

have existed in NAFTA for over 25 years.

Since 2002, Canada has been the United States' top agricultural export market, and Mexico has either been second or third. In 2018, we exported \$143 billion worth of agricultural products to the two countries combined. The amount equaled over a quarter of total U.S. ag exports. That is significant.

The USMCA leaves in place, I think, the key wins for agriculture established under NAFTA. It updates key provisions pertaining to important issues like labor, technology, and the environment. It also provides some new access to Canada's protected dairy market, which I think is important.

The conversations between House Democrats and the administration to hammer out the remaining differences, I think, have been constructive. I disagree with some of the narratives that this has been a delay. We want to get it right. You must get good trade agreements right. Our negotiators are making good progress, including efforts to ensure that enforcement to the agreement is done.

But enforcement of labor standards continues to remain a concern. This is important. Labor in America doesn't want the same impacts that took place under NAFTA, so enforcement of the provisions is critical.

USMCA's labor chapter does reflect a strengthening of standards, including freedom of association and the right to organize in Mexico. We have had numerous delegations meet with our counterparts in Mexico. This spring, Mexico passed landmark labor legislation laying the legal framework for compliance with the United States-Mexico-Canada labor chapter. Now we must ensure that those labor standards are enforced. That is the critical area today.

House Democrats are working in good faith with the administration to put in place assurances that these standards are enforced over the long term.

The same goes for enforcement of environmental and biomedical standards. Commitments need to be made, and they have to be enforceable to make this a successful agreement.

If these issues are addressed, the USMCA would stabilize some trade policies that are otherwise unpredictable with this administration, including serious concerns that President Trump may, as he said, kill NAFTA and reject the deal if we don't pass this. We want to get it done ASAP for sure, but we need to make sure it is done right.

Sound trade policy should not be a partisan issue. I will continue to make sure that we can vote on USMCA as soon as possible. Once again, though, we have to have the assurances. I expect strong passage of an agreement if we can get those assurances, but there must be a way to address this so that we will get to "yes."

Then we can turn our attention to other trade matters. An agreement with China, obviously, is very important and in Europe with the European Union.

Let me say, finally, good trade agreements, I think, mean good-paying jobs. Let me repeat that. Good trade agreements mean good-paying jobs for all Americans. That is obviously what we want to do for our entire economy.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Education Week.

Every year, this week underscores the importance of access to quality education. It honors the teachers, instructors, and educational mentors who make a difference in the lives of our Nation's learners.

Working to ensure access to high-quality and affordable education for all students is of utmost importance. The American education system should be as diverse as our Nation's students, including learners of all ages, of all socioeconomic backgrounds, and from rural America, urban America, and everywhere in between. That includes students who choose to pursue a traditional 4-year college degree as well as those who choose to attend a trade school or an apprenticeship program.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, I have been pleased to introduce a number of career and technical education bills, alongside my fellow co-chair, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN, which aim to restore rungs on the ladder of opportunity for every American.

Most recently, that includes H.R. 5092, the Counseling for Career Choice Act. H.R. 5092 ensures students have access to quality counseling resources that can help them make more informed decisions about their educational futures and professional career choices. By better equipping these students with the skills to succeed, we are one step closer to closing our Nation's skills gap.

The skills gap is the result of a lack of qualified students in STEM disciplines like nursing, energy, information technology, cybersecurity, and more. Career and technical education is working to empower students by equipping them with employable skills.

To directly address the workforce shortage in cybersecurity, I was proud to cosponsor H.R. 1592, the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act. This bill would create a pilot program through the Department of Education to award grants to create or expand existing postsecondary CTE programs in cybersecurity competencies.

Career and technical education has support outside of the Education and

Labor Committee as well. I also co-sponsored H.R. 898, the Skills Investment Act of 2019. H.R. 898 enhances Coverdell Education Savings Accounts, which are tax-advantaged savings accounts for educational expenses. American workers can use the accounts to pay for skills-based learning, career training, and workforce development. In addition, both workers and employers receive tax credits for contributions to these accounts.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to addressing the shortage of our skilled workforce, we need to continue increasing educational access for students who are living with disabilities. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ensures nearly 7 million infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities have access to quality education.

Unfortunately, Congress has fallen short on our commitment to these individuals, and support for students with disabilities has remained underfunded. That is why I was proud to support H.R. 1878, the IDEA Full Funding Act, which would mandate gradual increases in IDEA funding to reach the full funding as promised by Congress when IDEA was passed and to do that by fiscal year 2029.

Lastly, there are many bipartisan bills that support quality education for American learners. I have always believed that we produce the best results for students when we work across the aisle. However, the partisan College Affordability Act, which would reauthorize the Higher Education Act, actually contributes to crippling college costs and widens our Nation's skills gap.

It is my hope that we can offer real solutions like the High-Quality Opportunities in Postsecondary Education Act, or the HOPE Act, which provides institutions with the tools they need to help students prepare for successful careers and successful lives.

This is American Education Week. Let's remember that students deserve better than a one-size-fits-all educational plan.

PASS USMCA BEFORE YEAR-END

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

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of resolving the outstanding issues needed to pass the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, before the end of the year.

More than 12 million American jobs, including 1.8 million jobs in California, depend on trade with Canada and Mexico. We simply cannot afford to keep the current rules in place if we are to secure our economic future and create better paying American jobs.

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Addressing contentious issues in a trade deal are always difficult, but I am optimistic that we can come to a productive resolution if the administration continues to engage with House Democrats in good faith.

USMCA represents an opportunity to fix fundamental flaws in our trade policy, reverse the failings of NAFTA, establish strong, enforceable labor standards across North America, and promote growth in new sectors of each of our economies. Let's get it right this time.

I thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairman NEAL, and House Democratic leadership for their commitment to working families and for ensuring USMCA reflects our core values, and I ask for a vote on USMCA as soon as possible.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MS. JENNIFER T. GRAHAM

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Jennifer T. Graham for being honored by the Zonta Club of Savannah for her work helping single mothers throughout the Savannah area.

Ms. Graham galvanized a citywide effort that has significantly aided hundreds of mothers in our community. She founded Shelter From the Rain, which assists low-income mothers by providing food, job search assistance, baby supplies, mentorship, and more. Since Ms. Graham founded the organization in 2010, Shelter From the Rain has helped over 300 single mothers.

Her background in marketing and outreach, which includes earning a graduate degree in marketing and doing communications for a number of local healthcare companies has helped her maximize the number of mothers her organization reaches.

Thank you, Ms. Graham, for your work making our community a better place to live, and thank you to the Zonta Club for recognizing the important work she is doing. Keep up the great work.

NATIONAL HEALTHY SKIN MONTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of November as National Healthy Skin Month.

Your skin is your body's largest organ, so it is critical to take care of it. Unfortunately, skin cancer affects around 20 percent of the population.

This month, I encourage everyone to think about ways to keep your skin healthy during your daily activities. For example, wearing sunscreen, moisturizing, washing your face, and protecting against blisters are all measures one can take to stay healthy.

Additionally, I hope everyone will consider visiting a dermatologist this month for a skin evaluation.

Thank you to the American Academy of Dermatology as well as dermatologists around the country for your work to protect this vital part of our health.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MS. MEG HEAP

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Meg Heap, who was recently honored by the

Zonta Club of Savannah for her work to reduce domestic violence against women.

Serving as the district attorney for the Savannah area since 2013, she has spearheaded a number of programs in coastal Georgia to create greater equality for women. She created an early notification prosecutor position for domestic violence and an early notification process for the Victim Witness Program. Additionally, she created a one-stop Chatham County Family Justice Center.

In 2019, the District Attorney Association of Georgia selected her as the District Attorney of the Year.

From Savannah originally, Ms. Heap can be an inspiration to all of us about giving back to your community.

Thank you, Ms. Heap, for all of your work to make Savannah a better place to live, and thank you to the Zonta Club of Savannah for recognizing her achievements.

HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY TO MR. HOWARD YOUNG

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Howard Young, who turns 95 years young on November 25. He has lived in the Savannah area for over 30 years, and, during this time, he has spent countless hours helping others around the community.

After retiring in his 50s, he began to spend each day with a different organization volunteering. On Mondays he works with the Veterans Administration Clinic, on Tuesdays he works with senior citizens.

And the list doesn't stop at Friday. A World War II Navy veteran, he works with veterans to help them get medical benefits on Saturdays and serves at the Isle of Hope Methodist Church on Sundays.

I am proud to have a constituent like Mr. Young in the First Congressional District of Georgia. It is easy to be inspired by his work making the world a better place to live.

As he says: "Each passing day is gone forever, so I want to spend as much of each day as possible helping someone who can't help himself."

Happy birthday, Mr. Young.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COACH MARVIN KEELEN

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart to acknowledge the life and legacy of Coach Marvin Keelen. Coach Keelen coached at Goretti Playground in New Orleans, Louisiana.

I met Coach Marvin probably when I was about 13 years old; and he started me out as a bookkeeper at the playground keeping score. Then I went on to be an umpire; then I went on to be a coach.

Coach Marvin passed away this weekend, but over his 34 years of coaching

at Goretti Playground, he has touched the lives of so many young men. We have a Capitol Police officer here that Coach Marvin coached. We have myself and countless others that his direction, his mentorship provided a real pathway for a lot of our young men.

The other thing I would say about Coach Marvin is his family followed in his footsteps. Just two weekends ago, his younger son, Nick, won his first city championship. His other son, Marvin, won a couple of city championships, and Coach Marvin won about seven.

But it wasn't just about competing. It was taking our young kids and making sure that they understood their potential to be whatever they wanted to be, that they could be champions if they wanted to be, that they could actually be U.S. Congressmen.

So I just want to extend my condolences to his wife Jennifer Keelen; his daughter Nikki; his son, Nick; and his other son, Marvin, to let them know that their father has heard those words: "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE ANGELIQUE "ANGIE" REED

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Judge Angelique "Angie" Reed, who passed in the city of New Orleans.

Judge Reed was the quintessential judge. She was fair, but she was firm. She expected the best out of lawyers in front of her, and she demanded nothing less.

She was a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and, in honor of her, I am wearing my pink tie today. She was also a faithful member of Jack and Jill, that provides mentorship to children and communities all across the country, and she was a faithful member of the New Orleans Chapter of The Links.

Let me just say that her membership in all of these organizations really highlighted her love for New Orleans.

On the national level, she was a member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, even co-chairing the event in New Orleans.

I first met Judge Angie Reed when she was just a young lawyer in the City Attorney's Office and I was a law clerk trying to find my way around. She took me under her wing and taught me life lessons that I would never forget about the practice of law: that it was not about trying to make money; it was not about you, but it was about your client; it was about making a difference; it was about righting a wrong.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his speech, "Give Us the Ballot," proclaimed that, if you give us the ballot in the South, we will elect judges and put judges on the bench that will love mercy and do justice. Judge Angelique Reed did just that, and she did it better than anyone else.

She leaves behind her daughter, Giana Warren.