

The content of their character

Letter to the editor, [Brunswick Beacon](#), 01.26.23

It's said that "hypocrisy is the homage vice pays to virtue." Congressman Chip Roy (R-TX) exemplified that by paying homage to Martin Luther King, Jr. while [boasting](#) that Republicans "do not judge people by the color of their skin, but rather, the content of their character."

At a hearing on discrimination and hate crimes, [Roy said](#): "There's old sayings about 'find all the rope in Texas and get a tall oak tree,'" adding "we ought to do that." Asked about the racial connotations of lynching for African-Americans, Roy said, "[Yeah, so?](#)" Roy later voted against a federal [anti-lynching bill](#).

Roy's colleague George Santos (R-NY) is a serial fabulist who [faked](#) his education and work history while [falsely claiming](#) he was Jewish and had grandparents who survived the Holocaust. Disabled Navy veteran [Richard Osthoff says Santos stole](#) \$3,000 from his dying service dog Sapphire's GoFundMe campaign. Santos [says](#) he was inspired by Donald Trump.

Speaker Kevin McCarthy says he "[had a few questions](#)" about Santos, whose campaign impersonated McCarthy's Chief of Staff to solicit donations. Still, McCarthy rewarded Santos with [two committee assignments](#).

Then there's die-hard Trump supporter Solomon Pena, who attended Trump's "wild" Jan. 6 Washington rally. Pena was [convicted in 2008](#) of burglary and served seven years in prison. [Backed by Republican leadership](#), he ran for New Mexico's House of Representatives. After losing by 48% in an overwhelmingly Democratic district Pena [vowed](#) to never concede, [tweeting](#) "I am the MAGA king" [and](#) "Now researching my options."

The option he chose, [according to his arrest warrant](#), was hiring four gunmen, arming them and conspiring with them to shoot up the homes of four Democratic officials. Sen. Linda Lopez's 10-year-old daughter was awakened by flying sheetrock when bullets struck her bedroom wall.

Will Republicans expel pathological liars, election deniers, lynching advocates, political terrorists and the twice-impeached ex-president who inspired them, or is their character content-free?

Nancy Briganti
Carolina Shores