



Shefali Razdan Duggal

PRESS CLIPS

INDIAWEST.com
USA's Most Honored Indian Newspaper Published From California

University of Phoenix® | [Click here →](#)

LATEST
NEWS

India News-

Trivedi Garner West Coast Support for Pa. House Race

By SUNITA SOHRABJI
indiawest.com

June 24, 2010 02:01:00 PM

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – Iraq war veteran Manan Trivedi, the Democratic contender for Pennsylvania's sixth congressional district, strongly stated his opposition to the "invasion" of Iraq at a fundraiser here June 18.

The former U.S. Marine was part of the very first units who crossed the line into Iraq Mar. 20, 2003. Trivedi served as commander of a medical team, and said he sent more than 100 troops home with purple hearts, awarded to those who have been wounded or killed in military service.



"I want to make sure we never make that kind of decision again," he said, in brief remarks to the crowd of professional 30-somethings who turned out for the evening event at Taverna Aventine in this city's Financial District.

On his campaign Web site, Trivedi has characterized the U.S. involvement in Iraq as "unnecessary and immoral," adding that the resources the U.S. has committed to Iraq have hampered efforts to combat terrorism in Afghanistan.

The evening fundraiser raised \$7,000 for Trivedi, who narrowly won the Democratic primary for his district May 18 and now faces Republican Jim Gerlach in November.

INDIAWEST.com
USA's Most Honored Indian Newspaper Published From California

University of Phoenix® | [Click here →](#)

**LATEST
NEWS**

India News-

Trivedi, who raised more than half a million for his primary race, is now aiming to raise \$2 million in "early money" by June 30.

Responding to a question from India-West, Trivedi, a strong supporter of the omnibus health care legislation passed by Congress this January, said his time in the military afforded him an excellent perspective on the issue.

"The military is a single payer system. It's a great place to learn about what works," said Trivedi, adding that while he is "very proud" of the new health care legislation, he is nevertheless concerned that the measure has done little to contain costs.

"One of the dirty secrets of medicine is that one-third of what we do makes no difference to a patient's outcome," he said.

Gerlach has criticized Trivedi's support of the president's health care bill as being "out of the mainstream." In an interview with the Philadelphia Inquirer, Gerlach, who has won re-election four times, characterized Trivedi as "too far left and he's not what the people of this district are really after."

Trivedi fought back at the June 18 fundraiser, characterizing Gerlach as an "extremely right-wing, 'put the blinders on and vote' member of Congress."

"He's got to go," asserted Trivedi, opining that he has the best shot in the nation at beating a Republican incumbent.

Shortly after he won his primary race, the powerful Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee added Trivedi to its "Red to Blue" list of candidates who will receive significant financial and strategic support.



Shefali Razdan Duggal, a co-host of the June 18 fundraiser with attorney Kiran Jain, told India-West that the addition of Trivedi to the “Red to Blue” list was an enormous boost.

“He’s proved himself as a very competent fundraiser and strong on the issues,” said Duggal, a political strategist who most recently worked on President Obama’s presidential campaign.

Duggal said Trivedi’s story — the son of an immigrant father whose mother sold her jewelry to buy her son a plane ticket, and an Iraq war veteran helping Americans survive the front lines — appealed to voters in the primaries and will serve him well in November.

Rahul Prakash, CEO of Earth Aid, introduced Trivedi, noting his commitment to environmental issues.

“I didn’t know who Manan was,” Prakash later told India-West, adding that when he met Trivedi, the two “geeked out” about solar energy in a 45-minute discussion. Prakash followed up by sending Trivedi several policy memos, and later received a call from the candidate himself, to discuss issues in-depth.

“He’s really willing to learn,” said Prakash.

Trivedi is one of an unprecedented six Indian American candidates vying for Congress. Physician Ami Bera of Sacramento ran uncontested in the Democratic primary and faces longtime incumbent Dan Lungren this fall. Surya Yalamanchili of Ohio managed May 4 to topple contender David Krikorian — who had made derogatory comments about his name — and is now up against Republican incumbent Jean Schmidt. Ravi Sangisetty of Louisiana, Reshma Saujani of New York and Raj Goyle of Kansas all face upcoming primaries this August.