

She made history by becoming the first Black female to assume a judgeship in North Carolina's Eighth Judicial District. The presider was the Honorable Quentin Sumner, who had become the first Black judge in the same district 41 years prior.

The courtroom was packed with standing room only. Her family, friends, residents, and the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and many distinguished jurists were in attendance. There was so much energy in the room because eastern North Carolina is proud that Judge Slaughter would take her rightful seat on the bench.

Judge Slaughter is not only an inspiration to her daughters, Brielle and Hailey, but all young people across eastern North Carolina. She is prized and represents our future. Her grandmother, who taught her how to pray, reminds us that God still answers prayers.

Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to Her Honor.

CONGRATULATING SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER ON WINNING THE MASTERS

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Scottie Scheffler for his victory at the 2024 Masters Golf Tournament.

The first full week of April every year, golf fans across the world get a glimpse into the beauty and majesty that Georgia's 12th District has to offer.

For nine decades, the world's finest golfers have descended upon Augusta, Georgia, to put their game to the ultimate test on the grounds of the Augusta National Golf Club.

Furthermore, congratulations to Chairman Ridley, members of the Augusta National, along with this year's staff and volunteers for hosting yet another historic and memorable Masters Week.

The best part of the world's most dominant golfer is Scottie Scheffler's character repeatedly speaking about how faith and family defines him and the upcoming birth of his child. He shared with the world that a friend on Sunday morning had reminded him that his victory was secured on the cross. When he stepped out on that first tee, he was confident he had done all he could do to prepare for that final round. He knew that victory would be for God's glory. What a powerful testimony.

Scottie is a true champion, an exemplary role model for golf around the world. Congratulations to the 2024 Masters champion, Scottie Scheffler.

AMERICA, PAY ATTENTION

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, America must pay attention. Here is a recent photo taken in Iran of dictator Ayatollah Khamenei's defense chieftain, Mohammad Bagheri, with Russian dictator Putin's top Russian General Shoigu.

It is clear what these warlords were up to, meeting to collude on weapons of war. Yes, these two dictators are conspiring and warring against liberty for Ukraine, Israel, and adjoining nations in the Middle East. Make no mistake, these overlords want to extend their spider web of tyranny across Ukraine, the Middle East, and beyond.

Ukraine is fighting valiantly to push Russia out of its country to join the West in the European confederation of free nations.

Meanwhile, Houthi terrorists, supported by Iran, are blocking passage of trade through the Red Sea and Strait of Hormuz, impacting global supply chains and raising prices.

In addition, 140,000 of Iran's Hezbollah mercenaries are ensconced in southern Lebanon, raining down rockets into Israel. Hamas terrorists in Gaza find allies in these terrorist regimes.

Speaker JOHNSON needs to support liberty and blunt terrorism and tyranny. He should move to the floor the national security supplemental aid bill. Support freedom, not terrorism and tyranny.

IRAN ATTACKS ISRAEL, THREATENS UNITED STATES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Biden failure of appeasement emboldened Tehran to directly launch hundreds of drones and missiles at Israel on Saturday, the same drones the Iranian regime produces with war criminal Putin to murder innocent Ukrainians.

Dictators mean death to Israel, murder in Ukraine, death to America.

Following the attack, Iran yesterday brazenly threatened Americans, stating: "U.S. must stay away."

Iranian regime puppets have attacked U.S. troops in the region 150 times since the barbaric October 7 attack on Israel, including the January 28 attack that murdered three courageous young American servicemembers.

Dictators respond to peace through strength as promoted by Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu with the Abraham Accords.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dic-

tators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

□ 1945

CONGRATULATING BOB MARTINEZ, JR., ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1980, Bob Martinez, Jr., stepped foot into Local 776 in Fort Worth to help keep our Nation free and safe by building some of the best aerospace machinery that the world has ever seen.

During his 8 years as international president of IAM, he brought that same dedication, that same effort—all of that achievement that he brought from 1980 until he became president of the IAM—with him to the job that he took.

As a U.S. Naval Air veteran, his journey in the labor movement, again, began in 1980. Bob went on to become the 14th president of IAM, but he was the first Latino to lead this major union.

Under his leadership, IAM has absolutely thrived and helped make this organization the powerhouse that it is today. He used his position to advocate for men and women all over the United States, not just Fort Worth, during his career.

I extend Bob a big congratulations on his career and his unwavering dedication to working families all over North America and trade unions.

I wish Bob good luck and welcome him back to Fort Worth and North Richland Hills. We are happy to have Bob home and congratulate him on all of his achievements.

FALSE RHETORIC

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of false rhetoric flying around this country and around the world, the U.N., the whole works—including today even a shutdown of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco by pro-Hamas pro-Palestinian protestors. They are sure not making themselves a lot of friends for their cause, are they?

What does it really boil down to? Since the Gaza Strip was created not that many years ago in order to give an area to the Palestinians to have, the ink wasn't even dry on the agreement before they started setting off rockets and mortars and launching them upon the people of Israel who only seek peace. Israel only seeks peace, yet what do they get? They get deal after deal offered, negotiation after negotiation.

Truly, what it boils down to is a great quote I saw here very recently from a fellow named John Spencer at

West Point who said: "The sole reason for civilian deaths in Gaza is Hamas. For Israel's part, it has taken more care to prevent them than any other army in human history."

Let that settle in for a minute. They have taken more care than anybody to prevent civilian deaths. Hamas is the one causing them.

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Black Maternal Health Week and all of the members of my community who risk their lives to be Black and pregnant in America.

I want to shout out a member of our New York 16 community, Nubia Martin, a birth worker and founder of Birth from The Earth, a nonprofit focused on education and empowerment that provides health and wellness services for the Black community.

I also want to highlight the work of Cheryl Brannan and Sister to Sister International housed in Yonkers, New York. They connect women and girls of African descent to education and resources worldwide.

These organizations are on the front lines of the Black maternal health crisis and are fighting to make sure every person in our district and across the country has access to quality reproductive care.

It is time we start making the necessary improvements to our healthcare system, workforce training, and wrap-around services to protect and uplift Black pregnant people and parents. We need to make our healthcare system an antiracist system.

FARMERS, RANCHERS, FORESTERS, AND CONSUMERS DESERVE CERTAINTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, turmoil in the Middle East heightened over the weekend, and my prayers are with all involved. I trust our Nation's leadership can rise to the task at hand.

However, in another matter of food and national security, this evening I

am taking the opportunity to discuss how farmers, ranchers, foresters, and consumers deserve certainty.

Agriculture remains the backbone of America, but our Nation's dedicated producers have been burdened with fractured supply chains, considerable input costs, relentless inflation, natural disasters, volatile markets, and labor shortages.

Each is consistently worsened by ill-conceived, half-baked executive action by our own elected bureaucrats in Washington.

Our Nation's farmers are bearing the brunt of it. Adding insult to injury, we are now a net importer facing the most significant decline in farm income in our history.

Farmers impact our everyday lives, so how do we support those who provide so much to our families, to our Nation, and to our world? The answer is a 5-year farm bill.

The Committee on Agriculture spent the last 3 years listening to concerns of America's producers and turning their words into legislation.

We have received input, ideas, and suggestions from stakeholders and members alike through our public portals and listening sessions across the country. Through this transparent and exhaustive process, we have produced a bipartisan product that will provide effective tools to our producers by bolstering the safety net, strengthening nutrition programs and access opportunities, and revitalize rural America.

Since our last farm bill was passed in 2018, our producers have faced countless challenges. The needs of farm country are self-evident. We have developed a bill to meet them and a responsibility to fund them. For nearly a year, I have tried to educate my colleagues, and the hand-holding has yielded nothing.

My colleagues and I are here tonight to showcase our work and show that House Republicans have done their job.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER), and I appreciate his service on the House Agriculture Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me for this evening's Special Order.

I would like to emphasize the importance of passing an updated farm bill that supports our agriculture industry by strengthening the farm safety net, bolsters rural economies, and meets the growing food security and affordability difficulties that are impacting American families.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture and food-related industries are responsible for almost \$1.4 trillion of the United States gross domestic product, yet American farmers—specifically farmers in my district—face daunting challenges in providing a stable and affordable food supply to our Nation.

In Ohio, I have heard farmers' and ranchers' concerns about continued inflationary pressures, regulatory hurdles, limited trade markets, animal

health, and a broad range of other issues.

Through the House Agricultural Committee's busy schedule over the past 16 months, I have seen the importance of policies that keep the farm safety net strong, incentivize conservation, encourage innovative research initiatives, support specialty crops, allow farmers to grow our energy resources, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Department of Agriculture recently reported that our Nation has lost over 140,000 farms in the last 5 years. This is unsustainable. The USDA's most recent Farm Income Forecast reflects the urgent need to act. The report anticipates a 25 percent decrease in farm income from 2023 to 2024, one of the largest year-to-year dollar reductions in net farm income on record.

Failure to pass an updated farm bill could exacerbate these already growing problems and have a devastating impact on our economy and food supply chains.

The United States food and agricultural sector has an economic output of over \$8.6 trillion and cannot afford to wait. I hope that my colleagues will recognize the magnitude of these issues and help us to pass a sound farm bill quick.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and dedication to America, and I know Ohio's number one industry.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership of our committee in this effort.

I rise to call on this Congress to pass a comprehensive 5-year farm bill. This is my 25th time to come to the House floor to address the importance of a 5-year farm bill that is long enough to provide certainty and short enough to respond to the market changes and strengthen the safety net. America's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers deserve it, America's food and national security depend on it, and this Congress must deliver it.

In the almost 5½ years since the last farm bill was signed into law, the world has drastically changed. Since 2018, we have experienced a global pandemic, seen a war unfold between Russia and Ukraine and now Israel and Hamas, and witnessed President Biden's failed trade agenda cause market fluctuations that no one could have imagined.

On top of that, President Biden's spending spree and senseless war on American energy has driven inflation to historic levels. No matter how many times the administration officials and political pundits say that input costs and inflation rates are coming down, our ag producers know that these levels are still sky high in comparison to the last farm bill in 2018.

As Congress considers these conditions, we must also anticipate future