

Two-thirds believe the Federal Government is corrupt.

One way to improve public trust is to stop the most brazen abuses of clemency. No more get-out-of-jail-free cards for the wealthy and well-connected. The time to act is now.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in my efforts.

THE SPIRIT OF GEORGIA

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary effort that brought the *Spirit of Georgia*, a B-2 stealth bomber, back to operational flight after a serious incident more than 4 years ago.

During a hydraulic failure, the aircraft skidded along the runway and sustained major damage. Many questioned whether it would ever return to the skies. Instead of retiring the aircraft, airmen, engineers, and the B-2 program team came together with a goal to save it. Their work represented perseverance and belief in the mission.

The team removed the bomber from hazardous conditions, transported it for repair, and worked through design challenges and restoration steps. Their determination saved taxpayers millions and returned a strategic asset to service.

Mr. Speaker, on November 6, 2025, the *Spirit of Georgia* lifted off once again, proving what is possible when people work with purpose. This successful return is a tribute to American skill, teamwork, and resolve. The *Spirit of Georgia* lives on.

CELEBRATING TWO OUTSTANDING ATHLETES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate two outstanding student athletes at Augusta University.

Elyse Autrey, a sophomore women's basketball guard from Fairfax, Virginia, has been named Georgia's Own Student-Athletes of the Month for November. Over four games last month, she averaged 16.5 points, 5.8 rebounds, and 3.3 assists. Her leadership helped Augusta secure a road win over number two Coker, among other strong performances.

On the men's side, senior golfer Stefan Jacobs, from Johannesburg, South Africa, earned the same honor. Jacobs turned in a stellar round at the Pearl at Kalauao Invitational, finishing third out of 108 golfers in a final round of 5-under par. His strong showing helped the Augusta squad place third in team standings, with a collective 7-under finish.

Mr. Speaker, these two represent the very best of Jaguar athletics: dedication, discipline, and excellence on the court and course. They prove that student athletes can achieve both athletically and academically while contributing pride to their school.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Elyse Autrey and Stefan Jacobs for

their achievements and congratulate Augusta University for fostering such talent.

TYBEE ISLAND BEST FISHING SPOT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tybee Island, which has just been named the number one winter fishing spot for 2026 according to FishingBooker.

FishingBooker created the top 10 ranking with factors such as winter fish activity and species variety. It also looked at popularity, tourism, and insights from locals. Tybee Island topped the list, even beating out larger cities such as Jacksonville, Fort Myers, and Tacoma.

Just east of Savannah, Tybee Island is a barrier island with relaxed charm, wide beaches, and scenic Atlantic coastline. With the cooler temperatures, redfish, black drum, and speckled trout make their way to shallow waters, creating plenty of opportunity for inshore anglers. Nearby, rocky structures attract sheepshead, a favorite for kids.

Tybee Island offers more than just fishing with an iconic lighthouse, local seafood, and scenic beaches. Even in the heart of winter, the island retains its coastal energy, inviting tourists and anglers to spend the season there.

RECOGNIZING COLLEEN LINDHOLZ

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colleen Lindholz, a fellow pharmacist and the president of Kroger Health, the healthcare division of the Kroger Company. This year, Ms. Lindholz is celebrating 30 years of service with the company.

After joining Kroger as a pharmacist for the Cincinnati-Dayton division in 1995, she quickly rose through the ranks to lead Kroger's more than 2,200 pharmacies and 220 retail clinic locations across 35 States, including 334 pharmacies and 18 clinics in Georgia.

Ms. Lindholz is the lead architect of the company's efforts to integrate pharmacy, clinician, and dietitian services into grocery offerings. She focuses on food as medicine, which Kroger Health defines as a dedicated, educated, and personalized approach to eating and enjoying food.

This initiative helps customers live healthier lives and prevents chronic diseases before they start.

In addition to her professional accomplishments on behalf of patient health, Ms. Lindholz is an active philanthropic leader. She gives back through leadership in many community organizations, including Easterseals Redwood, the American Heart Association-Greater Cincinnati, and the Joe Burrow Foundation, among others.

Mr. Speaker, from one pharmacist to another, I congratulate Ms. Lindholz on 30 years of bettering the health and well-being of Georgians and all Americans in the community Kroger serves.

MASS SHOOTINGS

(Mr. CISNEROS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, like many people on Sunday, I went to church. I went to church and prayed for the victims at my alma mater, Brown University.

Eleven kids were studying for their economics final exam and dreaming about going home to their families for the holidays when a gunman entered the room and started shooting. I prayed for the families and those who were shot and wounded, and I hope they all have a speedy recovery.

I also prayed for Mukhammad Aziz Umurzokov and Ella Cook, who both lost their lives to the unimaginable, senseless shooting. They were cherished members of the Brown community and had years of life and bright futures ahead of them. In one moment, it was all taken.

I prayed for them on Sunday, and I will continue to pray for them, but it is not enough. It will never be enough. We have a problem with gun violence and mass shootings in this country.

Twenty-six years ago, at Columbine High School in Colorado, 13 people were shot dead and 20 others injured. Thirteen years ago, at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut, 26 were fatally wounded. In 2018, 17 were killed and 18 were wounded at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.

These are just some of the more high-profile shootings over the last 26 years. There have been countless others at schools, movie theaters, parades, shopping centers, and even a concert in Las Vegas, where a family friend lost his daughter.

From 2000 to 2022, the United States has had over three times as many mass shootings as 16 other politically similar countries combined.

The one thing that has remained consistent during this time is that Congress has failed to act. Mass shooting after mass shooting, death after death, Congress has done nothing.

To my colleagues in Congress, I compel you to end this tragedy. As a practicing Catholic, I put my faith in God, but He is not going to solve this problem for us.

The prayers might make us feel good, but they are doing nothing to stop the scourge of gun violence threatening our communities. There is not going to be a miracle from Heaven that will end gun violence for us. We need to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: Where is the outrage from my Republican colleagues? The President was outraged over the shooting and death of American soldiers in Syria this weekend, and he should be. My sympathies are with those American heroes who gave their lives for our country fighting terrorists, but all Donald Trump had to say about the Brown University shooting was: "Things can happen."

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, really? Now is the time for action. It is what the American

people want. Over 90 percent of Americans want universal background checks. Mr. Speaker, 60 percent support an assault weapons ban, 75 percent support red flag laws, and over 83 percent support gun safety storage.

Some of my Republican colleagues will argue that guns don't kill people. People kill people. Anyone who does this must have mental health issues.

This is all the more reason for the background checks and the red flag laws. We cannot continue to act like nothing is wrong in America. We have a problem with gun violence and mass shootings in our country, and Congress must finally act.

Will enacting these laws eliminate mass shootings, gun violence, or suicides completely? No, but common-sense gun laws like this will make a difference, and it is a start.

This past weekend was one of the worst that I can remember. I spoke about the Brown University shooting and mentioned the soldiers in Syria. We also lost a great American and artist in Rob Reiner and his wife, Michele, this past weekend due to an act of violence.

Mr. Speaker, I must say I was appalled by the President's response to his death. It was nothing more than shameful and disrespectful and unbecoming of the person who is supposed to be the leader of our country.

I also send my condolences to the Australian people who suffered through their own mass shooting this past weekend, a mass shooting that was a hate crime that targeted the Jewish community in Australia with 15 people dead, including a 10-year-old girl and a Holocaust survivor.

Fortunately, in Australia, they are already talking about how they can change things to prevent this from happening again. I can only hope there will be similar action in our own country and Congress will finally act. If history proves us right, I very much doubt it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities towards the President.

CONGRATULATING TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

(Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, as we say in west Texas: "Sun's up. Guns up." Our Texas Tech Red Raiders have gone through this football season, guns ablazing, and have taken the Big 12 by storm. They posted a historic 11-win regular season with an average victory margin of more than 35 points and their best year since 2008.

Now, after securing their outright Big 12 championship, the Red Raiders are knocking on the door of their first-ever national championship.

I congratulate Coach Joey McGuire, his tremendous staff, and the out-

standing student athletes at Texas Tech, all of whom represent the spirit of west Texas: tenacious, relentless, and 100 percent class and character.

Mr. Speaker, Texas Tech, I would argue, is America's team. It is a Main Street university in middle America made up of mostly kids from working families. It is a heartland culture that reflects our Nation's traditional faith and family values.

Like our pioneering fathers who braved the harsh elements to settle the Great Plains of west Texas, Red Raiders know how to work, how to fight, and never quit. They don't expect anybody to give them anything. They don't waste time complaining about being underrated or underestimated.

They know that respect is earned and not given. They know it is not about pleasing the crowd or the pundits. It is about giving their best to each other, to themselves, and to their university that they love.

I am proud to be a Red Raider. I am honored to represent Texas Tech in Congress. I am fired up for the country to know more about west Texas, the food, fuel, fiber, and football capital of the world.

Mr. Speaker, as for me and my house, we will be in Miami on New Year's Day with a lot of proud and rowdy Red Raiders cheering on America's team to win it all.

Guns up. Go, Red Raiders. Let's win that national championship.

BUILDING PEACE WITH HONOR

(Mr. HOYER of Maryland was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this Chamber will soon be empty as Members leave for the holiday without having taken action to aid Ukraine, our friend, our ally, and a courageous people who want to be free.

The trenches in Donbas will not be empty, however. Ukrainian medic stations and hospitals will not be empty. The air-raid shelters beneath Kyiv, Odesa, and Kharkiv will not be empty.

Mr. Speaker, this administration is sleepwalking toward the edge of an abyss that will be difficult to escape. Neville Chamberlain once did the same. He returned from Munich and hoisted a piece of paper above his head that bore his signature and that of Adolf Hitler.

Without consulting Czechoslovakia, Chamberlain traded a fifth of its territory in exchange for Hitler's word that he would not invade. Chamberlain said that it would secure peace with honor, a peace for our time. Within 5 months, the Nazis occupied every square inch of Czechoslovakia. Within a year, they had added Poland. Within 2 years, German bombs were falling in London.

Just a few days after Chamberlain brandished Czechoslovakia's death warrant, Winston Churchill said: "The German dictator, instead of snatching the victuals from the table, has been content to have them served to him course by course."

Mr. Speaker, in that case, Hitler was the dictator. In our case, it is Putin.

Another dictator now hungers for his next course. Vladimir Putin did not stop with his invasion of Georgia or his campaign to separate Transnistria from Moldova. He did not stop with his 2014 annexation of Crimea, though perhaps he would have if America and the United Kingdom honored the Budapest Memorandum.

It is foolish and dangerous to think he will stop at the Donbas. The Russian bear is about to take its next bite, and Donald Trump is setting the table. Trump, Witkoff, Hegseth, VANCE, and Rubio have done everything to appease Putin, short of putting on a Russian uniform.

Their 28-point peace plan last month was a Russian menu. What concessions did Trump demand from Ukraine? He demanded it forfeit a fifth of its territory—including the land that Russia does not occupy—to its invader; that it cap the size of its military; and that it forego its right to join NATO, which I believe is the only measure that can truly guarantee Ukraine's security.

What has he demanded from Russia in exchange? Nada, zip, nothing. He has demanded no economic reparations for Ukraine, no requirement that Russia return the Ukrainian children it abducted, and no accountability for the war crimes Putin has committed. He has asked for Putin's promise not to invade again, one he has yet to make and one he would never keep.

This administration acts as though we have no leverage in this situation, as though NATO's \$1.8 trillion defense expenditures, 3.5 million troops, and combined GDP of \$54 trillion mean nothing.

America is not impotent, nor is NATO, nor is the West in this fight against fascism, and neither is this Congress. Over 300 of us in every one of 12 votes has cast its vote for Ukraine; the majority of Republicans on all but one of those votes.

We only need three more Republicans to sign onto the bipartisan discharge petition Ranking Member MEEKS and I put forward to bring the Ukraine Support Act to the floor for a vote. That legislation would undermine Russia's war machine and give Ukraine the support it needs to win this fight actually and psychologically.

Mr. Speaker, this House has taken twelve votes on past bills supporting Ukraine. An average of 80 percent of our Members have voted for every one of those. Yet we stand silent. We have not acted. We cannot build "Peace with Honor" on a promise from Putin. We can only achieve peace by awakening to our own power and to our own influence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues, each of them who has supported Ukraine continuously in the past on almost every vote, to sign the discharge petition now. Let us not go home silent in the face of tyranny.