

Breezy's return to alpine skiing. She had to withdraw from the 2022 Games after tearing her anterior cruciate ligament and meniscus. Known for her speed, she embodies the relentless drive of a champion and the ability to overcome adversity.

Anna Gibson from Jackson Hole, WY, will compete in ski mountaineering. Both Anna and ski mountaineering are making their Olympic debuts. In this event, athletes ski up a steep mountain before skiing back down the mountain. It is a grueling test of strength, endurance, and willpower.

As a decorated cross-country runner, which is going to get her up the mountain, and Nordic skier, which will get her down the mountain, Anna is made for this challenge.

My home State of Wyoming will be cheering on each and every one of these three incredible women, and we will be watching them with pride.

Few athletes ever know the honor of representing Team USA. Fewer still will be able to stand on the Olympic podium when the "Star-Spangled Banner" plays.

These three Wyoming women are part of a very elite group. They remind us of the greatness that comes from the courage and from the determination and from the willingness to chase something extraordinary.

I know all of America wishes the very, very best for Team USA in the days and weeks ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES J. MINGUS

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a fellow Iowan and an exemplary leader, GEN James J. Mingus, upon his retirement from the U.S. Army after more than four decades of distinguished service to our Nation.

Born in Spencer, IA, General Mingus was instilled with strong midwestern values of hard work, service, grit, and teamwork.

Long before he wore four stars on his shoulders, General Mingus took up the call to service, in 1981, in the same way that so many of us did. He enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard. It was there that he learned the mundane tasks of a young soldier, at that time—shining black leather boots, making sure your uniform was ready for those weekend drills in a blustery cold Iowa. But he also learned the more impactful lessons in the National Guard, such as leadership and teamwork and caring for the brother to the left and right of you. His focus, even as a young soldier, was always on people.

In 1985, he earned his commission in Field Artillery at the Winona State University Reserve Officers' Training Corps. When he entered Active Duty, 2 years later, he transitioned to the Infantry.

From the outset, General Mingus' trajectory took him through some of the Army's most demanding assign-

ments. He commanded and served in positions that required courage, initiative, and an unwavering sense of duty. Those early assignments prepared him for service in the 75th Ranger Regiment, where he served as an operations officer and later commanded the 4th Ranger Training Battalion, helping to shape the Army's toughest trainees into elite warriors.

Throughout his career, General Mingus was repeatedly entrusted with greater responsibility. This was a reflection of the confidence placed in him by soldiers and senior leaders alike. Over the course of his career, General Mingus deployed not once, not twice—nope—not 5 times, not even 10. General Mingus deployed 12 times to Iraq and Afghanistan, repeatedly placing himself along soldiers in harm's way and earning the enduring respect of those whom he led.

He went on to serve in key staff roles at U.S. Central Command and the Joint Special Operations Command, where his strategic insight helped to guide complex and high-risk missions.

In August 2018, General Mingus assumed command of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg—one of the Army's most storied divisions. Through these experiences and as a testament to his dedication and leadership, he was selected to serve as the 39th Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army and was promoted to the rank of four-star general. In that role, he has served as the Army's second highest ranking officer, helping to oversee the readiness, modernization, and the strategic direction of our Nation's land forces.

But beyond rank and assignments, those who have served under him will tell you that General Mingus' greatest legacy is his focus on people—on soldiers and their families, on mentorship—and on ensuring that the Army remains lethal, ready, and grounded in its core values. His journey from an enlisted Iowa Army National Guardsman to Vice Chief of Staff of the Army is a powerful example for every young man or woman of how great our American opportunity is.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my deepest thanks to GEN James J. Mingus for his extraordinary service and sacrifice.

I also have a profound appreciation for Amy, his wife, who has such a tremendous and beautiful spirit, and for their family, whose support made this remarkable career possible.

As he moves into his next chapter, his legacy will endure in the strength of the U.S. Army and in the countless soldiers who are better leaders and better Americans because they served alongside him and under him.

God bless you, GEN Jay Mingus, and thank you for your service and sacrifice to our great U.S. Army and to our great United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 597

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 2 months ago, nearly every single Member of the House and Senate voted to pass a very simple bill with a very simple message: release the Epstein files. The legal deadline to release the files was December 19—nearly 50 days ago—and the American people are still waiting for the truth to come out. The December 19 deadline was not a recommendation; it wasn't a suggestion. Releasing the Epstein files is the law, a law that every single Member of this Chamber—Democrat, Republican, Independent—supported as well as every Member of the House, save one.

So where are we today, 50 days past the deadline?

At best, according to the Department of Justice's own admissions, maybe half of all of the available Epstein files have been released. That means millions of documents which contain the names of coconspirators: financial records, travel logs, letters, emails. The public deserves to see those documents, but the heinous crimes of Jeffrey Epstein and his coconspirators remain shrouded in darkness. These are things the public deserves to see, but they are shrouded in darkness, and whatever materials have been released have often been redacted to an absurd degree. Hundreds of pages have been blotted out to the point that it is just a wall of black ink. That is it—a wall of black ink. Look at this: There are hundreds of pages that look just like this. This is not transparency. This is not what the law requires. This is a mockery of the truth and an insult to the survivors.

What makes this all the more sickening is that, in over 1,000 instances, the Justice Department failed to follow the law and leaked the identities of over 100 victims. But do you know whom the Justice Department did seem to protect? Epstein's coconspirators. Do you know whom else the Justice Department seemed to protect? Donald Trump. What is Pam Bondi trying to hide?

Enough is enough. Today, I come to the floor to seek unanimous agreement of a resolution directing the Senate to sue the Trump administration for violating the Epstein Files Transparency Act. Fifteen of my Democratic colleagues have joined in cosponsoring this resolution, and I thank every single one of them for standing firm.

I urge my Republican colleagues not to stand in the way today. It is the height of absurdity for Republicans to have supported the Epstein Files Transparency Act but to then go ahead and object to enforcing it—what hypocrisy. Objecting today would completely cancel out the whole point of Republicans' supporting the law in the first place.

Finally, the people who have lost the most and who have suffered the most are Jeffrey Epstein's victims. With me, I have a letter from about 20 of the victims, explaining how reckless and dangerous it was for the DOJ to carelessly

release the victims' information while going to great lengths to redact the names of the coconspirators.

So I ask unanimous consent that this letter from Jeffrey Epstein's survivors, detailing the grave harms of the DOJ's careless release of victims' identities, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EPSTEIN SURVIVORS ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT
CONDEMNING DOJ'S INCOMPLETE EPSTEIN
FILES RELEASE

"This latest release of Jeffrey Epstein files is being sold as transparency, but what it actually does is expose survivors. Once again, survivors are having their names and identifying information exposed, while the men who abused us remain hidden and protected. That is outrageous. As survivors, we should never be the ones named, scrutinized, and re-traumatized while Epstein's enablers continue to benefit from secrecy. This is a betrayal of the very people this process is supposed to serve.

Virginia Roberts Giuffre alone reported many abusers connected to Epstein's network, yet the public still does not have the full truth about who enabled him, who participated in his exploitation, and who has been shielded for years. Hundreds of women have come forward with additional reports like hers. The scale of this failure is staggering and indefensible.

The Justice Department cannot claim it is finished releasing files until every legally required document is released and every abuser and enabler is fully exposed. We need to hear directly from Attorney General Pam Bondi when she appears before the House Judiciary Committee on February 11. Survivors deserve answers, and the public deserves the truth.

This is not over. We will not stop until the truth is fully revealed and every perpetrator is finally held accountable. As we have always said, this is not about politics. We hope Democrats and Republicans will stand with survivors in continuing to demand the full release of the Epstein files.

We look forward to hearing from Attorney General Pam Bondi on February 11."

Annie Farmer

Ashley Rubright

AW

Danielle Bensky

Jane Doe

Jane Doe

JD

Jess Michaels

Lara Blume McGee

Liz Stein

Marijke Chartouni

Marina Lacerda

Rachel Benavidez

Sky & Amanda Roberts

Sharlene Rochard

Teresa J. Helm

Wendy Pesante

Mr. SCHUMER. Enough is enough. Congress spoke with one voice when it passed the Epstein Files Transparency Act. The deadline has long passed, and the Trump Justice Department is still breaking the law. Senate Democrats are exhausting every possible avenue to force the administration to do what it is already legally required to do: release the complete files and deliver transparency and justice, finally, to Epstein's victims. If the administration will not follow the law, which it

isn't, the Senate must act. No one, not even the President, is above the law.

The question before Senate Republicans, today, is simple: Will they enforce the law that they helped to pass or object and help keep the Epstein files hidden?

So, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 597; that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, this is another reckless political stunt designed to distract Americans from Democrats' dangerous plan to shut down the Department of Homeland Security. Now, that is a move that is, No. 1, going to delay the Federal Emergency Management Agency preparedness the country needs right now. No. 2, it is going to disrupt air travel. No. 3, it is going to degrade the Coast Guard's ability to interdict deadly drugs. No. 4, it is going to make us more vulnerable to cyber attacks.

Therefore, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I compliment the minority leader for coming forth and saying what the Senate has agreed to do, which is to force the Epstein files to be released, which must be backed up by the force of law because we know that the administration failed to release half of the paperwork—some 3 million pages. We know that they blocked out whole pages in order to disguise, apparently, the protection of powerful men they don't want drawn into this discussion.

Then they proceeded to not redact the names of victims, as the law required. Let us not forget what this entire Epstein scandal is about. It is about powerful, wealthy men grooming, abusing, and raping young women and men. That is what it is about.

I cannot understand for the life of me why the Republican leadership just objected for us to seek enforcement of the law that we passed unanimously here. Why is the Republican leadership protecting powerful men? Why are they protecting the administration allowing 3 million pages to be held on to? Why are they allowing page, after page, after page to be blacked out to protect those powerful men? Why will they not respond to the fact that when these files were released, they did exactly the opposite of the law and failed to redact information about the victims, re-victimizing so many?

This is 1,000 percent unacceptable, and it is unacceptable to our values as a nation, our values which talk about equal justice under law. That is why, by unanimous consent, we said those

files must be released. But it is meaningless if the administration simply chooses not to comply and then my Republican leadership colleagues proceed to block the ability to enforce what the Senate agreed to pursue: accountability, justice for the victims, transparency over this horrific scandal.

Mr. President, I hope my Republican colleagues will reconsider their objection because what they have just done is wrong, morally wrong and wrong under the values of equal justice under law, wrong under the values of justice for those who have been victimized, wrong under the value of accountability for the perpetrators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled roll-call vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NEW WORLD SCREWORM

Mr. CORNYN. I would like to talk about a topic that may seem irrelevant to the average person at first glance, but it actually affects all of us a great deal more than we might imagine. A tiny but vicious parasite known as the New World screwworm is infecting cattle across Mexico, and it is getting closer and closer to the United States by the minute. Of course, many know that Texas ranks first in the Nation for cattle production. We proudly represent nearly 15 percent of total cattle production in the United States, generating more than \$11 billion in cash receipts, so the Texas cattle industry is obviously very concerned about the spread of the New World screwworm.

This parasite lays its eggs in the wounds of warmblooded animals, particularly livestock. The larvae burrows into the openings creating infections that, left untreated, can cause animals to die within 1 week. We do not have vaccinations, unfortunately, to prevent screwworm infections. So outbreaks in cattle herds require labor-intensive daily inspections of livestock to make sure they have not been infested.

Now, some may be wondering: That sounds pretty horrific, but what does it have to do with me? Well, the truth is, this little pest, this vicious pest, touches all of our lives one way or the other. If the New World screwworm spreads to Texas infecting cattle and killing livestock, the already high price of beef will continue to increase. And, of course, as we are all focused on kitchen table issues and affordability, that is the last thing we need. That means that anyone who enjoys a steak or a hamburger will be staring at higher prices in their local restaurant or at the drive-through at their favorite fast-food chain or at the grocery store. Anyone planning a nice Valentine's Day dinner in a few weeks should listen up and perhaps budget accordingly.

Unfortunately, the New World screwworm is quickly spreading. Since 2023, there have been outbreaks of this