

Czech Republic-Germany border, and in the Middle East.

Rising to the rank of chief warrant officer, Mr. Sweezy retired from the Army in 1991 and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Mr. Sweezy continues to serve, having joined the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in his retirement community of Panama City, Florida, rising to the rank of flotilla commander.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Sweezy for his service to our country. He is an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZE CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I was speaking to one of our colleagues who indicated that he held a town hall meeting where he was explaining, as a civics matter, the Constitution of the United States and the role of the United States Congress in holding the executive accountable. He said his constituents relished the opportunity to understand the process.

I am going to remind our colleagues that any time we move toward a process that is constitutionally based, it is somber and respectful, detailed and efficient.

So I want to read from Article I, Section 2, Clause 5, which indicates that the House of Representatives “shall have the sole power of impeachment.” Article II states that the President “shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.” Article II also requires that the President “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.”

With that in mind, I believe it is important that this Congress recognizes its duty to work in an efficient manner; that all committees work and investigate, and all committees do their work in a somber manner; and that we continue to educate our constituents about the value of the Constitution, the beauty of this Nation, and the rule of law. That would mean that we are doing our job as Members of the United States Congress.

The Constitution governs the order of our nation and it dictates the work of the Congress. Article I details the powers of the House and the exercising of these powers as they relate to the coordinate, coequal branches of government, codified in Articles II and Articles III: three equal branches of government coexisting and cohesively working to provide oversight to the respective actions of the Congress, the Executive and Judiciary. This has worked, with challenges of course, since 1789, and the situation which we are now currently facing is directed by three provisions of the Constitution.

Article I, Section 2, Clause 5 indicates that the “House of Representatives . . . shall have the sole power of impeachment.” Article II states that the “The President . . .

shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.; Article II also requires that the “President take care that the laws are faithfully executed.”

That language is stark and clear—and throughout our history it has been used in varying periods where the assessment was that the law has been breached. Sometimes Congresses are concerned that the weight and view of the American people should be considered. Sometimes they are moved by the urgency of the matter. We now have an urgent matter: that matter involves the President of the United States speaking to a sovereign foreign nation and conspicuously and overtly asking for an investigation of his opponent in a presidential election, forthcoming in 2020. In addition to this request for an overt investigation of an American citizen, within close proximity to this, the president directed a staff member to deny the directives of the United States Congress to provide foreign aid to this sovereign nation—Ukraine—an act that is without comparison in our knowledge in the history of the United States, and an act that falls within the language of the law of the Constitution, abuse of power and certainly one that violates Article II’s dictate that the President ensure that the laws are faithfully executed.

Let us be very clear: monies were stalled, denied and delayed to a sovereign nation in the backdrop of a directive of Congress to issue funds to a sovereign nation as leverage in order to investigate a private citizen of the United States. Further, the series of acts of obstruction involving Congress has been bold and continuous. The House Judiciary Committee effectively has brought forth witnesses, and sought witnesses that were then directed by the President to not appear, in violation of the three equal branches of government. In spite of that, the committee has meticulously continued its work in building a case for impeachment.

Last week, we prepared extensively for the testimony of Corey Lewandowsky, who is not and has never been a federal employee, was not employed by the White House at any time, and not employed by the federal government at any time and also who was directed by the President to rebuff, stall and thwart; and who also was, in essence, directed to stain the constitutional process, by his responses, and the authority of the Congress.

Article I gives the Congress, and the House of Representatives in particular, its authority to proceed to hold the President of the United States accountable. There is no room for any other process. There is no other action. There is no other time. With a heavy heart, it is imperative that the impeachment inquiry begin and that the Articles of Impeachment are filed expeditiously; and that the Constitution works with the full authority of the United States Congress. That the Article I works with Article III courts to ensure an orderly response and respectful approach to this somber, sacred and high calling of the Congress and the Nation.

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RECOGNIZING JOHN WOOD’S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, it is very fitting that John Wood receive a lifetime achievement award from the Career Colleges & Schools of Texas.

He and his wife, Victoria, have worked tirelessly to make the Ocean Corporation a place where students gain the skills they need to lead successful and productive lives in a variety of occupations that benefit not only the student but also the State of Texas and, indeed, the country and the world.

Their focus is always on ensuring that the programs are of the highest quality and that students are career-ready when they leave their various programs.

Having visited the Ocean Corporation myself, I can testify to the dedication of the faculty and staff that John and Victoria have assembled. In addition to their dedication to high-quality programs, they have maintained their enthusiasm for the value of career education and the choices that it presents.

John is deserving of the award, and I commend all who are responsible for recognizing him and his true lifetime achievement.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MUST COMPLY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus. Like so many Americans, I am alarmed by President Trump’s repeated betrayal of American national security interests in favor of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin.

This President, President Trump, has put efforts forward to coerce Ukraine’s new President Zelensky, an allied leader, into helping Trump win reelection by using congressionally supported military aid as leverage.

That is not only a dramatic betrayal of the President’s oath of office; it is also the latest example of Trump doing Putin’s bidding.

I am certain this President’s relationship with Vladimir Putin didn’t start with his veiled support for Putin’s election meddling, inviting the Russians to hack the DNC, or even lobbying for inviting Russia to be readmitted to the G7, for heaven’s sake.

So, who benefits when Ukraine loses military assistance and Zelensky is humiliated? Russia: the country that has waged a bloody war in Ukraine for over 5 years, leaving over 13,000 dead, 30,000 injured, and over 1.5 million people displaced.

Who is to say Putin wasn’t listening in when Trump blackmailed Zelensky?