

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN HARLAND J. HENNESSEY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and posthumous return of United States Army Veteran Harland J. Hennessey.

Harland J. Hennessey was born on September 1, 1918. He attended Boonville High School where he was president of his eighth-grade class, played soccer, and appeared in school musicals and plays.

Hennessey left Boonville on May 27, 1941 to join the United States Army. He trained at Fort Jay on Governors Island and later at Fort Belvoir in Virginia. By December 1941 he was stationed at Fort Stotsenburg in the Philippines.

In 1942, he was serving with the 803rd Engineer Battalion when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands. Heavy fighting led to the surrender of the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, and Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942. Hennessey was captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered.

He and other POWs were forced to march 65 miles in the Bataan Death March and were later held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp No. 1. Hennessey died on November 1, 1942, at the age of 24. He was one of the first servicemen from the Boonville area to die in World War II. He was buried with other deceased prisoners in Common Grave 704 at the camp cemetery.

After the war, the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and moved the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, AGRS examined the remains, identifying two sets from Common Grave 704 and declaring the other eight unidentifiable. These were buried as Unknowns at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM).

In 2018, as part of the Cabanatuan Project, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency exhumed the remains from Common Grave 704 for laboratory analysis. Using dental and anthropological evidence, circumstantial data, and mitochondrial DNA testing, scientists identified Hennessey's remains.

Though interred as an Unknown for more than 70 years, his grave was cared for by the American Battle Monuments Commission. He is honored on the Cabanatuan Memorial, built by survivors of the Bataan Death March and the Cabanatuan POW camp, and on the Walls of the Missing at MACM where a rosette will now mark that he has been accounted for.

VFW Post 5538 in Boonville bears Hennessey's name in honor of his incredible service to our country. After 84 years, his remains are set to return to his hometown where he will be buried in Boonville Cemetery.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the incred-

ible service and heroism of World War II Veteran Harland J. Hennessey and welcome him home.

RECOGNIZING JESSE DRAKE

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jesse Drake, a proud constituent of Montclair, California, for his courageous service during World War II and to celebrate his upcoming 101st birthday on September 24, 2025.

Mr. Drake was born on September 24, 1924. On June 6, 1942, he enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of 17. He went on to serve with distinction as a Petty Officer Second Class, participating in several major campaigns, including the Atlantic Invasion of North Africa and the pivotal battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa in the Pacific Theater.

During the Okinawa campaign, Mr. Drake and his fellow sailors bravely endured a deadly kamikaze attack while aboard the USS *Hyman*, a Fletcher-class destroyer. The enemy strike hit the ship's torpedo tube, causing a devastating explosion in the engine room. Tragically, 12 sailors lost their lives and 40 were wounded. Mr. Drake survived the attack, and his colleagues note that his resilience has been a testament to the strength and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation. Mr. Drake was honorably discharged from the Navy on October 6, 1947. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two battle stars to honor his valor and dedication.

Not only is Mr. Drake highly regarded by those he served with, but he is also the beloved father of three daughters and two stepsons, a proud grandfather to 16 grandchildren, and a great-grandfather to 10 great-grandchildren. He has spent 43 years married to his devoted wife, Evelyn. His nephew, Ryan Page, describes him not only as a remarkable veteran but also as an extraordinary father figure whose impact continues to shape the lives of those around him.

For his outstanding military service and his remarkable life, it is my honor to recognize Jesse Drake. His commitments to his family and our Nation are worthy of the highest commendation.

HONORING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 140th anniversary

of Beth Shalom congregation. This historic synagogue, recognized as a state historical site, holds the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating synagogue in our state.

As the remote mill community of what would become Traverse City grew, three Jewish merchants—Julius Levinson, Julius Steinberg and Solomon Yalomstein—organized a congregation in 1882. It was Mr. Steinberg who originally purchased the land where the synagogue would be built, which initially served as a cemetery for the congregation's members. In 1885, the synagogue's first cornerstone was laid, and in March of 1886, the building was dedicated, masking the beginning of a lasting religious and cultural presence in Northern Michigan.

Over the following years, Beth Shalom congregation became not only a house of worship but also a beacon of service and advocacy. By the turn of the twentieth century, more than forty Jewish families were part of the community. Throughout the twentieth century, the congregation advocated for Jewish people across the world, helping a Jewish family fleeing Nazism in 1939 by raising funds for rescue and resettlement efforts. In 1970, the congregation campaigned on behalf of Jews persecuted in the Soviet Union, and in 1973, the congregation had its first woman president—symbolizing the synagogue's move towards gender equality.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend Beth Shalom congregation on its 140th anniversary and for its unwavering support for the Jewish community across the globe. For well over a century, the congregation has stood as a pillar of faith, resilience, and community spirit. I offer my best wishes to the congregation as they continue their efforts to serve their neighbors and enrich the broader fabric of Northern Michigan.

RECOGNIZING MARIE AND DAVID TROY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marie and David Troy of Greenwich, New York for their admirable patriotism.

Marie Troy is a lifelong New Yorker and resident of Washington County. For four years now, she and her husband David Troy have dedicated time and effort to bringing patriotic pride back to their community on Memorial Day. Together the Troys line their town's main streets with American flags made here in the USA by the Saratoga Flag Company.

To pay for all 78 flags and the necessary hardware the Troys raised money through neighbors and local businesses. To install the flags, the Troys partnered with Veteran Mike Savage, the Middle Falls Fire Department, and local leaders so that the flags are all up by Memorial Day. Marie and David Troy are an

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

example to New Yorkers and to Americans. I truly respect and admire them for their enthusiasm and patriotism.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank Marie and David Troy for being model citizens of our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend the Claremont Graduate University on their 100th Anniversary. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, in 1925, the Claremont Graduate University was founded on the belief that higher education holds a vital role in shaping the future of our nation and in nurturing the intellectual and ethical foundations upon which our democracy thrives; and

Whereas, for 100 years, the Claremont Graduate University has contributed immeasurably to the intellectual, cultural, and civic life of California, the nation, and the world through the education of generations of students, groundbreaking research, and public service; and

Whereas, The Claremont Graduate University has long been a beacon of intellectual rigor, fostering a diverse and inclusive academic environment that has produced leaders and innovators in many fields. The university's commitment to transdisciplinary education and research has had a profound impact on society; and

Whereas, The alumni of the Claremont Graduate University are professionals from diverse cultures and backgrounds who have gone on to become members of Congress, university presidents, professors, health researchers, superintendents, classroom teachers, data analysts, deans, art directors, and community leaders; and

Whereas, the 100th anniversary of the Claremont Graduate University is a moment to honor the legacy of its founders, celebrate a century of achievement, and inspire future generations to uphold the principles of academic inquiry, leadership, and service;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Congresswoman JUDY CHU, representing California's 28th Congressional District, do hereby recognize and commend the Claremont Graduate University on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary, and extend sincere appreciation for their enduring contributions to the people of California and beyond.

HONORING CARL LUCAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Carl Lucas—a dedicated educational leader, proud native of Hollandale, Mississippi, and tireless advocate for student achievement and equity in education.

Mr. Lucas began his career as a secondary mathematics teacher, where he created a classroom culture of rigor and relevance. His students consistently demonstrated significant

growth on state assessments, earning him recognition for narrowing achievement gaps and instilling academic discipline.

As Principal of Simmons High School, Mr. Lucas set a bold goal of earning a B rating. Through systems that raised expectations, improved instruction, and increased student accountability, he led the school to measurable gains in academic performance, graduation rates, and climate.

In addition to school leadership, Mr. Lucas developed and expanded transformative academic programs, including:

Dual Enrollment & Career Pathways with Mississippi Delta Community College and Tougaloo College.

ACT Prep Initiatives, including summer boot camps and classroom integration.

Credit Recovery & Summer Learning, led by certified teachers.

Middle College Readiness Programs for college and career acceleration.

Student Support Systems involving mentoring and behavior contracts.

Mr. Lucas holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and a Master's Degree from Mississippi Valley State University, as well as an Education Specialist Degree from Belhaven University.

He is married to his high school sweetheart, Monet Dye-Lucas, and together they are the proud parents of Carl'Kaisha, Carl Jr., Carlneil, and Carlandria.

Mr. Lucas leads with heart, vision, and integrity. He believes every child deserves access to a quality education and the opportunity to thrive. His life's work reflects that belief, right in the community that raised him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Carl Lucas for his unwavering service to education and his lasting impact on the Mississippi Delta.

HONORING AIR FORCE VETERAN
PETER TAUTZNIK

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Air Force and Air National Guard Veteran Peter Tautznik.

Peter Tautznik, born on December 4, 1947, has dedicated his life to serving both his country and his community. Peter served in the U.S. Air Force as a Vehicle Maintenance Superintendent, and later with the Air National Guard. He achieved the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, reflecting not only his technical expertise but also his strong leadership abilities and commitment to his country.

During his military career, Peter earned an impressive number of commendations. His honors include three Air Force Commendation Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, seven Air Force Longevity Service Awards, two National Defense Service Medals, and two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. He was also awarded two Humane Service to New York State Medals and four Long and Faithful Service Awards, recognizing his ongoing commitment to excellence and selfless service.

Beyond his military service, Peter has been a dedicated and active member of his community. For more than 35 years, he owned and

operated PJ's Truck Repair, providing reliable service to his neighbors. He has also served as a certified National Rifle Association (NRA) Instructor and as a Fulton County Sheriff's Licensing Course Instructor. Today, Peter continues his service by maintaining the Lake Valley Ambulance Corp. vehicles, ensuring the readiness of critical emergency services in Fulton County.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Senior Master Sergeant Peter Tautznik for his service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to both our Nation and our local community.

HONORING ROBERT AND LINDA MCNEILL ON 25 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Robert and Linda McNeill on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary. It is with great pleasure and excitement that I share this wonderful news.

Robert, a man of integrity, loyalty, and strength, has devoted his life to family and loved ones. Linda, a kind and graceful soul, treasures her family values and cherishes every moment with those dearest to her.

Fate brought Robert and his beautiful wife, Linda, together at the Curwood festival in Owosso, Michigan. In a serendipitous moment, as he picked her up, their eyes locked, and their lifelong love began. Robert and Linda's story reached a cherished milestone on September 23, 2000, when they were united in marriage. Since then, they have raised three sons together and have continued to grow not just as individuals, but also as partners in life.

Love and marriage represent the joining of two hearts and lives, built on a foundation of trust, respect, and shared dreams. Robert and Linda embody the promise to stand together through life's joys and challenges, growing stronger as individuals and as partners. Their love story is a testament to the beauty of finding someone who not only inspires you but also walks beside you every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating Robert and Linda on this momentous milestone and celebration of their long-lasting love. I wish them boundless happiness, love, and success as they continue on their journey together.

RECOGNIZING SALVADOR BARAJAS

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salvador Barajas, an outstanding historical muralist and visionary artist, who has worked tirelessly to preserve history, mental youth, and strengthen multicultural identity in San Diego.

Mr. Barajas served in the United States Air Force from 1961 to 1964. During his service,

he worked as a Technical Illustrator, a skill that would later influence his artistic career. He was recognized as a Newfoundland Air Force Base Boxing Champion and honorably discharged as Sergeant.

An Associate of Arts graduate of Los Angeles Trade Technical-College, Mr. Barajas first became involved with Chicano Park in 1973. Since then, he has been a driving force in the creation, restoration, and preservation of its murals, negotiating with Caltrans to protect the park's cultural heritage. Accordingly, he served as the Lead Artist for the Historical Mural Restoration Project.

Mr. Barajas is the founder of Motivational Design and has completed more than 500 public art projects throughout Southern California. Some of his notable works include "The Founders Mural," "No Border Wall," "Amor Si Se Puede," and "Amigos Car Club," and many others.

He is the recipient of multiple honors, including a Southwestern College Honorary Degree, inclusion in the Mexican Heritage Foundation's 100 Portraits: Pioneers, Visionaries and Role Models, and recognition as a San Diego County Library Living Well Legend.

Mr. Barajas lives in South Park with his wife, Leticia Barajas, and is the proud father of four children, Xochitl, Analilia, Graciela, and Salvador Jr., all graduates of California universities.

I am proud to honor Salvador Barajas as the 52nd Congressional District Constituent of the Month for August 2025. His work has inspired our community and will empower generations to come.

HONORING BRIAN MURRAY FOR HIS DEDICATION TO SERVING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brian Murray for his dedication and commitment to serving our rural communities.

Mr. Murray's dedication to serving our communities has been incredible through his work to help develop Upstate New York and the North Country. A lifelong New Yorker, Mr. Murray is from Peterboro, New York and currently resides in Lisbon, New York. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in financial economics from the State University of New York at Potsdam and went on to work as a commercial lending officer for a local banking institution for over 15 years. From 2002 to 2007, Murray worked as a USDA Rural Development loan specialist in the Canton Field Office before being named New York State Director for USDA Rural Development. During his time as State Director, Murray spent a year on the USDA RD Community Economic Development team in Washington, D.C. and has served as the Associate Enterprise Director.

Mr. Murray's impact on our communities has been profound and has helped thousands achieve homeownership and brought in billions of dollars in investments towards rural interests. He's brought in this incredible investment through working with local leaders, state representatives, and federal agencies to achieve common goals of improving the qual-

ity of life for members of rural communities in New York. His contributions include supporting rural clinics and medical facilities across the state, providing first responders with essential equipment, vehicles, and facilities in an effort to keep communities safe, and supporting thousands of entrepreneurs in starting and expanding businesses. Murray has worked tirelessly and advanced education in rural areas to create opportunities for tens of thousands of students through access to higher-quality curriculum and coursework. Mr. Murray has also collaborated with the Native American community, most notably with the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, to address their healthcare, housing, and infrastructure needs. In all of his time serving New York's communities, Mr. Murray has been responsible for over \$2 billion in investments towards rural development.

Mr. Murray has optimistically taken on incredibly challenging issues ranging from fostering opportunities for young talent to promoting infrastructure, internet access, healthcare, and housing developments. Outside his work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Murray has served on the St. Lawrence County Planning Board for over 12 years, recently as the chairman, and is active in his local fire department, serving as an interior firefighter and as a member of the rescue squad. His commitment to serving his community outside of his professional life demonstrates his remarkable and genuine dedication to improving New York's rural communities.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to thank and honor Brian Murray for his efforts to enhance the quality of life for members of New York's rural communities. His dedication to public service is truly admirable and has made a lasting impact that will continue to benefit New Yorkers for years to come.

HONORING WILLIAM W. "BILL" CROW

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the well-deserved retirement of William W. "Bill" Crow. Born and raised in Morganfield, Kentucky, Bill Crow graduated in 1980 from the United States Naval Academy earning a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as Ensign in the United States Navy. He also holds a Master of Science degree from the National Defense University Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

His Navy career included at sea assignments of various division officer billets and Chief Engineer in USS *PHARRIS* (FF-1094), Assistant Operations Officer of Commander Destroyer Squadron 26, an extended department head tour as Chief Engineer in USS *BRISCOE* (DD-977), Material Officer for Commander Destroyer Squadrons 10 and 2, Executive Officer of USS *Peterson* (DD-969), Commanding Officer of USS *Austin* (LPD-4), and Training and Readiness Assistant Chief of Staff for Commander Amphibious Group Two.

Ashore, he served as a steam engineering instructor, Surface Warfare Programs Officer for COMNAVSURFLANT, Chief Staff Officer to

the Commandant, Naval District Washington, and Executive Officer of Naval Station Norfolk, the world's largest naval base. After retirement from the Navy in July of 2010, he transitioned into the private business sector as a Senior Naval Consultant for McKean Defense Group. He assumed his current duties as President of the Virginia Ship Repair Association on September 18, 2012.

Bill is married to the former Jeanne Boucher of Chesapeake, Virginia. They reside in the Great Bridge community in Chesapeake, Virginia and are the proud parents of four children; John, Karen, Sara and Kevin.

I have had the honor and privilege of working with Bill in a professional and a personal capacity and can attest he is a generous and dedicated man. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Bill Crow for his unyielding dedication to protecting our Nation to the best of his abilities. I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement and pray for his continued health and happiness in whatever adventures come his way.

HONORING THE EAST JORDAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE HISTORY OF THE PORTSIDE ART FAIR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce for its continued leadership in hosting the 2025 Portside Art Fair, one of Northern Michigan's most prestigious and long-standing artistic traditions.

Founded in August 1962, the Portside Art Fair was the vision of a dedicated group of East Jordan residents who believed their community was the ideal setting for local artists to share their work with the public. What began with just 30 participants has now grown to its full capacity of 75, reflecting not only the fair's increasing popularity but also the vibrant creativity it continues to inspire.

Held along the beautiful shores of Lake Charlevoix, the Portside Art Fair honors the deep connection between our region's natural beauty and the inspiration it provides to artists. It showcases the work of established and emerging artists from East Jordan and throughout Northern Michigan. Each year, a qualified judge in the visual arts carefully selects standout pieces to be honored with inclusion in the prestigious Cygred Riley Gallery at Elm Point.

The standards for recognition at the Portside Art Fair are high, and the quality of submissions reflects the extraordinary talent of our local artists. The fair serves as a powerful reminder of the important role that the arts play in strengthening our communities, inspiring future generations, and celebrating the unique character of Northern Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend the East Jordan Area Chamber of Commerce for organizing the 2025 Portside Art Fair and for its unwavering support of the arts. I offer my best wishes to all participating artists and look forward to the continued success of this treasured cultural event.

HONORING DAVE PARATORE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dave Paratore, owner of Dave's Diner in Schuyler, New York, a true institution in Herkimer County and the Mohawk Valley for more than three decades.

Since opening its doors on January 13, 1989, Dave's Diner has been more than a restaurant—it has been a gathering place for families, friends, and neighbors. What began as a modest 40-seat room grew into three dining rooms with more than 100 seats and even an ice cream window. For 25 years, the diner hosted Tuesday night cruise-ins, a beloved tradition that became a fixture of Central New York summers. Generations of employees passed through its doors, many starting as young people looking for summer jobs who went on to become teachers, medical professionals, engineers, and servicemembers.

Dave himself grew up helping run his family's Glen Motel and, with little restaurant experience, poured his energy and vision into creating a business that became part of the region's identity. Through hard work, he was able to build a future for his family, send two children to school, and provide a home. When his wife Joanne, a retired Westmoreland schoolteacher, was diagnosed with cancer, Dave turned his diner into a force for good, raising over \$10,000 for the Joseph Michael Chubbuck Foundation through the diner's cruise-ins to help local families facing cancer.

Beyond his business success, Dave has given back to the community in countless ways. His diner was a hub for America First rallies since 2016, a place where neighbors came together not only for food but also for civic life and shared values. He quietly helped families in need, especially those struggling with illness or financial hardship, providing support in difficult times.

On August 7, 2025, Dave announced that Dave's Diner will close its doors on September 1st as he begins his well-earned retirement. The outpouring of support was extraordinary, with hundreds of comments and shares from people across the region who felt touched by the memories, meals, and kindness that Dave and his team provided over 36 years.

On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Dave Paratore for his service to his community, his generosity, and the enduring legacy of Dave's Diner. His contributions to Herkimer County and the Mohawk Valley will not be forgotten.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRUCE WAYNE PIERATT

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bruce Wayne Pieratt of Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Pieratt passed away on August 17, 2025, just one day after his 79th birthday.

Mr. Pieratt was born on August 16, 1946, and raised in a loving home. He graduated

from Lexington's Lafayette High School. An outstanding athlete, he earned All-City, All-Central Kentucky, and All-State honors in football and attended Oklahoma State University on a football scholarship. He was recognized for academics on the All-Big 8 Academic Team. Following graduation, Mr. Pieratt returned to Lexington and married Patsy, his sweetheart who he met in seventh grade.

Mr. Pieratt went to work at Pieratt's, the family business founded in 1946 by his father Frank, a WWII veteran. The business started as a radio and small appliance repair shop and rapidly expanded. Mr. Pieratt worked alongside his father, brothers, brother-in-law, and nephews and helped grow Pieratt's into one of the most respected retailers in Central Kentucky. In 1988, Bruce Pieratt was named President and CEO, a role he held until 2021 when the company sold.

A true patriot who loved his country and believed in serving, Mr. Pieratt joined the Kentucky Army National Guard in 1968. He had a long and distinguished military career over thirty-one years. He served Kentucky as Assistant Adjutant General-Army and attained the rank of Brigadier General.

Mr. Pieratt was a loyal supporter of the University of Kentucky. He served on many boards and community organizations across Kentucky where his leadership was widely respected. He and his wife Patsy had three daughters, Nicole, Noel, and Nalise, and eight grandchildren. In a life filled with great accomplishments, he was most proud of his family.

A patriotic American, a respected community leader, a family man, and a true friend to many, he touched countless lives. I am honored to call Brigadier General Bruce Pieratt my friend and to lift up his life before the House of Representatives.

HONORING DR. JAMES DOBSON

HON. JEFF CRANK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courageous, convictional, and influential leadership of Dr. James Dobson, who passed into eternity on August 21, 2025, at the age of 89. "The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith," wrote Dr. Billy Graham. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Graham's friend and Focus on the Family founder, Dr. James Dobson, did just that.

As a trusted advocate for faith, family, and biblical values, Dr. Dobson's legacy is unmatched, and his life's work continues to shape our nation. We were honored that he chose Colorado Springs, Colorado as his home and base of operations for Focus on the Family.

Dr. James Dobson founded Focus on the Family in 1977 with the conviction that America's failing families needed to return to Biblical principles. A licensed marriage, family and child counselor in both California and Colorado, Dr. Dobson authored more than 30 books, including the popular best-sellers *Dare to Discipline*, *Love Must Be Tough*, and *Bringing Up Boys*. Although he eventually became

associate clinical professor of pediatrics at the USC School of Medicine, Dr. Dobson's attention ultimately turned to addressing the breakdown of the traditional family unit. His concern led him to leave USC and in 1977 open a small, two-room office he called Focus on the Family. That small ministry grew to become a global multimedia nonprofit that reaches about 18 million people in more than 98 countries, thanks in part to its Radio Hall of Fame-winning flagship program, thirteen international offices and many radio, video, digital and print resources.

His wide reach through his numerous books and daily radio broadcast became the national voice of conservative, moral, and Biblical values in the public square. Dr. Dobson was a once-in-a-generation leader whose courage to speak truth shaped the course of American family life. He inspired and truly created a grass-roots movement to defend life, Biblical marriage, and religious freedom throughout America and around the world. Dr. Dobson not only built organizations like Focus on the Family and the Family Policy Alliance, but he also built-up people of faith to stand boldly for biblical values in a culture that increasingly opposes and demeans them.

With unwavering conviction, he championed the sanctity of marriage, the dignity of life, and the importance of parental rights, principles woven into the DNA of our movement. My friend and current Focus on the Family President Jim Daly may have summarized it best in saying, "Millions of marriages were saved and strengthened, millions of parents were able to raise happier, healthier children, and millions of men and women were equipped and encouraged to stand boldly for their faith in the public square because Dr. Dobson answered God's call to create Focus on the Family."

I am grateful for his decades of courage and leadership to the Pikes Peak region, the country and the world. His belief in the power of civic engagement and cultural renewal still inspires many. Dr. Dobson emphasized the responsibility of believers to be "salt and light" in society, and we must take that charge seriously. I know I speak on behalf of many of my colleagues in this chamber that Dr. Dobson continues to inspire us to and his legacy has entrusted us to: advancing biblical values through civic engagement, calling on believers to pray, vote, and engage for a nation where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Dobson's family, especially his college sweetheart and lifelong partner Shirley; his two adult children, Danae and Ryan; and his two grandchildren during this time of loss and the celebration of his life. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Lord for his life and impact in our country and the world.

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, September 4, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 9

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine how the corruption of science has impacted public perception and policies regarding vaccines.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law
To hold hearings to examine whistleblower allegations that Meta buried child safety research.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

SEPTEMBER 10

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness
To hold hearings to examine America's AI action plan.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine a discussion draft of the Wildfire Emissions Prevention Act, and S. 881, to amend the Clean Air Act to include fuel for ocean-going vessels as additional renewable fuel for which credits may be generated under the renewable fuel program.

SD-562

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Donald Korb, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel, both of the Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census
To hold hearings to examine America's fire apparatus crisis.

SD-342

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Federal programs at the Department of Energy.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine Georgia's anti-American turn.

2358C-RHOB

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine a pending nomination.

SH-418

SEPTEMBER 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Christopher J. Mahoney, USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

SD-G50

SEPTEMBER 17

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act successes and opportunities at the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service.

SD-628