

Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) International was established in 1906 as a non-profit organization that supports teachers and school leaders by strengthening their interest in the teaching profession throughout their careers. PDK International awards nearly 100 scholarships annually ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to students pursuing careers in education through Educators Rising and other PDK International programs.

On behalf of Virginia's 8th Congressional district, I commend Educators Rising's work and express my gratitude for their efforts in recruiting local and diverse talent and building career pathways for educators.

IN MEMORY OF CLIFFORD ODELL  
RUTLEDGE

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband, loving father, dotting grandfather, committed educator, astute entrepreneur, patriotic soldier, broadcast hall of famer and friend of longstanding, Mr. Clifford Odell Rutledge. Sadly, Cliff passed from labor to reward on Sunday, February 16, 2025. A funeral service to celebrate his extraordinary life will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at Nichols Chapel AME Church in Phenix City, Alabama.

Cliff's journey began with his birth to Dock and Willie Mae Rutledge. He graduated from South Girard High School in Phenix City and furthered his education at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama. Following his studies, Cliff served our country honorably in the United States Army from 1950 to 1953 during the Korean Conflict.

It has been said that "Education is the passport to the future; it belongs to those who prepare for it today." Cliff dedicated a significant part of his life to preparing young people for their futures, embarking on a distinguished 41-year career in education. His educational journey included roles at his alma mater, South Girard High School, South Girard Elementary, and Ridgecrest Elementary, where he coached junior high basketball teams and instilled in his students the importance of winning in the game of life.

Throughout his career, Cliff pursued continuous improvement through advanced studies in school administration at both Auburn and Tuskegee Universities. He served as a teacher and principal at Susie E. Allen Elementary School and later became the Director of Community Education for the Phenix City Public Schools, overseeing Head Start and Adult Education Programs.

In addition to his contributions to education, Cliff was a gifted radio broadcaster. His journey began in the late 1950s as the host of a Sunday morning gospel show on WCLE. In 1964, he joined WOKS radio station, where he launched his sports announcing career, becoming a trusted voice in the Chattahoochee Valley sports community. His dedication to broadcasting earned him induction into the Chattahoochee Valley Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Cliff was not only committed to education and broadcasting but also to his community.

As the saying goes, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Cliff paid his rent well and he paid it well. His commitment to justice led him to co-found United to Save Ourselves, an organization dedicated to equality and change. His efforts were recognized by several community organizations, including the USO's Hometown High Achievers Award in 2002 and the SAMARC Foundation Award, which honored him as a community legend in 2012. In 2020, the City of Phenix City recognized him with a Trailblazer award during a Black History Proclamation Event, and in 2023, the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP honored him with their esteemed Humanitarian Award.

Cliff loved his family deeply and held his faith close to his heart. He began serving God early in life at Nichols Chapel AME Church, where his musical talents flourished. His passion for music led him to serve as Minister of Music at the church and as a member of the Board of Trustees.

None of Cliff's achievements would have been possible without the love and support of his family, including his late wife of 50 years, Sadie Jean Nix Rutledge, his son, Timothy Thomas; his granddaughter, Clemitruis Hartley, and his niece and devoted caregiver, Decliffia Coleman and a host of other relatives who loved him dearly.

On a personal note, Cliff was my longtime friend and supporter for over 50 years. He was also my brother in the bond of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. His wise counsel and sage advice have profoundly influenced my journey and success as I serve in Congress. For that, I will always be grateful. Moreover, his life and career exemplify the noble purpose of our great fraternity—"Achievement in all fields of human endeavor." Truly the world is a better place because of Cliff.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Mr. Clifford Odell Rutledge. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, colleagues, and all those who mourn his loss. May we all find comfort in our abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025*

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 49.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and

any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Elbridge Colby, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Matthew Whitaker, of Iowa, to be United States Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with the rank and status of Ambassador, Department of State.

SD-419

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and multi VSOs: Paralyzed Veterans of America, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Student Veterans of America, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

SD-G50

MARCH 5

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-608

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator, and Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-562

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine stemming the tide of antisemitism in America.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the United States Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year