



Disability History and Awareness Month 2023

Dan Crenshaw

Congressman Daniel Crenshaw (Dan) is serving a third term in the U.S. Congress as a member of the Republican party. Before his time in Congress, Crenshaw had a career of distinguished service in the United States Navy.



During his Undergraduate studies at Tufts University, Crenshaw joined the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps and received an officer's commission in the U.S. Navy after graduation. He then received Basic Underwater Demolition training, after which he completed SEAL qualification training and received the 1130 designation as a Naval Special Warfare Officer.

Crenshaw served for ten years, completing five tours of duty and reaching the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Throughout his service, he was awarded two bronze stars, a purple heart, and the Navy-Marine Corps. Commendation Medal with valor before medically retiring in 2016. Crenshaw lost his right eye in 2012 during his third deployment when he was hit by an IED explosion. The blast destroyed his eye, and he required surgery to save the vision in his left eye. However, he remained in the Navy for four years after the injury.

Following his service in the military, Crenshaw received a master's in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and turned his focus to the political arena. In 2017 he announced his candidacy in the crowded primary to succeed Representative Ted Poe in Texas's 2nd Congressional district. Crenshaw managed to fight his way to the top of the pile eking out a narrow runoff win and followed it up with a close but comfortable general election win in 2018. During his Congressional Tenure, Crenshaw has had a reliably conservative voting record. However, he has expressed enthusiasm for enhanced VA reform and openness to legalizing same-sex marriage. Crenshaw is a vocal opponent of the House Freedom Caucus, occasionally breaking from the majority of the Republican conference. He also voted to reauthorize the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act when it last appeared before the legislature.

Profiles by Andrew Caruana, Policy and Research Intern, Office of Senator Sara Gelser Blouin

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