

Change the World, which was performed by Eric Clapton and won the Grammy Award for "Song of the Year" in 1996.

In 2001, Raymer retired from BMG after spending over 20 years leading the group's development, but he never stopped fighting for artists, songwriters, and publishers. After retiring from BMG, Raymer became President and CEO of the Church Music Publishers Association's (CMPA) Action Fund, where he worked to protect the intellectual property rights of songwriters and publishers.

Throughout his five decades of work in the music industry, Raymer has received numerous awards for his work, including The Arnold Broida Award for Copyright Advocacy, CMPA Founders Award, the NSAI President's Award, and countless other recognitions from ASCAP, BMI, Sparrow Records, BMG, and the CMPA.

It is my honor to congratulate Raymer on his retirement and to thank him for being a tireless advocate for songwriters and publishers. I wish him and his wife, Linda, all the best as they enter this new season of life.

RETROACTIVE ADJUSTMENTS FOR FORMER MEMBER'S MEMBERS REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOW- ANCE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, at the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer, I am approving retroactive adjustments for former member Peter Roskam's Members Representational Allowance in the amount of \$8,379.68 to address shortfalls in the Legislative Year 2018 due to administrative errors.

IMPEACHING DONALD JOHN TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, last Friday, the 13th of December, the Judiciary Committee voted Articles of Impeachment against Donald John Trump, the 45th and current President of the United States and the House of Representatives debated and will vote on those articles of impeachment on December 18, 2019.

The Judiciary Committee considered a voluminous amount of powerful, probative, and compelling evidence demonstrating that the President violated his oath of office, disregarded the nation's security, endeavored to corrupt the 2020 presidential election, and then launched a cover-up to prevent Congress from learning the full extent of his transgressions and acting to prevent their recurrence.

Separately, I will discuss and evaluate in detail the evidence that supports the articles of impeachment, as well the evidence offered in defense of the President's conduct, but I rise

today for the limited purpose of explaining briefly the reasons why the conduct described in the resolution of impeachment is of the utmost seriousness.

On December 3, 2019, in the first of my Notes on Impeachment, I discussed and explained the enduring principles that I believe should guide consideration of any articles of impeachment.

In this, the second part of my Notes on Impeachment, I will discuss why obstruction of the Congress, particularly the House of Representatives when it is exercising the powers vested in it exclusively by the Constitution in Article 1, Section 2, clause 5, is one of the grave transgressions that can be committed in this democratic republic.

In February 2014, the military of the Russia Federation, without merit or cause, invaded the eastern part of the free and independent country of Ukraine, including the Donbass region and the Crimean Peninsula.

The United States, a strategic ally of Ukraine, reacted swiftly to the Russian invasion, condemning the military action in strong and bipartisan fashion, and providing military, humanitarian, and non-military financial assistance to the determined but beleaguered nation of Ukraine, which since 2014 has totaled approximately \$1.5 billion.

In September 2019, members of the House of Representatives were alerted to a complaint filed by a whistleblower within the Intelligence Community alleging that on a July 25, 2019, call with the President of Ukraine, the current President of the United States sought to withhold \$391 million in foreign military aid to Ukraine unless and until it announced publicly that it was currently conducting corruption investigations against the American president's perceived chief election rival.

On September 24, 2019, the Speaker of the House announced that the House of Representatives would commence an impeachment inquiry pursuant to its constitutional authority under article I, section 2, clause 5 to determine whether in connection with the July 25, 2019 telephone conversation with the President of Ukraine, the President of the United States has engaged in conduct constituting "Treason, Bribery, or other High Crimes or Misdemeanors" as specified in article II, section 4.

On September 25, 2019, the White House released a Memorandum of Conversation in which the July 25, 2019 telephone conversation between the presidents of the United States and of Ukraine was memorialized and which corroborated in all material respects the allegations of the whistle blower.

The Memorandum of Conversation released by the White House confirms that the President of the United States put his personal interests over the interests of the nation, engaged in behavior that undermines the integrity of American elections, demeans the dignity of the office of the President of the United States, and jeopardizes the security of the United States.

Rather than denying the material allegations raised or expressing any regret, contrition, or apology for the serious breach of conduct, a week later, on October 3, 2019, the President of the United States went before national television cameras and confirmed that he desired for President Zelensky's Government of Ukraine to launch the investigations he requested, stating:

"If they were honest about it, they would start a major investigation into the Bidens . . . Likewise, China should start an investigation into the Bidens, because what happened in China is just about as bad as what happened with Ukraine."

On October 22, 2019, bemoaning his fate, but not regretting his conduct, the President of the United States tweeted that "All Republicans must remember what they are witnessing here—a lynching," thus falsely drawing a moral equivalence between the exercise of the impeachment power expressly and solely conferred on the House of Representatives by the Constitution and lynching, the most heinous act of domestic terrorism and symbolic of one of the darkest and most shameful periods in America's past.

From the moment Speaker Pelosi announced the House would commence investigation of the President's conduct, the President responded by initiating and orchestrating unprecedented defiance of Congress and impeding its ability to learn the facts and impose accountability by disregarding subpoenas, refusing all requests for the production of documents, directing his political appointees and other Executive Branch employees from testifying before or cooperating with Congress, and resorting to dilatory litigation in the pursuit of pursuing frivolous and specious claims, such as Article II empowers the President can do whatever he wants or that he is absolutely immune from congressional investigation.

Madam Speaker, I am reminded that 21 years ago I served on the Judiciary Committee during the impeachment of a president, as did one of my predecessors, the late Barbara Jordan, who reminded the nation that our country depends on us to be big in the biggest moments.

This generational passing of the torch is not unique but rather an indelible feature of the American Experience passed down to us from the Framers who met in Philadelphia 232 years ago to craft a Constitution forming a more perfect union, establishing justice, ensuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessing of liberty to them and their posterity.

More than two centuries ago, in 1776, this country was founded on the basis of a bedrock belief in the revolutionary ideas that all men are created equal and are endowed with the inalienable right to life, liberty, and property; are entitled to live free of arbitrary rule; and most important, are endowed with the right to govern themselves.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that "all Experience has sh[o]wn that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by taking" immediate action against their oppressors.

But, Jefferson continued, "when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty" to take immediate action to repel the danger.

Madam Speaker, the Framers had first-hand experience with the types of abuses and usurpations committed by political leaders who ruled them but were not accountable to them and detailed many of those wrongs in the Declaration of Independence.

The Framers understood and declared to the world that democratic governors derived