

Republican Perspective
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by Ed Manning

A GUIDE TO THANKSGIVING DINNER

"I think most people have that crazy uncle they sit at Thanksgiving dinner with: someone they disagree with politically but love them anyway." Alan Colmes, American Journalist

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving and will provide many of us the opportunity to enjoy family and friends to give "thanks" for the fruits of the year. Sometime between the turkey, wine and football, the conversations will inevitably turn to politics. For Republicans that may be faced with entertaining "never Trumpers" or Progressive "resisters," here are some counterpoints from the first year of the Trump Administration:

- Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) terminated - Obama trade deal that would hurt U.S. manufacturing
- Renegotiating NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement)
- Signed a lifetime foreign-lobbying ban for members of his administration, as well as a five-year ban for all other lobbying.
- Placed a regulatory freeze on all federal agencies
- Signed 2:1 rule requiring federal agencies to drop 2 rules for every new one
- Nominated Neil Gorsuch to Supreme Court
- Cuts White House budget, saving taxpayers \$22 million
- School choice becomes top priority of Education Department
- Streamlined permitting and eliminated some regulations to speed construction of roads, bridges and pipelines
- Audit of Housing & Urban Development agency finds \$500 billion in errors
- Eliminated several costly Environmental Protection Agency regulations including its Clean Power Plan rule. This rule would have resulted in higher electricity costs and reduced reliability of the nations power grid.
- Instituted travel ban to U.S. from terrorist prone countries (Syria, Libya, Iran, Yemen, Somalia and Chad); number of refugees taken in is down 50%
- Illegal border crossings down nearly 70%
- Signed "Forever GI" bill that boosts education aid by \$3 billion over the next 10 years
- Signed legislation to streamline VA disability claims process
- Signed VA Accountability Act that makes it easier for the Department of Veterans Affairs to fire employees for wrongdoing and adds protections for whistleblowers in the VA.

- Announced new strategy towards Iran that places additional sanctions on the regime to block their financing of terror
- Rescinded Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) - an unconstitutional Obama executive amnesty that had been enjoined by the courts
- Phased out unconstitutional Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) requiring Congress to act
- Justice Dept. charged 400 medical professionals in healthcare fraud associated with the opioid crisis
- National unemployment rate is lowest in 16 years; black unemployment is lowest in 17 years
- Criminal charges filed against more than 3,800 MS-13 and 18th Street gang members
- Sex trafficking arrests have soared
- Addressing reform to the behemoth federal tax code

These should get you through the pumpkin pie and into a second cup of coffee. After that, you are on your own!!