

graduated in 1981. He also serves as president of the Sacred Heart Parish Council, and recently co-chaired their \$3 million school and church renovation project.

John is active in the community, and serving on the Board for Community Service Properties, and a member of the ASU Beebe Ag-Tech advisory board, as well as the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton Board of Visitors.

John's service to the State of Arkansas, and commitment to our youth will never be forgotten, and I join all Arkansans in congratulating John Maus on this recognition, and I wish him much continued success.

STOP NAFTA 2

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. President, American workers and organized labor do not support your renegotiated NAFTA. Corporate America and wealthy elites might, but don't make any effort to sell NAFTA's half-baked, repackaged broken promises to our workers, be they industrial or farmhands. You defy the liberty of our democracy when corporate elites speak as the democratic process.

The promise of higher wages and returning jobs is not to be believed without engagement to ensure the dignity of labor, of labor rights, and labor enforcement on this continent.

Hidden between the lines of the current NAFTA text are dollar signs and profits for self-dealing, transnational corporations that have outsourced our jobs, and very wealthy lobbyists who negotiated NAFTA 2's deal. They do not prioritize living-wage jobs, family-sustaining wages, or workers' environmental safety and health conditions across America. NAFTA 2 is still an escalator to the bottom for workers in industrial plants and farmhands.

The ravages NAFTA inflicted on America's workers are etched across American communities devastated by the outsourcing of factories, many left in economic ruin. NAFTA served as the "model" of modern integration of First World and emerging world economies. It was replicated in Central America with what is called CAFTA-DR. The same plundering of non-rich communities ensued throughout Mexico and Central America. Many fell victim then to drug cartels and gangs, overridden with violence. Economic hope further vanished.

Many of those refugees are coming to our borders, if we but understand the force driving them.

Today's proposed new NAFTA will be worse. In the quarter century under NAFTA, more than a million American jobs were outsourced, our workers' wages stagnated, and U.S. trade deficits with Mexico and Central American countries increased exponentially, not just a little bit.

The minimum million jobs lost in our country are only those that are certified. Can you imagine how many other jobs were lost related as suppliers to those jobs?

Our Nation lost thousands of jobs to penny-wage environments where workers could not even afford to buy what they made as they toiled in sweatshops, which I have visited in the maquiladoras, exposed to unimaginable toxins. And millions upon millions of Mexico's small farmers were obliterated due to NAFTA.

This man knew the fate that would be dealt him back in 1993, and it was. This is a Mexican farmer that no longer holds his land.

The original NAFTA fueled massive migration from Mexico's countryside to our Nation, as thousands of very, very, small farmers had their livelihoods extinguished. A minimum of 2 million—million—Mexican farmers were displaced as U.S. agricultural products, heavily subsidized, flowed tariff-free south over a 10-year period, and Mexico's white corn industry was decimated.

Does anybody here care?

Wages in Mexico have gone down under NAFTA, and U.S. wages and benefits have been stuck for the majority of over a quarter century in our country.

Due to NAFTA and CAFTA nations alone, our southern neighbors stock us with fresh produce. Meanwhile, our multinational grain outfits send millions and millions of tons of feed grain down there, displacing Mexico's farmers, and creating an endless flow of desperate, cheap labor across this continent.

Some very powerful people must love this system, as ordinary, hardworking people are quashed across this country and held in bondage.

America must wake up to the impact our trade deals impose on people. Surely our own citizens, but also people who are exploited from other places when you have unequal economies that are joined at the hip by transnationals who don't give a hoot about people.

When multinational corporate interests dominate negotiations, and they have a heavy thumb on the scales of economic justice across the Americas, trade with our closest neighbors is never simply a zero-sum game, because too few control those levers of negotiating power.

It is no surprise that nearly half a million migrants have been taken into custody at our southern borders this year alone. Half a million. In the past, undocumented immigrants were overwhelmingly single men from Mexico, but that flow has changed.

As the President continues to negotiate NAFTA, I urge him to include an enforceable labor rights section, a Labor Secretariat in NAFTA 2, or this exploitation will continue.

Let's stop NAFTA 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

SIX-MONTH REVIEW OF THE 116TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer some observations regarding my first 6 months as a new Member of the 116th Congress.

2019 began with Democrat leadership denying the existence of an illegal immigration crisis at our southern border during a 35-day government shutdown. On 17 separate occasions since then, House Republicans have attempted to pass legislation that would provide \$4.5 billion in humanitarian assistance.

While Democratic leadership is considering H.R. 3401 this week to discuss humanitarian aid at the southern border, their proposal will not direct funds toward expanding detention centers, nor will it provide resources to correct the crisis, which is precisely where this kind of funding is needed.

While this bill is fundamentally flawed, at least, at this point, there is a bipartisan majority that admits we have a real crisis that requires action.

Recent figures at the border are staggering. U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced officers have apprehended or turned back nearly 700,000 migrants in the past 8 months. Further, apprehensions in May marked the highest monthly total in 13 years near the southern border, with U.S. authorities detaining or turning away more than 140,000 people.

It is our sworn duty to put the American people over politics, especially in the people's House. As elected Representatives, it is our responsibility to deliver on issues that are important to the American people.

This year's Democratic leadership agenda has focused on policy proposals that incentivize illegal immigration. Democratic leadership thought H.R. 1 was important to pass, though refused to support a motion that would have expressed that allowing illegal immigrants to vote be prohibited as it devalues and diminishes the voting power of an American citizen.

How would Democrat leadership expect this to pass in Congress, let alone get signed by the President?

This is certainly not in the spirit of compromise but is most certainly a dead-end bill.

Further, Democrat leadership passed H.R. 6, which includes various blanket amnesty provisions. Amnesty should never be passed by this House, especially when that bill includes no improvements to border security.

Not only is putting illegal immigrants ahead of legal immigrants wrong, but to propose an amnesty bill is an obvious incentive for illegal immigrants to cross over the U.S. border.

Another example is H.R. 987, a bill originally focused on lower prescription drug costs which was politicized so it, too, has no chance of becoming law.

The provisions of propping up failed aspects of ObamaCare and banning association health plans is contrary policy to what will drive down healthcare costs, which is choice, competition, innovation, and State's jurisdiction.

Making the Federal Government a monopoly over healthcare is exactly the wrong thing to do if we want to achieve the goal of quality, affordable healthcare for all. This goal can be accomplished while assuring a safety net is in place, protecting preexisting conditions, and keeping Medicare strong.

Additionally, bringing to the floor and passage of the proposed United States-Mexico-Canada agreement, known as the USMCA, is critical to our continued economic growth.

I state this as an objective outsider. House Republicans and the President continue to focus on growing the economy for all Americans, a strong national defense, including orderly humanitarian border security, reducing healthcare costs, free- and fair-trade agreements, revitalizing our stressed communities, regulatory reform, and improving the quality of life of American families. We need bipartisan policy which puts Americans first, not America alone, but country first.

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REAUTHORIZE NUTRIA ERADICATION AND CONTROL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about a challenge that we have in California's waterways. It is a challenge of an invasive species called nutria.

Nutrias are commonly known as swamp rats to many. They came from South America decades ago, but they raise havoc wherever they go.

They are a problem for California's already challenged water system. They destroy canals and levees, which, in turn, could lead to flooding and threaten water delivery to our farmers and our farm communities.

Usually detected in large numbers, they rapidly reproduce, which makes eradication difficult.

Last week, I cosponsored legislation with fellow Congressmen JOSH HARDER and TJ COX to help fight the nutria population growth. The bill will reauthorize the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 and provide \$7 million toward efforts to rid the species from California once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation for California.

CELEBRATING PORTUGUESE HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as National Portuguese Heritage Month.

Representative COX and I have introduced legislation, along with the Portuguese Caucus, to officially recognize the key role that Portuguese Ameri-

cans have played in the growth of our Nation and highlight their valuable and significant contributions to our society.

Portugal was the first neutral nation to establish diplomatic ties with the United States over 240 years ago. They have contributed to every facet of American society, from manning the early whaling ships in New England to the introduction of agriculture throughout the country.

They have served with distinction and proudly in our military and have been leaders in government at every level in our country. In 1979, Tony Coelho, my friend from California, was elected as the first American of Portuguese descent to the United States House of Representatives.

In addition to lawmaking, Portuguese Americans have made lasting contributions to science, music, and in other areas of business, through people like former Secretary of Energy and nuclear physicist Ernest Moniz and the famous March King, John Philip Sousa, who wrote the iconic song "Stars and Stripes Forever" as he headed the Marine Corps band.

They are also leaders in agriculture throughout our Nation—in California, most notably in the dairy industry.

The Portuguese American story is the American story of immigrants past and immigrants present who have come here through generations to have a better life for themselves and their families.

Values that my own parents and grandparents instilled in myself and my sister have never been far from my heart, that family and tradition and that an ethic of hard work are important in our country for all immigrant groups, and realizing that with that ethic, anything can be accomplished in America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in recognizing and celebrating the many ways in which the Portuguese American communities have changed, shaped, and influenced our country through our industries and, most importantly, through their ideals and their love of family and becoming a part of that American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

STRENGTHEN U.S.-ARMENIAN RELATIONS

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize another ethnic group that has made so many contributions to America, the Armenian community, to underscore the importance and the strong relationship between the United States and Armenia.

The United States has enjoyed a long history working with the Armenian people toward a shared vision of a free and democratic society.

The Armenian community has risen over the past 100 years, after facing one of the most atrocious acts in human history: the first genocide in the 20th century.

Notwithstanding that, they have prevailed and continue to grow stronger, not only in Armenia, but also throughout the world.

In 2018, we witnessed the Armenian people standing up and peacefully demonstrating for change in their country, and it happened. Nearly 1 year later, the dawn of a new era represents an opportunity for the country and its people to reach their full potential.

The United States can provide valuable support and help to empower the Armenian people in this new and exciting chapter in their country.

I am pleased, therefore, to support H.R. 452, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with my colleagues to continue to strengthen the bilateral relations between the United States and the Republic of Armenia.

RESOLVE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT SOUTHERN BORDER ON BIPARTISAN BASIS

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, finally, let me say to my colleagues in the House that what is going on at the border between the United States and Mexico is simply not the American way. We can find solutions to resolve the humanitarian crisis that is taking place at our border, but we must work together on a bipartisan basis.

We must support the supplemental legislation today that will provide additional funding while working for meaningful changes to take care of people, to not separate children from their families, and to act in a humane way that reflects our values.

SOCIALISM RISKS LOSING TRUST IN COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a story of power, people power.

This story doesn't take place in the Halls of Congress, in the department of such and such, or in D.C., which is too often called "the most powerful city in the world." This story takes place at Hope House, a women's homeless shelter in Spokane, Washington.

Hope House, which is expanding because of a grant made possible because of tax reform, helps women find a second chance.

Heather Thomas-Taylor is the director. As The Spokesman-Review reported, she knows everyone staying at the house by name. She feeds them from donations from restaurants and churches.

Once, a bride and groom, still in their dress and tux, donated 2 weeks' worth of food left over from their reception. Around the holidays, Hope House fridges are so full they can't even "fit a slice of bologna" in them.

Mr. Speaker, this is what an empowered community looks like, and it has provided more than mandates and centralized bureaucratic power can ever provide.