

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
FOIA Office
932 Edwards Ferry Road Northeast
Leesburg, VA 20555-0001

March 9, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request the following records:

A copy of any and all Nuclear Regulatory Commission or wider Department of Energy files and related records on Robert Vance Pratt, often known as "Bob Pratt" (Born: 08/12/1926; Deceased: 11/20/2005). Evidence of Ryder's passing can be accessed within the attached obituaries from The Palm Beach Post and Legacy.com. Also accessible via these links:

- <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/palmbeachpost/name/robert-pratt-obituary?id=26394629>

- https://web.archive.org/web/20051201020438/https://www.palmbeachpost.com/pbcentral/content/local_news/epaper/2005/11/25/m8b_obit_pratt_1125.html

Before his retirement, Mr. Pratt was a career newspaperman and author, holding various reporting and editing positions on the Alexandria Gazette, the Charlottesville Daily Progress, the Evansville Courier, the Buffalo Evening News, the Miami News, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Louisville Times and Courier-Journal, and for a time with the National Enquirer.

It is believed that some of Mr. Pratt's reporting interests—particularly involving the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC) in Buchanan, NY—may have made him a person of interest to either DOE or the NRC more specifically.

This search should include records and correspondence shared between the NRC and its parent agency and/or other federal, state, and municipal agencies, if applicable.

Given the scope of Mr. Pratt's journalism career, there are likely to be many pertinent records that are over 25 years old. Please note that pursuant to Executive Order 13526 (<https://www.archives.gov/isoo/policy-documents/cnsi-eo.html>) signed by President Barack Obama in December 2009, and still in effect, classified documents 25 years or older that "have been determined to have permanent historical value under title 44, United States Code, shall be automatically declassified whether or not the records have been reviewed."

If some records may be released immediately while others require a review, I respectfully request a two-tiered release. I am making this request as a member of the news media, and request classification as such, including a fee waiver. I have previously written for Gizmodo, Slate, The New Republic, the New York Review of Books, Inverse.com, Scienceline.org, Gawker, Chemical Engineering magazine, and elsewhere. The documents I seek concern Mr. Pratt's reporting on U.S. nuclear safety and security activities. Their disclosure is likely to contribute to greater public understanding of historic government initiatives and taxpayer-funded expenditures.

In the case of a staggered release, I humbly request that records on Bob Pratt from the years 1979 to 1998 be the focused of the first and most immediate release.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Matthew Phelan

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The Palm Beach Post

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ROBERT PRATT OBITUARY

Family-Placed Funeral Notice

ROBERT V. PRATT Robert Vance Pratt died Sunday, November 20, 2005 at a local hospital following a brief illness. He was born August 12, 1926. He was 79 years old. A journalist and UFO researcher, he retired in April 1999 after 48 years as a newspaper and magazine reporter and editor, writing under the byline of "Bob Pratt." He studied at the University of California- Berkeley and American University. During the first 22 years of his career, he worked in various reporting and editing positions on the Alexandria (Va.) Gazette, the

Charlottesville (Va.) Daily Progress, the Evansville (Ind.) Courier, the Buffalo (N.Y.) Evening News, the Miami (Fla.) News, the Philadelphia (Pa.) Inquirer, the Louisville (Ky.) Times and Courier-Journal. He worked for the Charlottesville newspaper three different times for a total of 10 years, twice as a reporter and the third time as managing editor, for seven years. After leaving the Louisville Times and Courier-Journal where he had been executive assistant to the editor and publisher, he worked for eight and a half years as a writer and reporter for the National Enquirer. The last 17 years of his career he worked in computer page design and production for three other tabloid magazines, the National Examiner, Globe and the Sun. During his newspaper days he was a skeptic on the subject of UFOs, but in May 1975 as a reporter for the National Enquirer he came to believe UFOs are real after interviewing more than 60 people in one week who had seen UFOs. From that moment on UFOs became a major interest in his life, and since then he has interviewed more than 2,000 people who had UFO experiences. He traveled all over the United States and Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Puerto Rico, Peru, Uruguay, the Philippines and Japan looking into reports of UFO sightings. During the six years he worked as a UFO reporter for the Enquirer, he traveled to Brazil four times. He found that UFO encounters there were often more hostile and harmful than anywhere else in the world. As a result, after leaving the Enquirer in 1981 he began investigating UFO reports on his own and traveled to Brazil 10 more times, most recently in 2003. He wrote the book UFO DANGER ZONE: Terror and Death in Brazil - Where Next? (Horus House Press 1996). An updated version in Portuguese was published in Brazil in July 2003. In recognition of his research in Brazil, on May 3, 2003 at a conference in the city of Curitiba in southern Brazil, he was given a diploma naming him an "Ufologo Brasileiro Honorario" or Honorary Brazilian Ufologist. Seventy-eight Brazilian ufologists signed the diploma. He also co-authored (with Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Philip Imbrogno) NIGHT SIEGE: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings (Ballantine 1987) and the NIGHT SIEGE Second Edition Expanded & Revised (Llewellyn 1998). He was also editor of the MUFON UFO Journal in 1983-84. In more than 28 years as a UFO researcher, he never saw a UFO. He created and maintained a web site devoted to some of his UFO research, <http://www.bobpratt.org>, that can still be accessed. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army Air Force. At a New Year's Eve Party in Charlottesville, Virginia, he met Faith Collins. They were married October 22, 1955. She and their son, Alan Collins Pratt of New York City survive him. Another son, Robert Scott Pratt, died in 1975 at the age of 17. A cousin, Richard Taylor of Boca Raton, and numerous nieces and nephews in California also survive him. A private service was held for the family. Faith

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Robert Pratt, newspaperman, author of UFO books, articles, dies at 79

By [Michael Browning](#)
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Friday, November 25, 2005

Earth and outer space, home and visitors from afar, are bound to come up when friends and relatives of Robert V. Pratt come to the Dorsey-E. Earl Smith Funeral Home this afternoon from 4-6 p.m. to meet his widow, Faith, and discuss his passing.

Mr. Pratt was an evangelist for UFOs. The Lake Worth resident wrote about them in manifold articles for *The National Enquirer*. He published two books about them, *UFO Danger Zone: Terror and Death in Brazil - Where Next?* in 1996 and *Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings*, in 1987.

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He traveled the world, often at his own expense, interviewing eyewitnesses to extraterrestrial objects that he described as often behaving cruelly and capriciously, dropping globes of fire, he said, on innocent farmers in Brazil.

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He never saw one single solitary UFO in his entire life, but he came to believe in them passionately. It was a belief even his own wife did not share, though she stayed married to him for 60 years.

"The first 30 years you squabble. The 20 years after that are wonderful," Faith Pratt said Thursday, shedding tears on Thanksgiving Day. "He would leave me notes, saying things like 'You are my love.'"

Mr. Pratt was a very curious man. His own self-written obituary, edited by his wife, says he died Monday, November 21, 2005, at a local hospital following a brief illness. He was 79. He worked for many newspapers for 48 years.

But the last eight years of his professional career were the strangest. After decades in mainstream journalism, he switched to tabloid journalism and became convinced that UFOs were real.

Interest turned to belief. Belief became obsession. Mr. Pratt ultimately claimed to have talked to more than 2,000 people who had had UFO experiences.

During the six years he worked as a UFO reporter for the *Enquirer*, he traveled to Brazil four times.

In recognition of his research in Brazil, on May 3, 2003, at a conference in the city of Curitiba in southern Brazil, he was given a diploma naming him an *Ufólogo Brasileiro Honorário* or Honorary Brazilian Ufologist. Seventy-eight Brazilian ufologists signed the diploma, his wife said.

She never went with him to Brazil, and she never shared his belief in UFOs.

"No," she declared. "I didn't care about them. I cared about him."

In addition to his wife, Mr. Pratt is survived by his son, Alan Collins Pratt of New York. Another son, Robert Scott Pratt, died in 1975 at 17. A cousin, Richard Taylor of Boca Raton, and numerous nieces and nephews in California also survive him.

The Dorsey-E. Earl Smith Funeral Home is at 3041 Kirk Road in Lake Worth.

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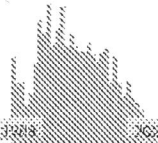
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ROBERT PRATT, NEWSPAPERMAN, AUTHOR OF OPIE BOPPE'S ARTICLES
 November 26, 2005 | Palm Beach Post, The (FL)
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ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT NEEDED, PRATT SAYS
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