

Originally, the post was called the Mississippi Delta Post #200. Mr. L.H. Threadgill, principal of Stone Street High School, a veteran of World War II, proposed that the post be named after two former students of Stone Street High School, that were killed in action during WWII. The motion carried and the name was adopted. Thompson-Clemons Post #200 was granted a permanent charter on July 28, 1949, becoming the first Black post in the State of Mississippi. The first Post Commander was Mr. Solomon N. Dickerson.

Mr. L.H. Threadgill and others in the community were instrumental in purchasing the property, obtaining a deed, and getting a building to establish a post headquarters where it is still located today.

The Thompson-Clemons Post #200 of Greenwood, Mississippi has a distinct track record of encouragement to veterans with issues, be they from serving abroad; in combat situations or statewide service. Issues range from transportation to Regional Office and VA Hospital for medical disability claims, educational and skill training, housing and other activities including establishing collaborative partnerships with community organizations to provide emergency services such as utilities, homes for the homeless, counseling and assistance in understanding the myriad of services provided by the VA.

The VA community activities include sponsorship of little league baseball teams, voter education classes, veterans day celebration, adopt a school program, donations to needy families, Boys State Program and the National American Legion Oratorical Contest, where candidates sponsored by Post #200 have won the Mississippi State Championship four times, and three out of the past four years.

Leadership activities include a weekly live call in radio talk program aired on WGNL 104.3 FM in Greenwood, Mississippi where veterans can actually dial up and talk about issues that affect them and their community. Partnering with organizations such as the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Greenwood Voters League, Mississippi Valley State University and other community based groups that advocate for social justice.

Thompson-Clemons Post #200 is well integrated into the fabric and culture of the Mississippi Delta and should be recognized as a Post that has the interest of our service men, their families and community at heart.

The American Legion Post #200 is moving forward to continue the legacy of those early veterans who honorably served their country and had the vision that through the American Legion and its core principles, they could continue to protect and build an America and Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a remarkable organization, The Thompson-Clemons Post #200, for its dedication to serving our veterans and giving back to the African American community.

#### TRIBUTE TO DIANE WATTS

### 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 Diane

Watts on the celebration of her 100th birthday. Vera will be celebrating her 100th birthday today July 22nd, 2015.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Diane's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Diane has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Diane in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ONE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 2015*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, for nearly 80 years, Social Security has helped protect and nurture the American dream. Americans know if they work hard and pay into Social Security, they and their families will receive Social Security's earned benefits when they need them, for as long as they need them.

Congress has always honored that commitment, making adjustments and corrections to the law as needed, from time to time, so that all Americans receive the Social Security benefits they earned through a lifetime of work. Now Congress must act again. If we don't, 11 million Americans will have their Social Security benefits cut by 20 percent next year.

Let me explain.

Social Security is the heart of economic security for American workers, allowing them to earn birth-to-death protection against the loss of income from work, in one simple package. One seamless Social Security system insures American workers and their families (1) in the case of premature death, (2) if they have to stop working due to a disability or very serious illness, and (3) when they reach retirement.

What many people don't know is that after we make our Social Security tax contribution through each paycheck, the law requires that it be distributed into two different trust funds—one that pays for benefits we qualify for if a wage-earner dies, or when we retire, and one that pays for benefits we earn if we become too sick or disabled to work.

All American workers contribute to both funds, with the vast majority of their contributions being deposited in the retirement and survivor fund. But in practice, Congress and the American public have simply treated the two funds as one unified financing system, which guarantees payment of all Social Security earned benefits. In fact, Congress has routinely rebalanced the allocation of workers' contributions between the two funds to ensure that all benefits can be paid. For example, in 1980 and again in 1983, Congress shifted

funds from the disability fund in order to shore up the retirement and survivor fund, and then in 1994, the most recent reallocation, Congress shifted some of the incoming contributions back to the disability fund, ensuring that it could pay benefits through 2016.

Now it's 2015. Social Security has an overall surplus of \$2.8 trillion, which all workers helped build up. Those who receive Social Security due to a disability worked and paid into Social Security for an average of 22 years to earn their benefits, making a significant contribution to the surplus. But because Social Security is legally required to pay Social Security benefits earned because of a disability only out of the disability fund, the benefits of Americans who receive Social Security because of a disability will be cut by 20 percent unless Congress takes action to permit Social Security to use all its available funds to pay all earned benefits.

Social Security is one unified system. It's wrong to separate out Social Security Americans qualify for because of a disability from the rest of Social Security. It's wrong to delay action on legislation to pay Americans the Social Security benefits they earned and need to live.

Americans know we have one Social Security, and they are counting on Congress to act now to protect all of it, not just some pieces of it.

Just like 168 million other Americans, I pay into Social Security with every paycheck. I make one contribution—just one—to earn Social Security's lifetime, all-in-one protection. I don't make different contributions for disability, for retirement, and for my survivors. It's all one—just one Social Security.

When we begin our working lives, none of us knows what kind of insurance from Social Security we'll need, or at what stage of our lives we'll need it. Some workers will die young, leaving family who can rely on Social Security survivors' protection. The majority of seniors depend on Social Security as their primary source of retirement income. And no one expects to suffer a career-ending disability, but if they do, Social Security is there for them. There's one Social Security that covers it all.

For millions of Americans, that one Social Security coverage—"there when you need it"—is a lifeline. Social Security's survivor insurance is the equivalent of a \$476,000 life insurance policy for a worker with young children. More than half of workers who receive Social Security disability insurance payments because of a work-ending illness or injury would live in poverty without Social Security. Many will not survive to receive retirement benefits. Death rates for disability recipients are three to six times higher than for others their age. And unlike most other retirement benefits, Social Security is inflation-protected and cannot be outlived, which is why 44 percent of seniors who are 80 and over have little or nothing other than Social Security to live on.

Today I am introducing the One Social Security Act to make sure we don't break Social Security's simple promise to every American worker—if you pay into one Social Security, you and your family will receive your full earned benefits, of whatever kind, when you need them.

The One Social Security Act would prevent the scheduled 20 percent cut in Social Security benefits for 11 million Americans by merging Social Security's trust funds into a single