



IMPEACHED

STAGE SET FOR PRESIDENT'S SENATE TRIAL

Trump joins Clinton and Johnson in U.S. history



Even as the House was debating impeachment Wednesday, President Donald Trump rallied about 10,000 supporters at an airport in Battle Creek, Mich.

Indelible mark put on his presidency, legacy

By PHILIP RUCKER and FELICIA SONMEZ • Washington Post

WASHINGTON - The House of Representatives voted late Wednesday to impeach President Donald Trump on charges that he abused his office and obstructed Congress, with Democrats declaring him a threat to the nation and branding an indelible mark on the most turbulent presidency of modern times.

After 11 hours of fierce argument on the House floor between Democrats and Republicans over Trump's conduct with Ukraine, lawmakers voted almost entirely along party lines to impeach him. Trump becomes the third president in U.S. history to face trial in the Senate — a proceeding that will determine whether he is removed from office less than one year before he stands for re-election.

On Trump's 1,062nd day in office, Congress brought a momentous reckoning to an unorthodox president who has

tested America's institutions with an array of unrestrained actions, including some that some of his own appointees and other government witnesses testified were reckless and endangered national security.

The Democratic-controlled House passed two articles of impeachment against Trump — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress — related to the president's attempts to withhold military aid to Ukraine and pressure its government to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a potential 2020 Democratic opponent.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., framed the day's proceedings through the long lens of history, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singling out the line, "the republic for which it stands." "Very sadly, now our founders' vision of a republic is

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THE CHARGES

Article I: Abuse of power

Trump "corruptly" solicited election assistance from the government of Ukraine.

Yea: 230 • Nay: 197

Article II: Obstruction of Congress

Trump ordered others to defy House subpoenas and blocked access to documents.

Yea: 229 • Nay: 198

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Senate could begin a trial in January, with Chief Justice John Roberts presiding. A two-thirds vote would be required to convict the president and remove him from office — something that's never happened in U.S. history and is unlikely to happen this time.

Photo by EVAN VUCCI
Associated Press

House vote widens the growing rift

By TOREY VAN OOT • toreyvanoot@startribune.com

HAMPTON - Michelle Erickson sat at the lunch counter of Little Oscar's Restaurant, crumbling crackers into a cup of chili. The nearby TV, tuned to the impeachment debate in Washington, was too quiet to hear. But the 48-year-old dance instructor didn't need to listen: After weeks of wall-to-wall coverage, her mind was made up.

"It's a circus," Erickson said. "It is all a big way to make Trump look as bad as possible right up to the election, to try to damage his electability."

Soon after, Dori Lindsay settled into a nearby booth and ordered a plate of chicken fingers. She, too, had watched hours of testimony and news coverage. The retired U.S. history teacher had arrived at an opposite conclusion.

"This is one of the most trying times in our history," she said. "I definitely believe that this pro-

cess is necessary and important and I am for the impeachment."

The scene at the popular lunch spot in the tiny Dakota County town of Hampton mirrored the nation's deep divide on a day when the U.S. House voted to impeach a president for only the third time in its history.

While lawmakers in Washington argued over the two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, everyday Americans were forced to confront what both sides agreed is a constitutional crisis. And for many, the certainty of their convictions was accompanied by unease over the knowledge that their views are seen as illegitimate, even un-American by the other half of the country.

Ultimately, the final verdict is likely to be rendered in next year's election by suburban swing districts like the one that's

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