



GALA SPEAKER



THE HON. DAN CRENSHAW

Rep. Dan Crenshaw is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Texas's 2nd Congressional District and a retired U.S. Navy SEAL whose record of leadership and strong advocacy for individual liberty have made him a powerful voice in American politics following his election in 2018. Originally from the Houston area, Dan Crenshaw is a proud sixth-generation Texan. From an early age, Dan knew that he wanted to serve his country with the most elite fighting force in history: the Navy SEALs. His father's career in the Texas oil and gas industry moved his family all over the world, including Ecuador and Colombia, where he attended high school. As a result, Dan is fluent in Spanish. In 2006, Dan graduated from Tufts University, where he earned his Naval officer commission through Navy ROTC. Following graduation, he immediately reported to SEAL training in Coronado, CA, where he met his future

wife, Tara. After graduating SEAL training, Dan deployed to Fallujah, Iraq, to join SEAL Team Three, his first of five deployments overseas.

On Dan's third deployment in 2012, his life changed forever. After six months of combat operations, he was hit by an IED blast during a mission in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was evacuated and awoke from his medically induced coma learning that his right eye had been destroyed in the blast and his left eye was badly damaged. Dan was completely blind, and the doctors did not believe he would ever see again. Tara stood by him day and night, keeping faith and praying he would see again. After several difficult surgeries and months of fighting a tough diagnosis, Dan eventually regained sight in his left eye, a miracle according to the head surgeon. Dan refused to quit and went on to deploy twice more, first back to the Middle East in 2014 and then South Korea in 2016.

Dan was medically retired in September 2016 as a Lieutenant Commander after serving 10 years in the SEAL Teams. He left service with two Bronze Stars (one with Valor), the Purple Heart, and the Navy Commendation Medal with Valor, among other honors. Soon after, Dan completed his master's in public administration at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Dan then returned to Houston, where his community was hit by Hurricane Harvey. The storm brought devastation the region had never seen. He spent his time volunteering in areas of Katy, helping his neighbors recover from the damage. He saw first-hand the unthinkable losses that Texas suffered, but he also saw Texan grit and resilience. This inspired him to do more for his community. Dan and Tara decided that the best way to serve the people of Texas would be in elected office.

In November 2018, Dan was elected to represent the people of Texas's Second Congressional District. In Congress, he was appointed to the Homeland Security Committee and the Budget Committee. He was also named Ranking Member of the Oversight, Management, and Accountability Subcommittee of the Homeland Security Committee. Through his work on these committees, he is focused on border security, disaster relief funding, port security, cutting frivolous spending, and implementing fiscally responsible policies.