

this legislation and act swiftly, not only on the behalf of the people of the San Joaquin Valley but Flint, Michigan, and the others who will benefit in the very important WRDA bill that will be before us tomorrow.

Time is of the essence. The drought-stricken community in California, especially in the San Joaquin Valley, and others who are impacted by very important and needed efforts that Senator FEINSTEIN and others have put together as part of the WRDA bill, a bipartisan bill that Congressman MCCARTHY has worked on, should be passed tomorrow. Do the right thing before Christmas.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a strong recommendation that President-elect Trump address immediately and put to rest the overwhelming conflicts of interest that abound with his personal business affairs that threaten to undermine the public interest and destabilize his future administration.

When America's Founding Fathers wrote the Emoluments Clause in our Constitution, their firm intention was to insulate our new government from unethical foreign inducement to our elected officials and corruption attendant to the intertwining of Europe's politics with our own.

□ 1130

So reads our Constitution, Article I. Article I, right at the beginning, Section 9, clause 8: "No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States"—that means we don't coronate kings here—"And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever from any King, Prince, or foreign State."

No elected official in this country is above the Constitution, the law of the land. This is the strict, time-tested standard, ethical standard to which the President and Congress and all senior government appointees are held.

Unfortunately, American history has no shortage of examples of Presidents and senior officials who attempted to skirt this ethical standard outside of appropriate channels, and they paid the price: Ulysses S. Grant's Whiskey Ring, or Warren G. Harding's Teapot Dome, or Richard Nixon's Jewel Scandal or Watergate, to name a few. Each represents an instance of improper gifting, self-dealing, and an array of clandestine and illegal activities, of which President-elect Trump would be wise to reflect upon their consequences.

There have been many suggestions offered to the President-elect on what

he should do to clear up such potential conflicts about his foreign investments, contacts, and his vast private wealth that could compromise his position as President; yet President-elect Trump's advisers keep us waiting and dodging the main question.

He, himself, has said that action is not legally required. He is wrong. He also incorrectly asserts there can be no conflict of interest for a President. History shows that is false.

Without separation of his private interests from his public interests, how will the American people know he is acting fairly and impartially in his appointments to regulatory agencies, for example? or his funding recommendations of budgets and departments that could impact his investments? Or how about the contracts that are let by the Federal Government itself?

How will he work with banks, and which ones, nation-state-owned or foreign, that have loaned him and his associates money?

Who will he be appointing to key regulatory positions that could impact his vast financial interests across many continents?

A former Reform Party Vice Presidential candidate opined on the Huffington Post site that Mr. Trump has three options to address his conflicts of interest:

Number one, to place his company and assets into a true blind trust, supervised by a totally independent entity;

Number two, to persuade the GOP-controlled Congress to enact a law that exempts the President from the Emolument Provision, which I would vote against; or

Number three, to resign, or risk impeachment.

As the Office of Government Ethics advised, only a true divestiture of his financial stake in his sprawling and global business dealings will resolve ethical concerns about conflicts of interest as he assumes the role of President of the United States.

Now, this map gives you a sense of some of his interests that he has acknowledged in some of his filings, of 144 companies in 25 different countries. We don't know what these relationships are. He has a sprawling global business empire, and the list includes countries with strained diplomatic ties to the United States.

As the President, his responsibilities will force him to make decisions on foreign policy and tax policy, for example, that will impact these significant business interests. Only a truly complete removal of his ownership can assure the American people that his Presidential actions and political decisions are not motivated by personal financial interests. Even then, suspicion will arise about every move he makes and be subject to prosecution.

In the 3 weeks since his election, President-elect Trump has held meetings and calls with foreign dignitaries, Prime Ministers, and Presidents in his

official capacity as President-elect. That is normal. What is not normal or appropriate, though, is for the public to hear afterwards that his adult children, who are slated to take over the family business, were also present.

The American public is well aware that the Trump team has a steep learning curve in understanding his role, the operation and legal allowances of our Federal Government, and he has a long way to go in separating his personal financial interests from his public financial interests. I can't say in strong enough terms we do need to have his tax filings on record, and we do need to have clarification for the American people that our Constitution must prevail.

No public official—no public official—is exempt from the law of the land, and the highest law is the Constitution of the United States. He must separate himself from his business dealings.

ST. XAVIER FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 2, my alma mater, St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, beat the odds in a true underdog story and won the Ohio high school Division I football State championship. They join the St. Xavier water polo team as State champs this year as well.

Through a tough regular season schedule, the St. X Bombers went into the final regular season game with a record of 4 and 5, needing one more win to make it to the playoffs, and they were losing at halftime. They won and went on to win five more times, ultimately beating a tough Cleveland Saint Ignatius team, in front of 13,000 people at Ohio Stadium, to win the State championship.

In one of the most thrilling high school football games, St. X won 27-20 in double overtime. In fact, three of the five playoff victories were won in overtime.

In a historic year, St. X became the first team in Ohio high school athletic history to lose five regular season games and then go on to win the State championship. The 2016 football season can teach us all something about perseverance and never giving up.

I would like to congratulate the St. Xavier players, Coach Steve Specht, and his staff, for their hard work and dedication. This win adds to a long history of sportsmanship and commitment on the field at St. Xavier High School.

Go Bombers.

CONGRATULATING DR. BEN CARSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Dr. Ben Carson to serve as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, where he will promote opportunity for success for everyone.

President-elect Trump announced: "Ben Carson has a brilliant mind and is passionate about strengthening communities and families within those communities . . . Ben shares my optimism about the future of our country and is part of ensuring that this is a Presidency representing all Americans."

Dr. Carson knows that there is power in education and hard work. He earned a full scholarship to Yale University, received his doctorate from the University of Michigan, and then, at just age 33, became the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins.

With his dear wife, Candy, he started the Carson Scholars Fund, a valuable national scholarship program to empower students from all backgrounds to strive for academic excellence and community service.

Our Nation is fortunate that Dr. Ben Carson has been nominated to this important position, and I am confident in his future success for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

9/11 was the Pearl Harbor of our era, being a surprise attack on our civilization. President-elect Donald Trump, with Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, will lead us to victory to protect American families.

RECESS

The SPEAKER *pro tempore*. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day 75 years ago, our Nation was attacked, and war was visited upon our people. In so many places in our world, war rages still. May all leaders be empowered to work toward lasting peace, with the help of Your grace.

We ask also this day for wisdom, patience, and understanding among the

Members of this people's House. Give them the generosity of heart, and the courage of true leadership, to work as true statesmen and women, toward a common solution to the many issues facing our Nation.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING DR. EDUARDO J. PADRON ON RECEIVING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Dr. Eduardo Padron, president of my alma mater, Miami Dade College, for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

As a fellow refugee who escaped the Castro regime, I was honored to help lead the effort to nominate Dr. Padron for this meritorious recognition. He has always made it his life's work to advocate on behalf of underserved populations.

Through his expert guidance and leadership, Dr. Padron has propelled Miami Dade College into national prominence by improving student access, retention, and graduation, as well as helping them with their professional achievements.

Today, MDC enrolls and graduates more minority students than any other institution of higher education in the country.

Congratulations to Dr. Padron on receiving our Nation's highest civilian honor. South Florida and the MDC community could not be more proud of you.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, my heart is in Hawaii today. At almost this exact time, on this very day 75 years ago, the first bombs were dropped in the attack on Pearl Harbor. More than 2,400 people perished on that fateful day that will forever live in infamy.

We remember our brothers and sisters who paid the ultimate price and those who answered the call to serve in the months and years that followed, including our two former Senators Inouye and Akaka, and the more than 320,000 who gave their lives in that war.

We remember the Japanese Americans whose lives were forever changed when, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, were thrown into internment camps; and the brave *nisei* who, in spite of these atrocities, volunteered to serve, forming the *nisei*-only "Go for Broke" 442nd Infantry Regiment, serving courageously and sacrificing greatly.

May we never forget what happened at Pearl Harbor, the lessons learned, and the sacrifices of all who served.

HONORING NED RANDOLPH

(Mr. ABRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a faithful public servant of Louisiana, Mr. Edward Gordon Randolph, Jr., better known as Ned, who passed away October 4, 2016, at the age of 74.

Ned was a political force in Louisiana. He served in the Louisiana House of Representatives, the Louisiana Senate, and served as mayor of his hometown, the great city of Alexandria, Louisiana.

Ned served in that capacity for over 20 years, and he had many, many accomplishments in that job. Among those was the opening of the Alexandria Riverfront Center, and advocating for the transition from England Air Force Base to England Airpark, which is still in existence. He revitalized that entire city and left behind a legacy of great, great success.

So, again, just a tribute to Ned Randolph. He will be missed.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 75th anniversary of the tragic attacks on Pearl Harbor. It is a day we reflect to remember over 2,400 Americans whose lives we lost that morning.

Today I especially remember Army Corporal Earl Wickett, a south Buffalo