

DAY TRIP TO THE FARALLON ISLANDS

# Valley of the Moon

SONOMA VALLEY

LIFESTYLE ■ CULTURE ■ COMMUNITY



## THE GIFT OF POWER

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LOSING IT AND  
USING IT WITH PSPS

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HOLIDAY ART  
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KIDS & CLIMATE  
CHANGE



# Jackie Speier to Speak in Sonoma

INTELLIGENCE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
WILL TALK ABOUT  
IMPEACHMENT

STORY DAVID BOLLING

It is instructive that, in the midst of the House Intelligence Committee's impeachment hearings, Rep. Jackie Speier held a press conference on Veterans Day at City Hall in Daly City with Filipino World War II veterans to demand long-promised benefits for the soldiers many consider heroes. Speier's bill, H.R. 2823, the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2019, would award veterans, their widows, and their children full VA benefits, as promised by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. During the Second World War, 250,000 Filipinos volunteered to fight with the United States, and played an instrumental role in pushing back Japanese aggression and winning the Pacific Campaign. But after the war, in 1946, Congress rescinded Roosevelt's promise.

"A promise made must be a promise kept," Speier told the Veterans Day assemblage. "Only about 11,000 of these veterans are still alive and many are over 90 years old," she said. "We are running out of time to make their families whole."

Speier took the time to stand with the Filipino veterans during perhaps the busiest and most demanding time of her 11-year Congressional career. Prominent in the #MeToo movement on Capitol Hill, Speier has been a vocal supporter of gun control legislation, winning an 'F' grade from Gun Owners of America, and a 100 percent approval rating from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. The issue is personal for her, because in 1978 she

was shot five times during the massacre at Jonestown when Rep. Leo Ryan and four others were murdered.

But Speier's visibility has risen in the past year thanks to her position on the House Intelligence Committee, which is now investigating possible Articles of Impeachment against President Donald Trump.

About Trump's actions toward Ukraine, Speier told *The Hill*, "The president broke the law. He went on a telephone call with the president of Ukraine and said 'I have a favor though,' and then proceeded to ask for an investigation of his rival ... This is a very strong case of bribery ... Because you have an elected official, the president, demanding action of a foreign country in this case, and providing something of value, which is the investigation, and he is withholding aid, which is that official act ... And the Constitution is very clear: treason, bribery or acts of omission. In this case, it's clearly one of those."

The House Intelligence Committee hearings are expected to last through November, but Speier will be in Sonoma on Friday, November 22, for an appearance at the Sonoma Speaker Series, in conversation with *Valley of the Moon* magazine editor and publisher David Bolling.

The event is sold out, but for information about standby tickets, go to [sonomaspeakerseries.com](http://sonomaspeakerseries.com). ☾