

# FLORIDA ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

12773 W. Forest Hill Blvd. Suite 211 ♦ Wellington, FL 33414 ♦ (561) 792-8799 ♦ [www.flara.org](http://www.flara.org)

**For Immediate Release**  
**August 15, 2011**

**Contact: Tony Fransetta, President**  
561-386-7047  
Jennifer Kenny  
321-2779385

*Retirees and Community partners gather outside Rep. West office to express disappointment in West and Republican Party.*

Bill Cea, southern region Director for Alliance for Retired Americans remarked “in today’s economic climate with the cost of food, medications and everyday household needs on the rise, it is unconscionable that Rep. West would vote for cuts to Social Security and Medicare.” Mr. Cea then acknowledged that August 14<sup>th</sup> is the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Social Security. He went on to give an explanation of the program benefits and concluded with an explanation of proposed cuts to Social Security currently being discussed in Washington D.C. by our elected officials.

Carol Ann Loehndorf, a retired state worker who currently holds the position of President of her AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) retiree group shared her Social Security and Medicare experience. SS was the safety net her Mother used to help raise Carol Ann and her brother after the death of her Father. Carol Ann recently had a series of surgeries, without Medicare she would have faced bankruptcy.

Leo Solar, shared his views on SS, healthcare and corporate greed.

The crowd endured a blistering sun to listen to a variety of speakers. Most folks stayed for the duration of the 90 minute program. While the speakers varied in their areas of expertise, they all shared the common realization that Republican leaders are not listening to their constituents. Petitions were signed that will be delivered to Washington politicians in the coming weeks.

Please check out Bill Cea’s remarks at the following link:

[http://youtu.be/\\_Newn1eN0Rw](http://youtu.be/_Newn1eN0Rw)

###

---

The Florida Alliance for Retired Americans is a thriving statewide activist retiree organization with over 200,000 members in Florida and over 3 million members nationally. We aim to influence government on retiree legislative and political issues at the federal, state and local levels. Our mission is to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens, so they may enjoy lives of dignity, personal and family fulfillment and security.