

# Trump isn't getting the proper credit for role in vaccines

## Your Turn

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Guest columnist

David Wilson grossly understates former President Trump's role in creating and delivering the coronavirus vaccines in his "Your Turn" op ed in the March 21 Shiny Sheet, and consequently doesn't give the former president the credit he's due.

Of course, the vaccine companies did the work of developing and manufacturing the vaccines. But never before had it been done so quickly, with less risk, and more help from the federal government. Mr. Wilson's praise for the vaccine companies is like crediting the general contractor, and not the architect for the design and realization of a building, or the component manufacturers and assemblers of the iPhone instead of Steve Jobs and Apple.

Former President Trump and his administration were the architects and drivers of Operation Warp Speed. What difference did it make? According to the Government Accountability Office, OWS brought together the departments of Health and Human Services and Defense, with the "vaccine companies to accelerate vaccine development and mitigate risk."

Specific measures, which led to the unprecedented achievement, included the Food and Drug Administration issuing "specific guidance that identified ways that vaccine development may be accelerated," issued "compressed timelines" the vaccine manufacturers had to meet, allowed the vaccine companies to rely on "data from other vaccines using the same platforms," and conduct "animal studies at the same time as clinical trials." The former president set the deadlines and goals and got the parties together to achieve them. That is what successful leaders do.

In addition, former President Trump materially de-risked the process by having the federal government purchase hundreds of millions of doses before the



**A reader says former President Trump does not get the credit he deserves for starting Operation Warp Speed.**

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vaccines were even regulatorily approved, and used the Defense Production Act to place "prioritized ratings on 18 supply contracts" to ensure the vaccine companies had the supplies necessary.

If the vaccine companies made it all happen, how come they had never made it happen so quickly before OWS? If any government could have done what the U.S. did, why is it that as of April 1, the U.S. has fully vaccinated 16% of its population, and no European country, including the U.K., home of Astra Zeneca, and Germany, home to Pfizer's partner BioNTech, has fully vaccinated half that many?

And while former President Trump and his administration were moving heaven and earth to rapidly deliver vaccine to the American people, the media were parading expert after expert saying the goal was impossible, and VP Harris and President Biden never gave Trump any credit for the vaccine, despite both being fully vaccinated before taking office.

Every person in the western world who has been vaccinated to date should thank former President Trump, without whom the vaccines would not have developed as quickly and effectively. The lives of tens if not hundreds of millions of people worldwide will be saved because of OWS.

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