

in Nicaragua with the government's approval. Throughout eight separate gatherings, more than 1 million people attended.

The Nicaraguan Government began arresting Mountain Gateway affiliated personnel shortly after their most recent service in Managua on false claims of money laundering. Thirteen Mountain Gateway officials are currently being held in prison with no access to legal counsel, no visits from their relatives, and no access to the allegations against them.

Beside me are pictures of a family that has been separated because of this catastrophe. The children, who are also U.S. citizens, are currently separated from their family due to the wrongful imprisonment of their parents.

The response of the Nicaraguan Government is unacceptable. While the current U.S. open border has allowed over 300,000 Nicaraguans to access America since 2021, the Nicaraguan Government has targeted numerous U.S. citizens to be arrested and extradited to Nicaragua and separated two U.S. children under the age of 3 from their parents.

As an American and a strong supporter of religious freedom, it is hard to grasp the reality that other nations do not have the freedom to worship in peace. I condemn the actions by Nicaraguan authorities against both Nicaraguan and American citizens for worshipping the God who created them, and I will be praying for peace and comfort for the individuals and their families until they are safely united.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FFA WEEK

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize February 17 through 24 as National FFA Week. President George Washington once said: "Agriculture is the most healthy, the most useful, and the most noble employment of man."

FFA members and alumni nationwide continue to look up to President Washington as a model of leadership and a champion for agriculture. For the past 76 years, we have celebrated National FFA Week during the week of Washington's birthday, February 22.

My roots in FFA run deep. The organization played a role in shaping me into the man I am today. I was a member of the Fountain Lake FFA chapter in high school and went on to serve as the Arkansas FFA State president. I now have the opportunity to serve on the bipartisan Congressional FFA Caucus, and many of my staff members are previous FFA members, State officers, and even a national officer.

At a time when the average age of a U.S. farmer is nearly 60 years old, agriculturists are looking to the next generation to fill their shoes. It has never been more important to give youth a seat at the table and enhance the agricultural talent pipeline, and that is where FFA excels.

I am proud to recognize National FFA Week to celebrate this incredible organization. May it be a reminder of

the great strides FFA makes in contributing to the future of agriculture.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOB R. BROOKS, JR.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Bob R. Brooks, Jr.

Bob was loved by many, a true family man. He was proud to be known as Uncle Bob to the light of his life, Ryan, as well as to Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin's children. He was deeply involved in the lives of his friends and colleagues, and many considered him a member of their family.

He graduated from the University of Arkansas and was a dedicated Razorback fan, rooting for the Hogs in every sport. Bob served as chief of staff for former Congressman Jay Dickey before returning to Arkansas to serve the Natural State in several ways, in both the public and private sectors. Bob was named chief deputy attorney general by Attorney General Tim Griffin in 2023. He deeply enjoyed golfing, horse racing, and traveling.

Bob was loyal to those around him and the State of Arkansas. I am thankful for his contributions to our State; but furthermore, I am thankful for his friendship. Bob's legacy will be felt by many for years to come.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I have a strong belief in the power of international trade agreements to make a profound difference. It is not just because 95 percent of the global economy is outside the United States. These agreements are necessary to raise standards, protect the environment, and to avoid the tragedy of the commons.

I have seen the global economy raise living standards in China, Africa, and India, Singapore being the most powerful example. However, there were decidedly mixed results with Mexico. The gap between theory and practice showed that the promise of NAFTA was overblown and that the critics were right.

Poor Mexican farmers could not compete against massively subsidized American corn, and U.S. workers could not compete against \$3 an hour Mexican factory workers.

Too much of American business was focused on financial and tax engineering, not actually engineering better products. They were gaming the tax system and extending patent protection, not winning new patents. The worst example was GE's downward spiral under Jack Welch's ruthless capitalism. However, I have been encouraged with the Biden administration's worker-centered trade policy.

I am proud of my work as the lead Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee dealing with international

trade, working to level the playing field, fighting to improve trade agreements.

We made major advances, for example, reducing illegal logging by more than 40 percent and providing legislation that was a model for other countries to help stem this damaging practice. Our May 10th Agreement provided enforceable labor and environmental standards.

I was pleased to help lead the effort to revise NAFTA to strengthen its environmental protections, worker protections, and the enforcement of agreements to protect these advances. I hope these NAFTA revisions will start a new era of trade policy, but it is time to push back against the Chinese.

I am tired of their two-tiered system where they claim to be a developing country when it works to their advantage while being an economic powerhouse, one of the largest and most powerful in the world.

We must fight to protect and strengthen the WTO. There is no substitute for our being engaged in Geneva along with 163 other countries. It is hard work, but it is worth it.

Finally, we must battle to have China honor their WTO commitments made three decades ago. I have a special concern about the de minimis loophole, a provision in our tax code that allows China to ship directly to American consumers \$800 or less in terms of product value. It is going to allow a billion packages into the United States economy untaxed, uninspected. We have 15 Republican attorneys general who have raised the alarm about this provision. We are seeing shoddy products made with slave labor. They are shipping fentanyl precursors directly to American drug dealers. It is time to stop that practice.

I have legislation that would close the de minimis loophole. I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor my Import Security and Fairness Act, which would stop these products flowing from a nonmarket economy on the watch list. Currently, that is just China, but they are the source of 60 percent of these 1 billion de minimis products. Doing so will protect American business, American consumers, public safety, and human rights. We can usher in a new era of worker-centered sustainable trade. The world is depending on us.

QUESTIONING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S MENTAL FITNESS

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, President Biden may have broken the law when he willfully retained and disclosed classified materials, according to Special Counsel Robert Hur's recent report.

However, Special Counsel Hur chose not to prosecute President Biden because the President's memory has such