

HONORING DR. HEIDI SHRECK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Heidi Shreck, a pediatrician who serves as Chief Medical Officer for Primary Health Care, a community health center local in central Iowa. Dr. Shreck is a dedicated, trusted physician who works each day to support the health of our communities, and it is my distinct honor to name her Iowan of the Week.

Dr. Shreck leads with care and compassion, and she is committed to achieving excellence. If you were to ask any of her patients—or the parents of some of her littler patients—they would without doubt echo that her kindness, devotion, and concern for their health and wellbeing is at the core of everything she does.

PHC offers high-quality, affordable care to underserved and vulnerable populations in Des Moines, Ames, and Marshalltown. As Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Shreck helps ensure these patients receive comprehensive health services, including medical and dental care, behavioral health care, homeless support, and pharmacy services. In 2019, PHC provided care for more than 38,000 Iowans.

Dr. Shreck has been instrumental in advancing the care-driven mission of community health centers in Iowa. When we began to see cases of COVID-19 in our state, Dr. Shreck led PHC's early response efforts and coordinated with other healthcare organizations to establish a community-wide strategy. She has continued to lead our medical, dental, and behavioral health staff through the challenging circumstances of the past nine months.

PHC's staff—including Dr. Shreck—has gone above and beyond to make sure patients and clients received continuing health care from the onset of this pandemic. Their accomplishments are truly too many to list, so I'd like to highlight a few.

With Dr. Shreck's leadership, PHC medical staff rapidly adapted to providing care in new ways. For example, behavioral health providers worked alongside primary care teams to set up telehealth systems to meet increasing demand for mental health care among kids and adults during this pandemic. In the early days of the pandemic when most dental offices had to shutter, dedicated dental teams juggled work adjustments, staffing challenges, and new requirements for PPE in order to provide emergency care—which kept patients healthy while ensuring emergency room space remained available to treat those with COVID-19.

I cannot thank Dr. Shreck enough for her hard work and resolve in the face of this threat to the health of communities across Iowa. Despite the long hours, stress, and concern for their own families, friends, and neighbors, Dr. Shreck and her team keep showing up to provide exceptional care. They do so with compassion, dignity, and respect; their resolve is deeply humbling.

It is Iowans like Dr. Shreck who embody Iowans commitment to community and service. I thank her once again for her achievements, and it is my distinct honor to name her this week's Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING PHIL MATIER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, along with Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI and Representatives MARK DESAULNIER, ANNA G. ESHOO, JARED HUFFMAN, RO KHANNA, BARBARA LEE, ZOE LOFGREN, JERRY MCNERNEY, JACKIE SPEIER, and MIKE THOMPSON, I rise to recognize California journalist Phil Matier on the occasion of his retirement from the San Francisco Chronicle.

Phil for decades has enlightened and entertained Bay Area readers with his well-sourced, trenchant columns. He has helped to clearly explain our region's ups and downs to generations of residents, often shining light on details that politicians and the well-connected would have preferred to keep hidden.

Phil, a graduate of the University of Arizona, worked at the Tucson (AZ) Citizen before joining the San Francisco Examiner in the 1980s to report on city hall, where he met and soon partnered with Andy Ross. A Matier & Ross column became a fixture first at the Examiner and then at the Chronicle, even as Phil also expanded his media footprint into work with Bay Area television and radio stations.

Through his columns as well as his broadcast presence, Phil has explained the fine details of pressing issues, probed policymakers' personalities and character, and pushed for accountability and transparency in government.

His uncanny ability to elicit information from political figures, whether or not they wish to share it, is legendary. And his own personality—insightful, sometimes pugnacious, often expressed at high volume, but always fair—has shone through all of his work.

We thank Phil for sharing his talents with generations of newspaper readers, and we are glad we will continue to see and hear his broadcasts.

APPRECIATING RUSH LIMBAUGH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, America has lost a treasured icon of Truth with the death of Rush Limbaugh. My wife Roxanne and our family and community extend our most sincere sympathy to his wife Kathryn and the Limbaugh Family. He was America's Number One broadcaster with tens of millions of listeners in every community in America.

Rush Limbaugh was the Ronald Reagan of broadcasting proving conservatism is positive, friendly, faith-based, and even funny as he itemized the Greatness of America never apologizing for Exceptionalism.

Also, like President Reagan he achieved and promoted the American Dream that all can succeed with hard work. It was Reaganesque that he created thousands of jobs saving the AM Radio band enabling local hosts to penetrate daily newspapers' mostly fake news. Local hosts are highlighted by tal-

ented truth tellers—Keven Cohen, Gary David, Carl Gooding, Paul Kirby, Kelly Nash, Jonathan Rush, and Christopher Thompson. This is also a platform for affordable advertising by local businesses to create jobs.

His logical, common sense explanation of American political issues was vital for conservative success.

In 1994 he worked with speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich to achieve the first Republican House majority in my lifetime—leading to a Congressional vote to establish the American Embassy in Jerusalem.

In 2010 he encouraged the grassroots to become active with the spontaneous Tea Party movement gaining an incredible 63 House seats.

In 2016 he recognized outsider Donald Trump to unexpectedly be elected President to successfully create jobs with record employment for African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, women, and youth.

In 2020 in my home state of South Carolina he inspired young conservatives for additional State Senate, State House, and a Congressional seat achieving the largest Republican majorities in 140 years. This follows Nikki Haley being elected the first female governor in 340 years and second Indian American in history with Senator TIM SCOTT being the South's first African American U.S. Senator.

Columbia's Morning News host Gary David is correct that there has been no one who has impacted our political culture more than Rush Limbaugh without serving in public office.

I saw firsthand the good-natured friendliness of Rush Limbaugh in 1990 when I served as his driver during his visit to Columbia for an address to the South Carolina Policy Council. He was not offended being crammed into our van with our four sons age 3 to 17 (helping inspire our son Alan to be elected America's youngest state Attorney General in 2010).

Last February 5th I was grateful to congratulate him at the Capitol following his being presented the Medal of Freedom by President Donald Trump during his historic State of the Union address. The opinion show host was clearly humbled by this deserved recognition.

It is so re-assuring that the Rush Limbaugh legacy will continue as excerpts from his broadcasts will remain on the air reinforcing how profound his love of America that are timeless.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW OXFORD MARCHING COLONIALS

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the New Oxford High School Marching Colonial on their victory in the V-USBands Pennsylvania State Championship.

The New Oxford High School Marching Colonial include 52 students in grades 9-12. A competitive band for many years, the band persevered through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and competed in the virtual V-USBands circuit. From their home stadium in New Oxford, the band designed a new, original field show called "Together," which is intended to convey a message of unity.

In addition to the state championship, the New Oxford Marching Colonials also earned special awards for High Music, High Visual, High Percussion, and High Colorguard. The band also competed in the V-USBands National Championship, in which the students placed fourth and received a special award for Best Colorguard.

I congratulate the dedicated members of the New Oxford Marching Colonials, their instructors, and families on this remarkable achievement, and I wish the students every continued success.

RECOGNIZING JOHN DIAZ

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, along with Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI and Representatives MARK DESAULNIER, ANNA G. ESHOO, JARED HUFFMAN, RO KHANNA, BARBARA LEE, ZOE LOFGREN, JERRY MCNERNEY, JACKIE SPEIER, and MIKE THOMPSON, I rise to recognize California journalist John Diaz on the occasion of his retirement from the San Francisco Chronicle.

John's superb stewardship of the Chronicle's editorial pages over the past 25 years has kept California readers talking and thinking about the most pressing issues facing the state. His own columns, exploring complex issues in ways that laypeople can easily understand and engage, have been a big part of that.

John, a graduate of California's Humboldt State University, started his career at the Red Bluff (CA) Daily News, where after two years he was promoted to the parent company's Washington, D.C. bureau. He later reported for the Associated Press in Philadelphia and reported and edited for the Denver Post before starting at the Chronicle in 1990 as an assistant city editor and becoming its editorial page editor in 1996.

Both in maintaining the Chronicle's editorial voice and in expressing his own opinions and analysis through his column, John unflinchingly has delved into tough issues without resorting either to oversimplification or to meanness. His balanced presentation of facts is a credit to the Chronicle and to journalism at large, and a boon to his readers.

The Bay Area political landscape has changed enormously on his watch, as has the region's media landscape. Through it all, John has kept our communities well-informed and a well-informed populace is a necessary part of our democratic republic.

We thank John for his many years of service to our constituents, and we wish him the best in his next endeavors.

ST. DAVID'S DAY

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise to note the upcoming celebration of St. David's Day on March 1. The feast day of St. David,

the patron saint of Wales, offers the opportunity to honor Welsh culture and heritage and note the links between Wales and the United States.

The Welsh were among the early settlers who emigrated from the British Isles to North America, and they came with the same motivations that brought many generations from all over the world to our shores, including the pursuit of religious liberty and the opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their descendants. The man remembered as the first Welsh settler, Howell Powell, arrived in Virginia from Brecon in 1642. After William Penn founded Pennsylvania in 1681, having considered naming it New Wales, a large group of Welsh Quakers settled in the colony.

A century later, the Industrial Revolution brought a renewed wave of Welsh settlement to the United States. Immigrants from Wales farmed land, mined coal, made steel, and worked in a variety of other industries that powered U.S. economic ascendancy.

We see the contributions of Wales to American history and culture in other ways, too. At least five signers of the Declaration of Independence had a Welsh background, including its primary author Thomas Jefferson. At least eight of our presidents have similarly come from Welsh descent.

The ties between Wales and the United States are not merely historic but remain vibrant today. Welsh companies conduct business in the United States and keep Americans on their payrolls. As of 2019, the United States was the largest export market for Wales outside Europe.

In the House of Representatives, I serve as Chairman of the Congressional Friends of Wales Caucus, devoted to celebrating and strengthening the ties between our two nations. Each year I look forward to our St. David's Day reception on Capitol Hill, attended by members of the Welsh community in the United States, leading officials in the Welsh government, and Members of Congress. Unfortunately, the reception will not go on as usual this year, but I will nevertheless be wearing a daffodil on March 1 to mark the holiday.

The last words of St. David were said to be, "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do." People of Welsh heritage have come to embody this message in their contributions to the United States and have not done only little things but great things as well. On this St. David's Day, as one of the millions of Americans with Welsh ancestry, I take pride in the accomplishments produced by the partnership between Wales and the United States and look forward to those to come.

NEW DEAL FOR NEW AMERICANS
ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, immigrants are an essential part of our nation. And our nation can only be made stronger if we assist the efforts of new Americans to integrate, contribute to the growth of our economy, and be civically engaged.

The United States is the nation that it is today because of immigrant contributions. In fact, I am proud to represent one of the most diverse congressional districts in the country, in Queens, New York; it is a place where immigrant communities have thrived for decades and decades.

Madam Speaker, I am a proud daughter of immigrants. I know firsthand the difficulties my parents and grandparents encountered when they immigrated to the United States for a better life for their children. This is not an uncommon story. While the levels of hardships of new immigrants vary, there are common challenges—from language barriers to finding work.

That is why, I am so proud to reintroduce the "New Deal for New Americans Act". I am honored and grateful to lead this bill with Senators MARKEY and HIRONO and Representatives JAYAPAL and GARCÍA. The New Deal for New Americans Act would ensure a more inclusive and welcoming immigration system to help new Americans achieve their American Dream. Among many provisions, this bill would help immigrants overcome common challenges such as language barriers and employment attainment, and help start a business and break down barriers to naturalization.

Specifically, the "New Deal for New Americans Act" would:

Establish a National Office of New Americans in the Executive Office of the White House to promote and support immigrant and refugee integration and inclusion and coordinate efforts of federal, state, and local governments to support social, economic, and civic integration of immigrants and refugees.

Establish a Federal Initiative on New Americans to coordinate federal response to address issues that affect the lives of new immigrants and refugees and communities with growing immigrant and refugee populations.

Create a Legal Services and Immigration Assistance Grant Program to support organizations that provide direct immigration assistance to those in need of immigration screening; know-your-rights education; assistance in applying for citizenship, lawful permanent resident status or other legal status (DACA, TPS, asylum, etc.); or seeking relief from a removal order.

Create an English as a Gateway to Integration Program for organizations that teach English or help individuals prepare for naturalization or earn a GED.

Create a Workforce Development Grant Program to ensure that immigrant and refugee adults have equitable access to education and workforce programs that help equip them with occupational skills needed to secure or advance in employment.

Reduce barriers for individuals to naturalize by establishing a flat application fee for naturalization, amending the English and civics exam requirements for older individuals, and exempting eligible U.S. high school graduates from taking the naturalization exams.

Limit USCIS's ability to raise fees without Congress' approval, plus require authorization of appropriations to cover USCIS' need to operate and adjudicate cases.

Promote civic engagement through automatic voter registration of newly naturalized individuals.

Expand family integration by reducing the age of citizens who are able to petition eligible family members from 21 years old to 18 years old.