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TOP STORY

A tweet from Trump puts Van Drew in national spotlight

MICHELLE BRUNETTI PO T T T D



C-Span Photo

President Donald Trump’s tweet thanking Congressman Jeff Van Drew, D-2nd, for opposing impeachment may have put Van Drew in the crosshairs of leftists nationwide, but it isn’t likely to hurt him in his conservative-leaning district, said one political expert on Monday.

“He’s in a district that Donald Trump won,” said John Froonjian, interim executive director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University. “If anybody knows the area it’s Jeff Van Drew. He goes to every barbecue and every fire hall. I’d have to guess his positions are very well informed from having talked to people throughout the district.”



NICHOLAS HUBA Sta

The latest Tweet storm started after Van Drew appeared on the Fox News Channel show Fox & Friends on Sunday and said he hasn't seen evidence of any truly impeachable offense, and Democrats need to focus on getting things done like work on veterans issues, Social Security and Medicare, debt and infrastructure.

"Let the people impeach," Van Drew said on the show. "We are going to have an election very shortly."

Trump took to Twitter late Sunday evening.

"Thank you. Just another Witch Hunt by Nancy Pelosi and the Do Nothing Democrats," Trump tweeted, after quoting Van Drew.

Van Drew said his position on impeachment has always been consistent and isn't for the benefit of Trump.

"I believe it will split the country and hurt both Republican and Democrat constituents at the end of the day, and reduce and negate any work accomplished by this Congress," Van Drew said Monday, adding he also opposed the President Bill Clinton impeachment.

He said his constituents have made it clear they want him to get things done for them.

"Do we want to have less expensive prescription drugs when we run for election again? Do we want a better election system, a safer one?" Van Drew said. "Those are the things I want to work on."

While some Democrats on Twitter on Monday called for a primary challenger to Van Drew in 2020, Froonjian said the party organization is likely to stand by him and support his reelection.

Atlantic County Democratic Chairman Michael Suleiman said he hasn't heard any talk of primary challengers, and he is focused on the 2019 election.

"I'm 1000% focused on the races we have this November. Then after Nov

In March, freshman New York Democratic Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez included Van Drew on a list of Democrats to be targeted with a primary opponent when he is up for re-election in 2020.

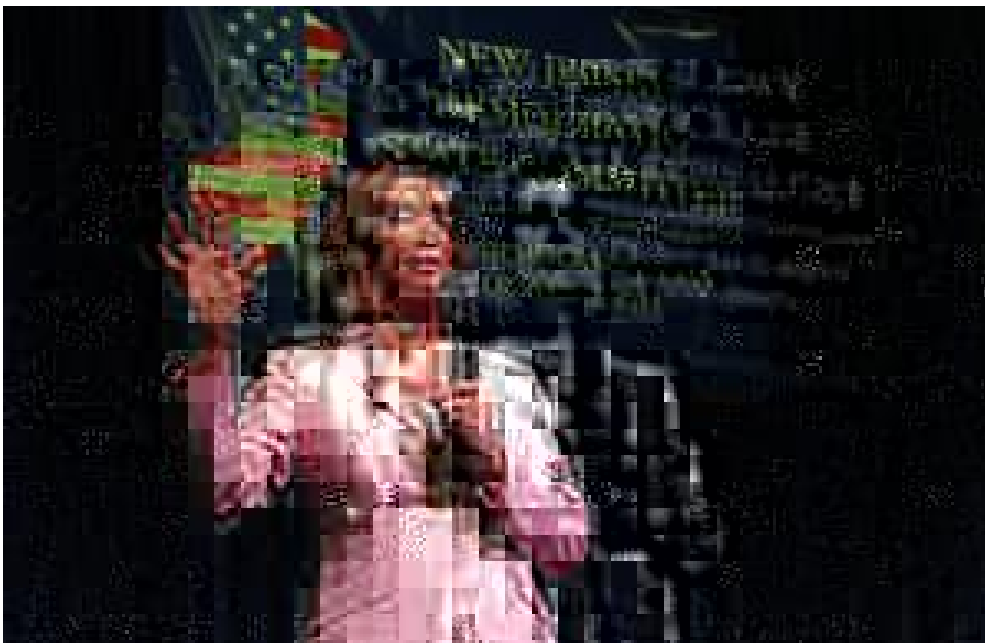
Ocasio-Cortez said at the time she would help liberal activists oust Van Drew and 25 other moderate Democrats in the 2020 Democratic congressional primaries, after a vote in which they joined with Republicans to support requiring U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) be notified if an illegal immigrant seeks to buy a gun.

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Pelosi ends impeachment week with visit to Democrats in Atlantic City

