

HONORING ANDREW MALCOLM

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Malcolm, a long-time, talented member of my staff who transitions this week from my office after more than seven years of dedicated service to Oregon's Second Congressional District.

Growing up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Andrew earned a degree in politics from Princeton, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2009. Throughout school he had a keen eye on politics. He served as a congressional page during high school and in college he interned in the George W. Bush White House. It was also at Princeton that he met his wonderful wife Liz and I was glad to be present for their wedding nearly two years ago in her home state of Illinois.

Despite his East Coast upbringing, Andrew dove right into being an adopted Oregonian, answering those that asked, "I am not from Oregon, but I've spent a lot of time there." This started early on when Andrew jumped at a short notice opportunity to spend a couple days in Central Oregon and get some in-district experience. Now the Congressional schedule is a bit fluid at times and those couple days morphed into a couple weeks, while Liz was probably wondering if he'd gotten lost in the wilderness.

It might have been the beautiful landscapes, or maybe the Oregon pinots, craft beer and Pendleton whiskey, but no matter the reason Andrew fell in love with all that Oregon has to offer and adopted it as his second home state.

As an East Coaster learning the ways of the Pacific Northwest, it wasn't all smooth sailing. In fact, much like the east coast ships crossing the Columbia bar for the first time, his initial experience in Oregon's fashion waters was a bit rough. Arriving to his interview in boat shoes, he quickly learned they were well out of the norm for Oregonians, and probably shouldn't be seen in them around the district.

Moving deftly past that faux pas, Andrew rose swiftly through the ranks in my office, from Legislative Correspondent and Legislative Assistant, to Press Secretary and Deputy Chief of Staff. Along the way he's helped contribute to some historic moments for Oregon and our nation.

When Andrew's first tour of duty out in Oregon came to an end, we'd taken back the majority in the House. Andrew found himself in the middle of the action helping staff the transition effort for House Republicans heading into the 112th Congress.

Andrew also played an instrumental role last fall as we worked all the angles and were successful in achieving the chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee—a first in Oregon history.

Perhaps the toughest work, however, was done daily. Dealing with the press on Capitol Hill is a challenging enough job, but there may be no more challenging job than being press secretary to a Member of Congress who was a press secretary to a Member of Congress. Andrew took this in stride, and tackled it with dedicated skill.

Weighing in at over 70,000 square miles, Oregon's Second District is vast and diverse.

There are five distinct television markets covered by nearly a dozen stations and numerous radio stations and newspapers. Reporters kept Andrew on his toes with questions on a wide range of policy issues. Whether we were working to put people back to work in the woods, or fighting for veterans' access to the care they deserve, Andrew easily distilled complex policy down for the public, sometimes in as little as 140 characters.

While Andrew is departing as a formal member of my staff, he will always be a valued member of Team Walden. We will miss his quick wit and dedicated intellect, but know they will continue to be an asset to him into the future.

As Andrew moves on to the next stage of his professional career, I am reminded of a piece of advice from President Theodore Roosevelt. "Life is a great adventure . . . accept it in such a spirit." Throughout his time in my office, Andrew has done just that. Jumping at opportunities and taking on new responsibilities with tenacity and a high degree of respect and appreciation for the work we do here in Congress, and the people we serve.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Andrew for his dedication and service to the great state of Oregon and our nation, and wish him and Liz the very best of luck for the next chapter of their lives.

CONGRATULATING THE HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION OF THE OLD SMITH POINT SCHOOLHOUSE/CHURCH

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Smith Point Community Church on its dedication as a new Texas Historical Marker.

There is over one hundred years of church history wrapped up in what was once known as the "Old Smith Point Schoolhouse/Church." The Old Smith Point Baptist Church was established in the late 1800's by a group of pastors from the neighboring county that were concerned about the lack of a church in Chambers County. They agreed to be circuit pastors and take turns preaching under a stand of trees, where the church now stands. In 1937, the county built the building that is used as the current sanctuary, which served a multi-purpose as both a church and the first school in Chambers County. In 1948 the church reorganized and hired its first pastor, L.J. Hand who served the people of the Smith Point Community part time. In 1956, P.L. Smith was hired as the church's first full time pastor.

In 1960, the county sold the building to the church for one dollar and the promise that the church would build two public restrooms. At the same time, six lots of land right next to the building were gifted to the church by E.J. Rosenquest. The building was renovated, under then pastor J.R. Gibson, with additional classrooms and the public restrooms as promised. The church wanted to build a parsonage for their pastor, but had no money or resources to do so. They prayed to God and asked him to provide everything they needed

in order to get the parsonage built. Hurricane Carla occurred in 1961 literally raining wood and debris on Smith Point. Those pieces of wood from the hurricane were used to build the same parsonage that is still used today.

In 2007, the church's name was changed to Smith Point Community Church and still serves the residents of Chambers County with guidance by Reverend Michael K. Graves.

There is an abundant amount of local history and perseverance behind this church. I am proud to have such history in my District. Once again, I congratulate Smith Point Community Church and its dedication as a new Texas Historical Marker.

IN MEMORY OF NHON H.T. NGUYEN

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 28, 2017

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, after a life of service to both the Republic of Vietnam and to the Vietnamese American community in Southern California, Nhon H.T. Nguyen passed away April 18, 2017 at the age of 91.

Nhon was born in 1927 in Hue, Vietnam. She joined the military finance administration in 1950 and transferred to service at the Nguyen Tri Phuong Military Hospital in Hue in 1957, where she was eventually promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant.

It was during her service at the hospital that she witnessed the sacrifices and loss of disabled soldiers, which motivated her to dedicate her life to serve disabled veterans, war widows, and children of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

In 1967, Nhon transferred to the Women Military Institute and Training Center, where she rose to the rank of Captain and was appointed to serving in the Women Military Bureau at the Joint General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam. Two years later, she was promoted to the rank of Major and named as the Head of the Research Department. In 1972, she transferred to the Republic of Vietnam Air Force and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In early 1975, she was honored by the Republic of Vietnam with the Knight Decoration of the National Order of Vietnam (De Ngu Dang Bao Quoc Huan Chuong) for her twenty-five years of service to the armed forces.

Following the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, the Communist government imprisoned her in numerous "re-education camps" such as Long Giao, Quang Trung, Hoc Mon, Z30D, Ham Tan, and Long Thanh, where she was forced to perform harsh labor for four years.

In 1990, Nhon and her family resettled in the United States under the HO2 program (Humanitarian Operation), and they have been living in Orange County, California since.

Shortly after arriving in the United States, she joined the Former Political Prisoners Mutual Assistance Association, providing help to resettle South Vietnam veterans to the U.S.

In 1996, she joined the Republic of Vietnam Disabled Veterans and Widows Relief Association as the Secretary General. After a decade of service, she was unanimously elected President of the organization by all its members in 2006.