

HONORING VIDAL DÁVILA

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Vidal Dávila for his retirement from the National Park Service after almost forty-five years of service.

Mr. Dávila has been a passionate servant for our nation's national parks his entire life. He grew up regularly visiting national parks, cultivating a passion for protecting and preserving public lands from a young age.

Mr. Dávila has served in an impressive number of public lands across the United States, including Texas' Amistad Recreation Area, Texas' Big Bend National Park, and Texas' Guadalupe Mountains National Park. He also served in the Southwest Regional Office in New Mexico, the Great Basin National Park in Nevada, and, of course, South Dakota's Wind Cave National Park.

Wind Cave has greatly benefited from Mr. Dávila's leadership over the past twelve years. Mr. Dávila became Wind Cave's superintendent in 2007 and was awarded Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resources by the Midwest Regional Director for his hard work and dedication to the park. He also has served as a member of the NPS Midwest Regional Office Bison Leadership Team since 2013 where he helped facilitate coordination between bison parks and National Park Service leadership.

I commend Mr. Dávila for his outstanding record of service, dedication, and hard work. I extend my deepest congratulations to Vidal Dávila for his contributions to South Dakota and our nation's parks.

RECOGNIZING THE IOTA CHAPTER OF PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY INCORPORATED ON THEIR 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. The Iota Chapter was chartered on December 11, 1919, on the historic campus of Shaw University, making it the first Greek-lettered organization at Shaw, the ninth chapter in the history of Phi Beta Sigma, and the second chapter in North Carolina.

The Iota Chapter was founded by Jesse W. Lewis, who eventually became the fraternity's seventh International President. Mr. Lewis wanted to organize a Greek-lettered fraternity on Shaw's campus that exemplified the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship, and service and Phi Beta Sigma was a perfect fit. Sigma brothers to this day, hold deep convictions to use Phi Beta Sigma's ideals to better their communities.

The Iota Chapter has produced many prominent alumni who have contributed enormously in the fields of medicine, speech pathology, education, and dentistry, including my father,

Dr. G. K. Butterfield, Sr. who entered Shaw in September 1919 after fighting in World War One. On his 22nd birthday, February 9, 1922, he was initiated into the Iota Chapter. My father graduated from Shaw in 1922 and graduated from Meharry Medical College as a dentist in 1927. He returned to North Carolina, married my mother whom he met at Shaw, and moved to Wilson, North Carolina where he remained until he passed away at the age of 95. During his lifetime, my father was active in Phi Beta Sigma and became a well-respected civil rights leader in our hometown, and was even elected to the Wilson City Council in 1953 during the dark days of segregation.

Shaw University was the first historically Black institution of higher education in North Carolina and is among the oldest historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) in the nation. In many ways, Shaw, with the help of the Iota Chapter, has been an institutional pioneer for civil rights. During the 1960's, Shaw and members of the Iota Chapter were leaders of numerous marches and demonstrations that took place on the streets of Raleigh and across North Carolina in the fight for civil rights and the end of segregation.

Phi Beta Sigma has blossomed into an international organization of leaders. No longer a singular entity, members of the Fraternity have been instrumental in the establishment of the Phi Beta Sigma National Foundation, the Phi Beta Sigma Federal Credit Union, and the Fraternity's sister organization, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, which was founded in 1920.

Madam Speaker, to this day, the Iota Chapter continues to be a vital chapter of Phi Beta Sigma and a leading role model for community service in North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Iota Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma on its centennial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on December 9, 2019 during roll call no. 655, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 4761, DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 656, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 4739, Synthetic Opioid Exposure Prevention and Training Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY TO THE SUGAR LAND LOCATION OF THE HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land as they celebrate their tenth birthday.

Inspiring and encouraging minds both young and old to learn about how our world works helps make us a smarter, more educated society. The Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land does just that—sparking inspiration within the minds of the visitors that walk through its halls and exhibits.

This year marks this institution's tenth birthday—a milestone achievement for a museum. From their Space Science collection and the Hall of Paleontology to the newly-added Hall of Technology, the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land has facilitated the education and growth of countless people in TX-22.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land on their tenth birthday. Here's to many years ahead inspiring people of all ages to learn more about our world.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER RAGSDALE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who continue to serve this great Nation with honor—men such as Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Christopher Ragsdale, United States Navy.

For the past year, LCDR Ragsdale served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. A 2007 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, LCDR Ragsdale is a proud Surface Warfare Officer who served in MCM Crew *BULWARK* and onboard USS *COMSTOCK* (LSD-45) and USS *BENFOLD* (DDG-65). During his assignment in my office, LCDR Ragsdale provided senior-level input for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Additionally, he executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of Virginia's First Congressional District with distinction.

Furthermore, LCDR Ragsdale provided exceptional support to me as a staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee Ranking Member. LCDR Ragsdale dutifully provided me with guidance on what the Navy's path forward should be in critical areas such as training, readiness, and manning. His recent experience in the surface community was invaluable to my work in Congress.

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus and the Co-Chair of the Navy-Marine Corps Caucus, I relied on LCDR Ragsdale to organize quarterly events with government, military, and private sector leaders. These events allowed key decisionmakers to work together for the advancement of our future Naval Officers as well as the construction and repair of the ships on which they will serve.

LCDR Ragsdale also directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion, and he leveraged his personal and operational

experience in the Navy to respond to the most challenging inquiries. In addition to his efforts locally, LCDR Ragsdale took on projects with regional, state, and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions.

LCDR Ragsdale's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers. I would also like to thank LCDR Ragsdale for the service and sacrifice he has made, and continues to make, both for our Nation and our great Navy. His impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the First District of Virginia. I have no doubt that LCDR Ragsdale will continue to serve the Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish Chris and his wife Andrea the best of luck as they continue their journey together as a Navy family. It was an honor and a pleasure having Chris serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that members of our all-volunteer force like Chris stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

I thank LCDR Christopher Ragsdale for doing a fantastic job. Best of luck to him and may God bless him, his family, and all the Sailors he is charged with leading.

TELEVISION VIEWER PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5035. I thank the leadership of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Communications and Technology Subcommittee for reaching this bipartisan agreement.

This bill includes important consumer protections based on my bill, the TRUE Fees Act, that will provide consumers with an "all-in" price before a consumer signs up for cable or satellite TV. This includes all fees and taxes. The bill also gives consumers 24 hours to cancel without penalty.

The average consumer pays \$450 a year in opaque and confusing company-imposed fees on their cable bill (excluding taxes), according to Consumer Reports. This is a game of bait and switch and this legislation ends it.

As is the nature of a compromise, not all of the protections from my TRUE Fees Act were included, but the legislation takes an important step forward in providing consumers with transparency.

Another provision of H.R. 5035 empowers groups of small cable operators to negotiate better prices for consumers and decreases the likelihood of broadcast blackouts. This is something Mr. SCALISE and I championed in our bipartisan Modern Television Act. It is important because large broadcaster networks take advantage of small cable operators during negotiations, leading to increased costs for consumers. Worse, stalemates in negotiations cause broadcast blackouts.

While I'm pleased we're taking this important step, I also hope our Committee will revisit the issue of broader reforms to the video marketplace soon. Specifically, we need to protect consumers from other harmful practices, such as broadcast blackouts, and modernize outdated laws and regulations that hurt consumers in their wallets. Mr. SCALISE and I propose such reforms in our bill H.R. 3994, the Modern Television Act.

So far this year, broadcasters have caused nearly 300 blackouts, which is a record and more than double the number from five years prior. Furthermore, cable and satellite companies paid over \$11 billion in retransmission consent fees so far this year, which is also double from five years prior. Consumers are paying more than ever while blackouts are more frequent than ever. We must revisit these issues and protect consumers from blackouts and rising costs.

I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, December 9, 2019 due to weather delays in Wisconsin. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4739 and H.R. 4761.

IN HONOR OF FLOYD BURTON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Floyd Burton and wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

The advent of World War II was a time that not only shaped the course of our country but the lives of many Americans, including Mr. Burton. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was one of the many patriots who felt compelled to serve our great nation and joined the Army in 1942.

During his military career, he served as a technician corporal and assisted various campaigns throughout Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. Mr. Burton showed endless bravery and courage in his pursuit of peace across the globe.

After completing active duty, Mr. Burton returned home to North Carolina where he and his wife Dorothy raised two daughters, Delores and Barbara. He then opened a successful business in Spencer where he provided our community with retail furniture for over 38 years.

Mr. Burton remained an active community leader and has been involved in the Free-masons of North Carolina, Rowan Shrine Club, and served as Master of the Salisbury Masonic Lodge. Passionate about educating our youth, he helped establish scholarship programs with the Masonic Home for Children

at Oxford, Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina, and Catawba College.

Mr. Burton was born on December 28, 1919 and represents the best our nation has to offer. I am proud to join our community today in honoring all that he has accomplished over the last 100 years.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in thanking Mr. Floyd Burton for his service and wishing him a happy 100th birthday.

HONORING RANDY VEACH'S SERVICE TO THE ARKANSAS FARM BUREAU

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randy Veach's decades of service with the Arkansas Farm Bureau.

Mr. Veach spent 20 years working for the grassroots agricultural organization, 11 of those years as a state president. He and his wife, Thelma, are a tremendous resource to our state through their advocacy and commitment to Arkansas farmers and ranchers.

Mr. Veach has always embodied the mission of the Farm Bureau by educating the public on the value of the agricultural industry in the state. I appreciate his dedication to his family, to Arkansas agriculture, and to the people we serve and love.

I personally worked with Mr. Veach over the years and saw his lifelong commitment to service firsthand. He is a powerful reminder of the impact one can have on our communities. I'm honored to recognize him for the years he has given to the state of Arkansas, and wish him all the best in retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORT BEND FOCUS MAGAZINE FOR 15 SUCCESSFUL YEARS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fort Bend Focus Magazine on fifteen years covering the news, events and developments in the Fort Bend County region.

Since 2004, Fort Bend Focus Magazine has had its finger on the pulse of Fort Bend County under the stellar leadership of Publisher Patti A. Parish-Kaminski.

From doctors to diplomats, teachers to students, bartenders to professional baseball players—countless readers from all walks of life have enjoyed their articles covering galas, historic attractions, politics, concerts, parties and the people of Fort Bend County.

Fort Bend Focus has built a long-lasting legacy regularly reporting on the many things that make TX-22 special.

My wife, Nancy, has even written for Fort Bend Focus from time to time.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Fort Bend Focus for keeping us informed on what's happening in our community. Here's to celebrating fifteen years of extraordinary coverage and to many more years of continued excellence.