

GOP

Continued from A1

Ten Republicans joined Democrats voting for impeachment. They are Wyoming’s Cheney, Ohio’s Anthony Gonzalez, Washington’s Jaime Herrera Beutler, New York’s John Katko, Illinois’ Adam Kinzinger, Michigan’s Peter Meijer, Washington’s Dan Newhouse, South Carolina’s Tom Rice, Michigan’s Fred Upton and California’s David Valadao.

Cheney, whose decision to buck Trump sparked an immediate backlash within the GOP, was the only member of her party’s leadership to support impeachment, which was opposed by 197 Republicans.

Rice’s vote may have been the most surprising. His coastal district strongly backed Trump in the election and he voted last week to object to certification of electoral votes in Arizona and Pennsylvania. “I have backed this president through thick and thin for four years. I’ve campaigned for him and voted for him twice. But this utter failure is inexcusable,” Rice said in a statement after the vote.

‘Speculation’

While McConnell strongly decried the rampage and publicly rejected Trump’s baseless claims of election fraud, he has reserved his angst about Trump for private conversations with confidantes. As the House debated Trump’s impeachment Wednesday, McConnell released a note to his Republican colleagues, denying he had any final decision.

“While the press has been full of speculation, I have not made a final decision on how I will vote and I intend to listen to the legal arguments when they are presented to the Senate,” he said.

“I don’t think that story would have appeared in the press unless it was intentional,” said Colin Reed, a Republican strategist and aide to former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown. “Mitch McConnell knows what happened last week was indefensible. For the Republican Party to have a chance to regain power, they’re going to have to move past this point and time. ... It’ll be a hard vote for a lot of them.”

Assuming all 50 Democratic senators vote to convict Trump, another 17 Republicans would be necessary to remove him from office.

In last year’s impeachment trial, Utah’s Mitt Romney was the lone Republican senator to vote to remove Trump. Now Romney says Trump deserves a “meaningful consequence.” It’s already believed that other Republicans will join him whenever the Senate holds its trial this year.

Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski has said she wants Trump “out,” Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey indicated Trump’s offenses are worthy of impeachment, and Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse told CBS News he would consider voting to convict.

Even if all four of them got to “yes” and are joined by McConnell, a dozen more Republicans would be needed to reach the two-thirds threshold. Some constitutional scholars argue that a simple majority of senators could vote to bar Trump from running again — but that decision would almost definitely spark a court challenge.

At least half a dozen Republican senators harbor some level of presidential aspirations and may decide that a vote to convict Trump would immediately extinguish their chances.

At this point, with the timing of a trial up in the air, they may not even know what side they’ll end up on yet.

“The Republican caucus looks like an army that is in full panic running in different directions,” said Kessler, “so it’s hard to predict what they’ll do in the next 24 hours.”

■ The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Impeachment

Continued from A1

Trump is the only U.S. president to be twice impeached. It was the most bipartisan presidential impeachment in modern times, more so than against Bill Clinton in 1998.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi invoked Abraham Lincoln and the Bible, imploring lawmakers to uphold their oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies, foreign “and domestic.” She said of Trump: “He must go, he is a clear and present danger to the nation that we all love.”

Democrats are also turning their at-

tention to allegations that Republican members of Congress encouraged last week’s attempted insurrection, possibly providing help that enabled the mob who stormed the Capitol.

Holed up at the White House, watching the proceedings on TV, Trump later released a video statement in which he made no mention at all of the impeachment but appealed to his supporters to refrain from any further violence or disruption of Joe Biden’s inauguration.

“Like all of you, I was shocked and deeply saddened by the calamity at the Capitol last week,” he said, his first condemnation of the attack. He appealed for unity “to move forward.” He contin-

ued, “Mob violence goes against everything I believe in.”

Trump was first impeached in 2019 over his dealings with Ukraine, but the Senate voted in 2020 acquit. No president has been convicted, but Republicans said Wednesday that could change in the rapidly shifting political environment as officeholders, donors, big business and others peel away from the defeated president.

Biden said in a statement after the vote it was his hope the Senate leadership “will find a way to deal with their Constitutional responsibilities on impeachment while also working on the other urgent business of this nation.”

The soonest Republican Senate

leader Mitch McConnell would start an impeachment trial is Tuesday, the day before Trump is already set to leave the White House, McConnell’s office said. The legislation is also intended to prevent Trump from ever running again. McConnell reportedly believes Trump committed impeachable offenses.

Unlike his first time, Trump faces this impeachment as a weakened leader, having lost his own reelection as well as the Senate GOP majority. From the White House, Trump leaned on Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina to push Republican senators to resist, while chief of staff Mark Meadows called some of his former colleagues on Capitol Hill.

Unprecedented security

Thousands of police and military troops continued pouring into the nation’s capital Wednesday, transforming the city into an armed fortress in an extraordinary show of force aimed at heading off more mob violence ahead of next week’s inauguration ceremony. Officials involved in the security preparations said they had never been so concerned about violence in Washington, including in the days after 9/11.

— Los Angeles Times



LEFT: Troops hold inside the Capitol Visitor’s Center to reinforce security Wednesday. Photos showed Guardsmen resting throughout the Capitol. BOTTOM LEFT: A prerecorded video of President Donald Trump plays in an empty White House press briefing room after the House impeached him. BELOW: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi displays the signed article of impeachment.

AP photos



Bentz

Continued from A1

Bentz said Wednesday the attack on the U.S. Capitol by pro-Trump supporters was inexcusable. “I continue to share the emotions many are feeling in the aftermath of the unprecedented and unacceptable violence this past week.”

Bentz said the “rush-to-judgment” impeachment would only divide the nation more and undercut efforts to get both parties working on key issues such as COVID-19 as soon as possible.

“I voted against impeachment because our focus should be on unifying our nation, ensuring a peaceful transition to the Biden administration,” Bentz said.

With less than two weeks since he was sworn-in, the bulk of Bentz’s time has been taken with the Electoral College vote, the riot, and opposing efforts to oust Trump as soon as possible.

“I came to Congress to stand up for rural communities across my district by addressing the terrible damage caused by recent wildfires, and to reform the laws that govern our water rights,” Bentz said.

As the lone Republican in Oregon’s House delegation, Bentz was at odds with the state’s four other Congress members — Suzanne Bonamici, D-Beaverton; Earl Blumenauer, D-Portland; Peter DeFazio, D-Springfield; and Kurt Schrader, D-Salem; all voted yes.

“Donald J. Trump encouraged and incited the violent attack that occurred on Jan. 6, when Congress was gathered to certify the results of the 2020 presidential election,” Bonamici said in a statement. “It was an attack on our Capitol and our democracy. Today I voted to impeach him for incitement of insurrection.”

Two Republicans from Washington state voted to impeach.

“I believe in our Constitution, individual liberty, free markets, charity, life, justice, peace and this exceptional country,” Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, R-Battle Ground, said

prior to the vote. “I see that my own party will be best served when those among us choose truth.”

Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Sunnyside, said in a statement before the vote that opposing impeachment would “validate the unacceptable violence we witnessed in our nation’s capital.”

Bentz was sworn in Jan. 4 as the new congressman replacing 20-year veteran Rep. Greg Walden, R-Hood River.

The vote against impeachment was the third time in a week that Bentz had supported Trump following the riot at the Capitol.

Immediately after the violent occupation on Jan. 6 was suppressed by police and National Guard, the Congress reconvened to verify the Electoral College vote electing Democrat Joe Biden as President.

Despite findings by state election officials, courts and the Attorney General William Barr saying there were no substantial examples of voter fraud, Bentz joined with other Republicans in objecting to the votes from Pennsylvania. The Electoral College votes were approved by a bipartisan vote of the House.

On Tuesday, Bentz voted against the House’s first attempt

to take action to eject Trump from the White House. A resolution called for Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment, which would have allowed him and a majority of the cabinet to remove Trump as unfit for office.

The House voted 223-205 in favor of a resolution. But before the vote, Pence said he would not invoke the amendment.

Bentz had been in the Capitol earlier on Jan. 6, before thousands of Trump supporters stormed the seat of national government, overwhelmed police and began defacing statues, occupying offices and stealing computers and other items.

The members of Congress in the Capitol at the time were able to escape the rioters by a few minutes, as security guards rushed them into safe locations, along with the vice president.

Bentz at that time was in his office in the Longworth Office Building, across Independence Avenue from the Capitol. He was following congressional leaders’ requests to reduce the number of people in and around the chambers for fears of COVID-19 infection. He consulted with staff about upcoming possible objections to Electoral College votes. Bentz had already voted to approve

the votes of Arizona, saying he saw no reasonable issues on which to object. But additional challenges were expected on other states won by Joe Biden.

Bentz became aware that the thousands of people who attended the Trump speech streamed up Pennsylvania Avenue, some yelling “hang Mike Pence” and “stop the steal,” assaulting police officers, and smashing their way into the Capitol. Bentz and his staff followed security protocols to lock the office and shelter in place. They watched the events unfold like most Americans experienced it: on television.

Bentz issued a statement that evening about the attack.

“I condemn the actions of the rioters in the strongest terms possible,” he said. “I call on all Americans to choose

peaceful protests over violence, chaos, and anarchy.”

Bentz also made clear that the verification of the Electoral College vote that evening had officially and finally ended the election.

“We can accept that Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States,” Bentz said. “I am committed to a peaceful transfer of power.”

Bentz said the majority of Trump supporters in his district and around the nation opposed the attack on the Capitol.

“I continue to empathize with those whose frustrations with the electoral system remain unresolved. I share their frustrations, and as the Representative of Oregon’s Second District, I will do my best to address their concerns.”

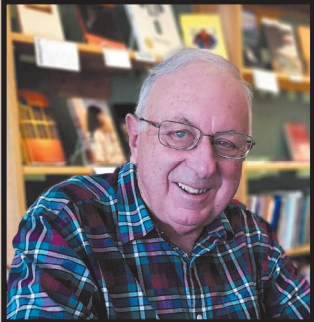
■ gwamer@eomediagroup.com

Robert “Bob” Vancil

Born in Walla Walla, Washington on August 22, 1939, Robert “Bob” Vancil went to be with the Lord on December 29, 2020 after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Judy, his three children, Michael (Diane), Steve (Linda) and Karen, and four grandchildren, Andrew (Helen), Mason, Anna and Paige. Bob is also survived by his sisters Lynne Adams of LaGrande and Dana Copenhaver of Burns. He was predeceased by his parents, Marvin and Merna Vancil and his brother, Donald.

Bob will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Community Presbyterian Church of Redmond Youth Group (info@redmondpc.org) or the St. Charles (Bend) Hospice Care: (foundation.stcharleshealthcare.org). Autumn Funerals in Redmond is handling the arrangements (www.autumnfunerals.com). Services for Bob will be announced at a later date there.



DEATH NOTICES

Katie Ellen Allison
of Redmond, OR
January 11, 1934 -
January 8, 2021

Arrangements:
Autumn Funerals,
Redmond
541-504-9485
www.autumnfunerals.net
Services:
No Services will be held at this time.

Mary Ruth Shockey
of Redmond, OR
August 1, 1929 -
January 9, 2021

Arrangements:
Autumn Funerals,
Redmond
541-504-9485
www.autumnfunerals.net
Services:
No Services will be held at this time.

JoAnn “Jodie” Brown
of Crooked River Ranch
Sep. 29, 1947 - Jan. 09, 2021

Arrangements:
Autumn Funerals of Redmond is honored to serve the family. 541-504-9485
Memories and condolences may be expressed to the family on our website at www.autumnfunerals.net
Services:
A private service will be held at a later date.

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines
541-385-5809
Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm
No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays.
Email:
obits@bendbulletin.com