

## 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

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.

SR-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