

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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Spanish version: www.alianzadejubilados.org

2015 Voting Record Released as Alliance Members from West Meet in Las Vegas

The Alliance released its 2015 voting record [report](#) this week which scores every U.S. Representative and Senator on issues affecting current and future retirees. The voting record examined 10 key Senate and House votes in 2015, showing the roll calls on issues including:

- attacks on core earned benefits programs: Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid;
- passing fast track trade authority, which eliminated the ability to scrutinize and amend proposed trade agreements that lock in higher drug prices; and
- addressing income inequality by raising the minimum wage.

“Unfortunately, the new Congress that came to town did not improve the nation’s retirement security,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Nine of 12 freshman Republican senators scored zero, and the other three scored 10%. Fortunately, 33 senators scored 100%.” Look up how your representatives scored [here](#).

Seniors and Veterans Demand a Vote on the SAVE Benefits Act

Maryland/DC Alliance member **Susan Taylor** [spoke](#) at an event on Capitol Hill urging the Senate to vote on S. 2251, U.S. Sen. **Elizabeth Warren’s** SAVE Benefits Act. The legislation would provide seniors a one-time payment of \$581 to make up for the fact that there was no Social Security cost-of-living adjustment in 2016. The amount is 3.9% of the average annual Social Security benefit, the same percentage that the average Wall Street executive received as a bonus in 2014.

“The 0% COLA was calculated partly by figuring in a lower price for gas, but I don’t drive very much,” said Ms. Taylor at the event. “This one-time emergency payment would help me with what I do spend money on: food, health care expenses, and housing.”



Senators **Tammy Baldwin** (D-WI), **Charles Schumer** (D-NY) and Warren (D-MA) joined seniors and veterans to demand that Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell** (R-KY) bring the SAVE Benefits Act to the floor for a vote. Afterwards, activists delivered more than 800,000 petition signatures in support of the bill to McConnell.

Senator Warren and 21 cosponsors support the SAVE Benefits Act to help Social Security beneficiaries and veterans whose benefits have not kept up with their cost of living. The cost would be paid for by closing a loophole that allows corporations to write off executive bonuses to their highly paid CEOs as a “business expense.”

Help Save American Jobs & Keep Oreos from Being Made in Mexico!

In July 2015, [Nabisco announced](#) it would invest an additional \$130 million in its new \$400 million plant in Salinas, Mexico, rather than investing that money in its iconic plant in Chicago. As a result, 600 workers in Chicago will lose their jobs and an entire community will be devastated.

The union workers at the Chicago Nabisco bakery have been producing baked goods such as Oreo and Chips Ahoy cookies and Ritz and Premium crackers for more than 50 years.

The Alliance is supporting these workers who refused to accept \$46 million in annual concessions, in perpetuity, something the company asked of no other bakery and asking the company to reconsider its decision. The Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers' International Union (BCTMG) has created a petition to **Irene Rosenfeld**, CEO of Mondelez International, Inc. in an effort to save these American jobs. Please sign and to show your support by clicking [here](#). You can also watch and share [this video](#) to learn how to tell if the Nabisco products in your store are made in the United States or Mexico before you buy them.

“Oreos are an all-American cookie, and they should be made in the United States by American workers with retirement benefits,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

Next Regional Conference is in Orlando on March 29th

The registration deadline is fast approaching for the Alliance’s quadrennial [Southern](#) Regional conference, March 29–30, 2016 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Please register and make your hotel reservations today.

The quadrennial [Midwest](#) Regional Conference will be held May 4-5, 2016 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Detroit, Michigan. The [Northeast](#) Regional Conference will take place in Washington, DC, May 19 - 20. During each conference we will elect four regional board members and prepare for the 2016 general election. Questions? Contact **Joni Jones** at jjones@retiredamericans.org or 202-637-5377.

Former Iowa Alliance President Donald Rowen, 1929 - 2016

Donald Rowen, former President of the Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans, passed away on March 3, 2016 at the age of 87.

In 1961, Mr. Rowen was elected full-time President of the Iowa Local, Amalgamated Lithographers of America, which eventually became the Graphic Communication Conference, International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Nine years later, he was elected President of the South Central Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. In 1978, he was elected Executive Vice-President of the Iowa Federation of Labor, a position he held until his retirement in 1990. After serving as president of the Iowa Alliance as a retiree, he was honored with the chapter's George Kourpias Service to Seniors Award in 2015.



“Don will be missed greatly,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “We are grateful for the work he did on behalf of Iowa’s seniors as state president, and we send our deepest condolences to his wife Virginia, as well as his entire family.”

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.3 million retirees and their families.