

The Dittos Now in Order

February 18, 2021

In reporting Rush Limbaugh's passing, yesterday, from lung cancer at age 70, the Associated Press dubbed Limbaugh a "bombastic talk radio host and voice of American conservatism."

The latter, yes; but if you think Rush was "bombastic," you missed the joke.

Sure, he spoke of "talent on loan from God" and of "flawlessly" running the "Excellence in Broadcasting Network . . . with zero mistakes." But *bombastic* means "high-sounding but with little meaning; inflated."

Washington, D.C., in other words.

Decidedly *not* Rush.

Rush stood for "the America of ever-increasing wealth, innovation, creativity . . . The abundant work product of freedom."

Rush was both communicator and political force. When Republicans took the House in 1994 on a promise to vote on term limits, Limbaugh strongly supported the strict term limits passed by the states, challenging congressional Republicans for playing games on the issue.



Later, in 2007, Rush also gave this program a boost by reading my column, "The Two Americas," on the air, calling it "a great way of restating the ideological arguments that exist in the country today."

Rush stood for "the America of ever-increasing wealth, innovation, creativity. . . . The abundant work product of freedom." And *not* "the politician's America: The regulated America, the subsidized America, the earmarked America."

Unlike so many seemingly angry shock jocks in talk radio, Mr. Limbaugh was actually nice to callers — even those who disagreed with him — and thoughtful, intelligent, and polite.

While on the hot seat speaking live for three hours each weekday to the nation's largest radio audience (upwards of 15 million people a show) Mr. Limbaugh was one of the most transparent personalities of the age. "Dittoheads" could feel like they really knew precisely who and what they were ditto-ing.

Now, they ditto their respect. As do I.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.