

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 Freemasons 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.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES B. RYAN  
III

**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 11, 2019*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Charles B. Ryan III, a small business owner who died on November 27, 2019 at the age of 90. Mr. Ryan made the Roanoke Valley a better place to live thanks to his contributions.

Mr. Ryan was born on August 14, 1929. After graduating from Dartmouth University in 1951, he married his beloved wife, Ms. Susan Thomas. Mr. Ryan started his career working for Firestone Tire and Rubber, before moving to Mohawk Tire and Rubber in Arkansas. The experience Mr. Ryan obtained from his first two jobs prepared him for the creation of a new tire plant. In 1968, Mr. Ryan selected Salem, Virginia as the site of the new plant. He oversaw the construction of the new plant and served as the General Manager. After working there for a few years, Mr. Ryan became a manufacturing consultant. The Mohawk tire facility is now owned by the Yokohama Tire Corporation and remains a significant employer in the Roanoke Valley.

Mr. Ryan was a skilled athlete and sports was one of his biggest hobbies. He and his wife Sue devoted countless hours to amateur sports to the benefit of others in the community. Their involvement in expanding opportunities for swimming allowed more young people, including myself, to enjoy this activity. Mr. Ryan loved golf so much that he served on the Board of Directors at his local club, Hidden Valley Country Club. He decided to create a business devoted to his hobby by opening a store in Roanoke called The Sports Shop, which provided medals and trophies for many of the area's competitions.

After a few years of consulting and running The Sports Shop, Mr. Ryan moved to Winchester, Virginia where he managed the Stowe-Woodward plant. After receiving a master's degree in accounting from Georgetown University, Mr. Ryan returned to Salem and used his new degree to open an accounting business in Roanoke.

Mr. Ryan is survived by his wife, Sue, his children Deborah Howard, C. William Ryan, Thomas Ryan, and David Ryan, and his five grandsons, Conklin and Adam Howard, Sean Ryan, and Jack and Lukas Ryan. The Roanoke Valley and the Commonwealth of Virginia were fortunate to have this fine community member and small business owner among the citizenry. I offer my condolences to the Ryan family on their loss.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 11, 2019*

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be present for votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 660; NAY on Roll Call No. 661; NAY on Roll Call No. 662; NAY on

Roll Call No. 663; NAY on Roll Call No. 664; NAY on Roll Call No. 665; YEA on Roll Call No. 666; and NAY on Roll Call No. 667.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2029

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 11, 2019*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, due to official travel on Monday, December 9, 2019, I was unable to sign the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. As a core conferee, had I been present, I would have signed the conference report.

ENGINEERING BIOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Monday, December 9, 2019*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4373, the Engineering Biology Research and Development Act. Engineering biology, or bioengineering, applies principles of engineering to living matter in order to develop new technology for a variety of applications. Breakthroughs in bioengineering have led to technologies that help many patients live fuller lives, including prosthetic limbs, biologics, micro-implants, medical imaging technology, and other medical devices. The applications of bioengineering also extend beyond medicine to fields such as agriculture, environmental science, and robotics, and I'm very proud to represent Silicon Valley where such of this cutting-edge research takes place.

While the United States has been a global leader in bioengineering, we cannot be complacent as other countries, including China, continue to invest heavily in research and development.

H.R. 4373 will help maintain American leadership in this critical field by establishing a federal bioengineering research initiative. It also requires the Office of Science and Technology Policy to coordinate with several agencies including the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and NASA to develop a national bioengineering strategy.

The downside of this legislation is that it does not include any new spending. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure we provide these agencies with the funding they need to make this initiative succeed. China now spends 30 times as much on research and development as it did 25 years ago, and while the federal government has also increased its spending on science in real terms over the same timeframe, Congress must make the necessary investments to maintain our country's global leadership in bioengineering and other high tech fields.

I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON for her important work on H.R. 4373, urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and urge them to provide the resources necessary for a robust U.S. bioengineering effort.

12 DAYS OF SALT—DAY 6: NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES RESOLUTION

**HON. MIKIE SHERRILL**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 11, 2019*

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, to conclude my earlier remarks on the 12 Days of SALT, I include in the RECORD a resolution from the New Jersey League of Municipalities urging this Congress to remove the federal cap on State and Local Tax deductions.

NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONFERENCE RESOLUTION No. 2019-14  
RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO RESTORE THE FULL DEDUCTIBILITY OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Whereas, our tax obligation is an issue that concerns all residents in every municipality in the state of New Jersey; and

Whereas, the deduction for state and local taxes (SALT) has been a feature of the tax code for more than 100 years, with the first federal income tax form in 1913 allowing taxpayers to deduct state and local taxes, one of only six deductions allowed at the time, and even the federal Civil War tax in 1862 included a deduction for SALT; and

Whereas, this important provision ensures against double taxation and reflects mandatory tax payments, which support public services that benefit all citizens, such as K-12 schools, law enforcement and public safety, transportation and infrastructure, and vital community and public health services; and

Whereas, the SALT deduction is one of the few provisions in the federal tax code that recognizes the burden placed on states like New Jersey, which provide significantly more in federal tax revenue than they receive back in federal services and grants; and

Whereas, according to the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants, in 2016 1.8 million, or 40 percent of New Jersey taxpayers, deducted from their federal income tax, their local property tax and state income taxes, averaging \$18,000 per deduction; and

Whereas, the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts passed in 2017 capped the SALT deduction at \$10,000; and

Whereas, many New Jersey Families relied upon the federal SALT deduction to ensure tax fairness, and capping the SALT deduction has placed an unfair burden on New Jersey homeowners; and

Whereas, the SALT deduction cap present a barrier to affordable homeownership in New Jersey, impacting the ability of new, young families to prosper in the future. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, in conference assembled, urges Congress to restore the full SALT deduction and provide more equitable taxation once again to residents of New Jersey; and be it further

*Resolved*, that copies of the resolution be transmitted to our representatives in Congress, the President of the United States, all members of the New Jersey State Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

Sponsor: The Hon. Amalia Duarte, Committee Member, Mendham Twp.

Co-Sponsor(s): The Hon. Lauren Barnett, Mayor, Mountain Lakes; The Hon. Robert Connelly, Mayor, Madison; The Hon. Cathy Wilson, Deputy Mayor, Morris Twp.; The Hon. Paul Tomasko, Mayor, Alpine; The Hon. Nora Radest, Mayor, Summit; The Hon. Jeff Grayzel, Mayor, Morris Twp.