2015, North Panola High School received an award from the State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Carey M. Wright and the Mississippi Department of Education for closing the achievement gap between black and white students in the area of English/Language Arts and Mathematics. North Panola was one of the only predominantly minority high schools to be recognized

with the Distinguished School Award. As a result, North Panola High School received \$23,750.05 to further enhance the students' overall educational experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing North Panola High School for its dedication to serving our great state of Mississippi and country.

TRIBUTE TO PETER WILLIAMS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Peter Williams of Indianola, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award during the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Peter is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities with a degree in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, as well as minors in Chinese and Music. He will travel to China in September 2015 and begin his research on the endangered golden snub-nosed monkey of west central China.

Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State. It serves as a valuable foreign affairs tool by making people-to-people connections. It also gives participants a chance to help with important issues across the globe and gain valuable skills, giving them the necessary experience to lead our future generations. With over 360,000 participants since its creation, the Fulbright Program serves an important role in educating our young people and improving our diplomatic relations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Peter today. It is the young people like him who are willing to work hard and make sacrifices for the betterment of society that will lead our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on this outstanding achievement and wish him nothing but continued success moving forward.

CONGRATULATING SCOTT CUNNINGHAM ON HIS YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT AWARDS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate one of my personal staff members, Scott Cunningham, on his earning two prestigious national awards from the YMCA Youth and Government program for his volunteer service.

YMCA Youth and Government exists at both the state and national levels and provides teenage youth with the opportunity to participate in model state legislatures, international assemblies, and other related bodies. The students involved often exhibit strong interest in being civic and community leaders and in developing policy ideas to better the world around them. At conferences, which often in-

volve months of preparation on the part of the participants, the students learn to hone these skills. Some, like Scott, go on better prepared to pursue a career in public service and, in turn, give back by regularly helping the next generation's students in their own YMCA conferences.

Scott first became involved with YMCA Youth and Government while in high school in Dallas, Texas, and was active in both Texas and national programs. After graduating high school in 1998, he returned to serve at conferences as a college advisor and has continued ever since among alumni volunteers at several state and national conferences. He has also lived his love for public service and policymaking in his own career. Scott came to Washington as a congressional intern in 1999. In 2007 he joined my staff and continues to serve the people of the 24th district of Texas with energy and integrity, first as policy director, then legislative director, and presently as deputy chief of staff. I have no doubt that Scott's hard work and experience in YMCA Youth and Government, both as a student and an adult volunteer, have contributed to his excellent and good-humored performance.

For his consistent efforts to make Youth and Government and its participants as successful as possible, Scott recently received service awards at two different national conferences. On June 13, he was awarded the YMCA Youth and Government Distinguished Service Award at the Youth Governors Conference in Washington, DC. This award, better known as the Crystal Gavel, is presented to alumni in recognition of dedication and exceptional service to the program. To earn it, one must meet the established criteria which include: having volunteered with Youth and Government for over ten years, personifying a spirit of selfless service and exemplifying the qualities of servant leadership, demonstrating significant personal investment in the program and a meaningful impact on his or her area of work, and exemplifying the Four Core Values of the YMCA—caring, honest, respect, responsibility—and a commitment to the goal that “Democracy must be learned by each generation.”

On July 2, at the 48th Annual YMCA Youth Conference on National Affairs in Black Mountain, North Carolina, Scott was awarded the Dr. Paul Grist Service Award. This lifetime honor is given for most distinguished service as an advisor to the conference and the Youth and Government program.

For his part, Scott affirms that YMCA Youth and Government has done much for him in his life, and he considers it a privilege to give back to the program that gave him “a whole lot and then some.” It is an honor to have such a dedicated public servant assist me in many critical ways in representing the 24th district of Texas. And on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Scott Cunningham on his two YMCA Youth and Government service awards and in thanking him for his tireless and sacrificial work to help the upcoming generation of young Americans learn the ideals and practice of democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call #448 on H.R. 1557, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDREA SWANSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alexandra Swanson of Carter Lake, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award during the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Alexandra is a recent graduate of Creighton University with a bachelor's degree in international relations and German and a minor in Spanish. She will travel to Germany in August 2015 and begin working in an English teaching assistantship.

Established by Congress in 1946, the Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation to the U.S. Department of State. It serves as a valuable foreign affairs tool by making people-to-people connections. It also gives participants a chance to help with important issues across the globe and gain valuable skills, giving them the necessary experience to lead our future generations. With over 360,000 participants since its creation, the Fulbright Program serves an important role in educating our young people and improving our diplomatic relations.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Alexandra today. It is the young people like her who are willing to work hard and make sacrifices for the betterment of society that will lead our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on this outstanding achievement and wish her nothing but continued success moving forward.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,831,938,889.04. We've added \$7,524,954,889,975.96 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.