

I say that her graciousness, bravery, and compassion will never leave her spirit.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons, it is with tremendous pride that I recognize the remarkable service of Shirley Ann Ellis today. She has changed the lives of so many, including my own constituents. On behalf of the people of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States, I thank Shirley Ann Ellis for her 45 years of stunning service, powerful leadership, and loyal dedication to the public good.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF DANIEL L. RITCHIE

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Daniel L. Ritchie, a true friend and towering figure in Colorado's civic and educational landscape.

A man of humility, integrity, and vision, Dan Ritchie left an indelible mark on the University of Denver, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and countless other institutions that he supported with his generosity and leadership.

Born in China Grove, North Carolina, Dan Ritchie was a man of extraordinary drive and intellect. He earned degrees from Harvard University, beginning a career that spanned finance, broadcasting, and philanthropy. From his work as CEO of Westinghouse Broadcasting to his tenure as DU chancellor, he brought a steady hand and a keen strategic mind to every challenge he faced.

When Dan became chancellor of DU in 1989, the institution was in financial peril. Through bold action and personal sacrifice—selling his own ranch to bolster fundraising efforts—he transformed DU into a world-class university, expanding its academic programs, growing its endowment, and elevating its national reputation. His leadership made DU a hub of excellence, where students and faculty could thrive in a reinvigorated learning environment.

Beyond the university, Dan Ritchie extended his vision to the broader Denver community. As chairman of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, he guided the organization through turbulent financial times, ensuring that future generations could experience the transformative power of live theater. His commitment to early childhood education through the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and his work with the Daniels Fund further reflected his deep belief in the power of education to change lives.

Despite his many accomplishments and accolades, Dan Ritchie never sought the spotlight. He lived by a simple yet profound code—his 'cowboy ethics'—which emphasized courage, fairness, and an unwavering commitment to one's community. He led not for recognition, but for the betterment of those around him. He was a friend and mentor to generations of civic leaders—always with an open door and wisdom to share.

As we remember Daniel L. Ritchie, let us not only celebrate his remarkable achievements but also carry forward his example. Let us be inspired by his generosity, his unwaver-

ing dedication to education and the arts, and his belief that each of us has a role to play in improving our communities. Colorado has lost a great leader, but his legacy will endure through the institutions he strengthened and the countless lives he touched.

I extend my deepest condolences to Dan's family and friends. May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. VERGIA JONES

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Vergia Jones. Mother Vergia Jones was born on January 6, 1925, as the eldest of eight children. She dedicated her life to service, both in her professional career and in her community. She retired as a nurse assistant from Cook County Hospital, where she provided compassionate care to countless patients.

Known for her commitment to health and wellness, Mother Jones earned the affectionate title of a "health nut" due to her love for growing her own food and preparing nutritious meals, including poke salad and greens, every day. Her passion for well-being extended beyond herself, as she devoted much of her time to missionary work.

A licensed missionary, Mother Jones remained faithful to her calling by ensuring those in need had access to food. She personally delivered food boxes to individuals who were homebound and played an active role in the Monday Night Meal Program and the Thursday food giveaway at Evening Star Missionary Baptist Church until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that, she was a dedicated member of Free Will Missionary Baptist Church, where she taught Women's Sunday School for several years.

In addition to her church and community work, Mother Jones was an entrepreneur, selling Stanley Home Products for many years. Her dedication to faith, family, and service has made a lasting impact on everyone who has had the privilege of knowing her.

Mother Jones is the proud matriarch of a large and loving family, which includes seven children, 17 grandchildren, over 20 great-grandchildren, and more than 27 great-great-grandchildren. Now, at 100 years old, she enjoys the well-earned luxury of being cared for by those she once nurtured, surrounded by the love and appreciation of her family and community. Her life stands as a testament to unwavering faith, generosity, and dedication to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this remarkable milestone.

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 Tuesday, February 11, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 298, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to headquarters to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, S. 300, to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, S. 371, to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be published on the website of the Small Business Administration, and committee rules for the 119th Congress.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

Business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2025.

SH-216

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Arctic and Greenland's geostrategic importance to U.S. interests.

SR-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine advancing carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technologies and ensuring effective implementation of the USE IT Act.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor.

SD-G50

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Native communities' priorities for the 119th Congress.

SD-628

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine optimizing longevity from research to action.

SD-106

FEBRUARY 13

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and the nomination of Kashyap Patel, of Nevada, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

SD-216

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be

immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

Business meeting to continue to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2025.

SD-608

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

SD-562

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress; to be immediately followed by a

hearing to examine eliminating waste by the foreign aid bureaucracy.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine navigating Syria policy after Assad.

SD-419

POSTPONEMENTS

FEBRUARY 13

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine perspectives from the field, focusing on farmer and rancher views on the agricultural economy.

SD-106