

forties and tell them today, ROB, you are not going to get the Social Security and Medicare benefits your parents got, because I'm not. We've got to come to people today and give them the bad news. ROB, you are going to continue paying the highest payroll taxes in the history of this country to go into the Medicare and Social Security Trust Fund, but when you retire, you will not get the kind of medical and Social Security benefits that your parents got.

We've got to deliver that bad news because I'm not, and other folks in their forties aren't, and folks in their thirties aren't, and their twenties aren't, and their teens aren't.

We overpromised, Mr. Speaker. If you don't believe we overpromised, I want you to go back, you can look it up on the Internet, Mr. Speaker. In fact, it's on the Social Security Web page.

A young woman named Ida Mae Fuller. You may not know who Ida Mae Fuller is, but she was the very first American to retire under the Social Security program. The very first monthly check that she received, Mr. Speaker, returned every penny that she'd paid in in taxes over her lifetime. Hear that. The first monthly check that she received returned to her every penny that she'd paid into Social Security taxes over her lifetime, and she continued to receive a check of that size every month for the next almost 30 years until she died in the early nineties.

Well, Mr. Speaker, when you're handing out money like that, you have to know that system's not going to sustain itself. In those days there were about 30 American workers paying in for every one retiree, and so we could be generous. Today there are about two American workers paying in for every one retiree, and the American workers can't afford that.

I don't want to pull the rug out from under today's seniors, Mr. Speaker. We've made promises, and we need to keep those promises. Folks have lived their entire life banking on those promises, and I think we owe it to folks to come through. They did everything they were supposed to do. They paid their taxes, they played by the rules. I think we owe it to them to come through for them.

But for folks in their forties, for folks in their thirties, for folks in their twenties, we need to deliver the bad news today that that train has come to a stop. And we'll tell you what the new plan's going to be, we'll tell you what the new dollars are going to be, and you'll be able to plan for your future accordingly. But know that we have to deliver that kind of candid bad news.

Take-home message from this chart right here, Mr. Speaker, is that defense spending in this country, over an 8-year period, is about \$5.3 trillion. But sequestration is going to find about 42 percent of the savings out of the entire bill out of the defense side of the budget.

Now, I'm one of those folks who says we've been spending on wars for the last decade. Do we have waste in the Defense Department just like we have waste in the Ag Department and waste in the National Park Service and waste in the Judiciary, and on and on? Of course we do. You can't be in the Federal Government business spending other people's money without getting careless from time to time, which is why we need to push that money back to the State level.

We can find savings in the Defense Department. But we're coming to a point where the President's Secretary of Defense tells us we are about to begin to undermine national security, our troops, and their families.

Now, if you don't know, the Secretary of Defense today is Leon Panetta. He was once the Democratic chairman of the Budget Committee right here in this House. He was once the OMB director, the Office of Management and Budget. That's the budget office for the President. He was once the OMB Director for President Clinton. He was once President Clinton's Chief of Staff. He understands everything that's happening in this town. He understands the challenges in Congress. He understands the challenges in the White House. And as Secretary of Defense, he understands the challenges of defending a Nation. And he says we're on the verge, if we keep targeting defense, of undermining national security, our troops, and their families.

Now, that's not to say, Mr. Speaker, that defense gets a free pass. It absolutely doesn't. I have a chart right here that shows defense spending, Mr. Speaker. It starts in FY 2009. It goes out to 2021. It's in constant dollars.

□ 1520

It's a downward slope.

If we do absolutely nothing more than what we've already done, Mr. Speaker, we're going to reduce defense spending year, after year, after year in a responsible way that protects our national security, that protects our troops and that protects their families. But if we leave in place this sequester—it's represented by the light blue line down here at the bottom—you're going to see defense spending cut almost in half.

I challenge you, Mr. Speaker, and I challenge you to challenge your constituents: go and find the men and women in uniform in your communities. Go and find them, and ask them if there is waste, fraud and abuse in their particular parts of the Defense Department. I promise you they're going to tell you yes. I want you to ask them if there is 50 percent waste, fraud and abuse, and the answer is going to be no.

We can absolutely reduce defense spending, Mr. Speaker. You and I together, with our colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle, have absolutely reduced defense spending; but it has to be done in a responsible way.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your being with me down here today, and I appreciate your partnership in these successes. I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4045. An act to modify the Department of Defense Program Guidance relating to the award of Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence administrative absence days to members of the reserve components to exempt any member whose qualified mobilization commenced before October 1, 2011, and continued on or after that date, from the changes to the program guidance that took effect on that date.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, May 22, 2012, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6069. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Golden Nematode; Removal of Regulated Areas [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0036] received April 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6070. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas in California [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0074] received April 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6071. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (City of Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, Alabama et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2012-0003] received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6072. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Town of Barton, Tioga County, New York, et al.) [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8225] received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6073. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations (Mobile County, Alabama, et al.) [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-B-1248] received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6074. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes