

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 Arkansians 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.