

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, Anailia, 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 Schuylers, 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