

Community Comment
February 9, 2018
Sam Pennisi

The prospect of impeachment

This President is the source of all his troubles. I haven't figured out if it's because he is an excellent con man who has bullied and money/ powered his way thru life ~~and his deals~~. Or is because he is just not very smart or interested in the public trust issues that came with assuming a public office. Or perhaps he knows exactly what he is doing, knows he joined with Russia to help him win the office, knows the difference between right and wrong and just doesn't care. Or maybe he really doesn't get when he crosses the line between what is legal and what is not.

Whatever the reason, Trump is in trouble, He has a Special council looking into very serious charges that involve demeaning our democratic traditions and laws and our courts and judicial system. It is no wonder the prospect of Impeachment has come up.

In my lifetime, two Presidents have faced ^{that prospect} ~~the prospect of impeachment~~. Richard Nixon was told by senior members of his own party that he would be impeached if he did not resign. He did. His Vice President became President when he did and chose to pardon Nixon. It's likely he would have faced criminal charges after he left office but was spared the process. Personally, I would have preferred that he had been charged, had a trial, and, if convicted, then be pardoned. After all, we are a country of laws, not men. And, no man is above the law.

Bill Clinton was impeached by the house of representatives then found not guilty by the Senate. Congress had other options like censure they could have done, but they chose impeachment. Clinton retained his seat, completed his second term, and left with a high popularity rating by the public.

Impeachment is a political remedy available to Congress, our representatives, to un seat a President. The reasons to impeach are vague and subjective. It is not to be taken lightly. I think there are reasons to impeach this President. Among other issues, here are a few I think Congress should consider.

This President doesn't understand public service, our Constitution and laws that flow from it, and shows no interest in learning what the job really entails. This lack of the basic ability to govern has damaged our institutions of justice and our governing agencies.

This President has obstructed justice. He fired the head of the FBI because he wanted to slow or end the investigations into his campaign and possible collusion with the Russians. He said so in a public interview. Since then, he has railed against judges because of their

ethnic background and has undermined the integrity of the FBI and the Justice Department.

He has failed to fill hundreds of positions and most of his appointments hate the department they are supposed to lead.

Most disturbing of all is his failure to lead on the issue of understanding how Russia affected our election and what we need to do to stop this attack.

I'm only getting started; there are more reasons for impeachment. Republicans hold both houses of congress; for now. Is it party over country?

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment.