

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH NOUFAL

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to commemorate the life of my constituent Mr. Joseph "Joey" Noufal from Leesburg, Virginia, who passed away on May 31, 2017, at the age of 48. Throughout his life, Mr. Noufal was an esteemed entrepreneur in our community and a devoted husband, father, and friend. Revered for his sincerity and beloved for his contagious smile, generosity, and compassion, Mr. Noufal embodied an innovative and zealous character. His legacy endures and he will always be remembered and missed by many.

Originally from Beirut, Lebanon, Mr. Noufal immigrated to Northern Virginia during his childhood. From a young age, he developed the essential entrepreneurial qualities of reliability, creativity, and determination by working in his family's salon. Later on, he earned his Associate's Degree in Graphic Design. As an award-winning hair stylist, he successfully ran Noufal Hair Color Studio for more than a quarter-century. Throughout his career, Mr. Noufal garnered numerous international certifications and made house calls to royal families and foreign dignitaries. Additionally, Mr. Noufal operated various business ventures involving franchising, coffee distribution, and corporate cleaning.

Recently, Mr. Noufal and his wife, Vicky, celebrated their 23rd wedding anniversary. Together, they have three sons, Alexander, Brandon, and Mason. Mr. Noufal often remarked that his greatest accomplishment in life was being father to his sons and a partner to his wife. He is also survived by his mother, six brothers, and two sisters.

Mr. Noufal leaves behind a remarkable legacy and an extensive entrepreneurial career to the Commonwealth. His unyielding strength and devotion to his work and clients attested to his selfless character and genial demeanor. He will be greatly missed by the countless lives he has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of, and bidding farewell to, Joey Noufal. May he rest in peace, and his family be comforted.

THE HOUSE'S RESPONSE TO
PRESIDENT TRUMP'S REMARKS
ON U.S.-RUSSIA CYBERSECURITY
COOPERATION

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my distress over the House's response to President Trump's recent comments on cybersecurity cooperation with Russia.

The U.S. Intelligence Community has overwhelmingly concluded that Russia actively sought to influence the 2016 election through

an active disinformation campaign, and covert cyberattacks. Yet this past weekend, in an act that confounded Republicans and Democrats alike, President Trump bragged about discussing with Vladimir Putin the possibility of establishing a joint cybersecurity unit with Russia. The idea that we would cooperate with Russia on cybersecurity, which would necessarily mean sharing some of our strategies, defies logic.

Naturally concerned by this reckless announcement, this week several of my colleagues and I offered amendments to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to prohibit such cooperation. However, House Republicans refused to bring a single one of them to the floor for consideration.

Not only has our President refused to fully accept the overwhelming evidence that Russia actively sought to influence our elections, he now continues to place our national security at risk by floating the absurd idea that we should actually cooperate with Vladimir Putin, who ordered this campaign against our democratic institutions, in order to guard against future cyber threats.

Mr. Speaker, it would be laughable, if it were not so shameful, that House Republicans are refusing to do anything to even consider prohibiting such a dangerous course of action by President Trump. Why not let the full House vote on this proposal? If any of my colleagues do think it's a good idea to work with Russia on cybersecurity, let them come to the floor and explain themselves.

What will it take before House Republicans take a stand against Russia's actions? If we do not do it, then I promise you it will happen again in the next election.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Franks Amendment No. 13 to H.R. 2810, the "National Defense Authorization Act" (NDAA), which would require the federal government to conduct so-called strategic assessments of Islamic religious doctrine.

I am shocked and appalled at this blatant attempt to single out Muslims for a religious test in a direct violation of the Constitution and our nation's founding principles.

It frankly astounds me that such a hateful, discriminatory, and incoherent piece of religious bigotry has been made in order for this bill and is under consideration today.

To illustrate the sheer absurdity of this amendment, I would like to offer the amend-

ment's sponsor a brief lesson on the history of religious persecution and freedom in the United States.

In 1620, a group of English-born Puritans braved the Atlantic Ocean in order to found Plymouth Colony in the New World of America—they were fleeing, above all else, religious persecution in England, where discriminatory religious tests were common practice and the law.

On September 17, 1878, two and a half centuries later, 39 delegates signed the United States Constitution; in Article 6, Section 3 of this Constitution, they wrote that "no religious test shall ever be required . . . under the United States."

In the First Amendment, they went even further: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Every child in America knows these facts about our nation's founding.

The essential human right to freedom of worship, without fear of persecution or discrimination, is explicitly written into our genetic code as Americans.

What we do not teach our children is to associate any particular religion with the violent acts of a few extremists who claim to belong to that religion.

We understand that such an accusation would be irrational, intellectually dishonest, and ineffective at identifying and combatting the real roots of violent extremism.

It would be remiss for me to neglect to point out that the Ku Klux Klan was founded and continues to identify as a Christian organization, or that racial terrorist Dylann Roof, who murdered nine innocent churchgoers in cold blood, was himself a member of a Lutheran church.

Yet Representative Franks' amendment does not require any strategic assessments of "violent or unorthodox" Christian doctrine.

Instead, Amendment No. 13 wrongfully casts the specter of terrorism upon all Muslim communities and individuals through the use of coded language like "strategic assessments."

Nowhere does this Amendment acknowledge the fact that many Muslims, both domestically and abroad, have been contributing wholeheartedly to the U.S.'s mission to end violent extremism.

Amendment No. 13 mandates the identification of key Islamic leaders who practice any form of Islam, with no exception for those who have never violated any laws—this is not only a completely nonsensical proposition, but a dangerous violation of the principles of religious liberty, individual privacy, and equal protection as established by the First Amendment.

Amendment No. 13 requires the Secretary of Defense to create a "team of experts" to determine which practices and beliefs of the Islam are legitimate or acceptable—another direct violation of the Constitution.

Mr. Chair, this Amendment is a stain on our national honor and pride as Americans.

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 cosponsor 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 on 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