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**Les Read, a fixture at the Association's Cable Heritage celebrations for many years while serving as emcee, passed away Thursday at 82 years old. Les was a friend to countless industry associates, particularly in Pennsylvania. The officers and staff of BCAP extend their deepest sympathies to the Read family.**

**Below is an announcement from *Multichannel News*.**

Leslie "Les" H. Read, an important fixture at cable events for years, and the well-loved and respected "voice" for the Cable Pioneers, died June 28 while recovering from a recent heart attack. He was 82 years old. Anyone who has made the cable circuit over the past several decades has likely run into Read, a personable, knowledgeable and respected champion of the industry.

In a career that began in 1958 as a page at NBC in New York, Read retired from the cable business in 2001, but kept strong ties to the industry. He served as executive director of the Cable Pioneers, stepping down from that position in 2016 after being named executive director emeritus. He was succeeded as executive director by Jim Faircloth, but remained the "voice" of the Pioneers, serving as master of ceremonies at the organization's annual banquet and welcoming each new member with his unique baritone. Read also served as board member of The Cable Center, a member of CTAM: The Cable & Telecommunications Association for Marketing, and was a past president of the New York Cable TV Association.

"It is my sad duty to share the devastating news that our friend and colleague, Les Read, known to so many as 'Mr. HBO' who was loved by all in our industry, passed away last evening at 7:15 p.m. EDT on Long Island, NY, following treatment for a cardiac condition since last weekend," Faircloth said in a statement. "You cannot even think of the Cable Pioneers without thinking of Les. Les' rich baritone has been silenced, but for our memories and the recordings that will always be treasured. There will never be another like Les. We share our most heartfelt condolences and prayers with Les' wife, Anne, and his entire family."

Raised in Great Neck, Long Island, Read lived in Port Washington, N.Y. with his wife Anne. Information on services is pending. Industry executives were quick to offer their reminiscences. "Throughout his career – and even after he retired – Les Read was an ambassador who drew attention to everything that is good about our industry," said SCTE-ISBE president and CEO Mark Dzuban in a statement. "From his earliest days with TelePrompter and HBO to his work with CTAM, the Cable TV Pioneers and the Cable Center, Les devoted his energy to the advancement of cable and everybody with whom he worked."

At The Cable Center, president and CEO Jana Henthorn offered her condolences to the Read family. "Les made us all smile. He was immensely proud of the cable industry and his role in it," Henthorn said in a statement. "He knew everyone, had more stories than Mark Twain, and a great love for The Cable Center. Not only was he our official

Ambassador, he was one of our great champions. Our sincerest condolences to Anne and the family.”

The Cable Center senior vice president of programs and development Diane Christman, remembered Read as a mentor and friend. “He’s the only person who still called me Kiddo!,” Christman said in a statement. “Les was the first person I called when I started working at The Cable Center. He was an incredible guide and mentor. We would make the rounds at industry events together, and he introduced me to everyone and really helped me get my feet wet. He was funny, charismatic, larger than life. A true friend and mentor to me and so many others. My heart is broken, and I offer my condolences and love to Anne, the kids, and grandkids.”

After obtaining a business degree from Nichols College in Dudley, Mass., and a degree in speech/radio and television from Syracuse University, Read started his broadcast and cable career with NBC in New York as a page. He later joined TelePrompter, serving with that company for 15 years selling services and in 1972 becoming vice president of TelePrompter’s CATV division, where he built and operated cable systems in Elmira, N.Y., Great Falls, Mont., and Farmington, N.M. He later developed new franchise areas as director of operations.

Read joined Home Box Office in February 1974 as manager, affiliate development and was later named director, Northeast region and then director, national accounts. In 1984, he became director, affiliate special projects and in 1998, he was promoted to vice president and remained in that role until his retirement in December 2001. Read worked with HBO’s affiliate cable systems on special marketing campaigns and also served as an announcer during on-air promotions.

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A Mississippi utility regulator is continuing his push to change state law to allow rural electric cooperative to provide high speed internet service.

Local news outlets report Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley traveled to Alabama last week with 46 Mississippi lawmakers and representatives of more than a dozen Mississippi electrical cooperatives. They were visiting Tombigbee Electric Cooperative of Hamilton, Alabama, to learn about the utility’s work in providing broadband service. “Fourteen miles east of the Mississippi line, some of the fastest internet speeds in the US at some of the cheapest prices are being offered, in some of the most rural parts of Alabama. If they can do it in Alabama, we can do it in Mississippi,” Presley, a Democrat who represents the northern third of the state, tells WCBI-TV. Tombigbee CEO Steve Foshee says the cooperative is spending \$38 million over time to offer fast fiber-optic service to more than 70,000 residents.

The cooperative began offering dialup service in 2000 and relied on a combination of private loans and a \$3 million government grant for a pilot program that now serves 400 customers. Foshee said the cooperative created Tombigbee Communications because large private providers shy away from the most rural areas. He likened the work to cooperatives’ original mission of extending electrical service beyond towns. “That was what we were created for to start with, a

quality of life issue,” Foshee said. “Our people need opportunity, they need jobs, income. We all need to work together to make this happen and cooperatives are the perfect model to make this happen.”

Mississippi law currently bans electrical cooperatives from offering internet service, but Presley, a Democrat representing the state’s northern district, says he expects lawmakers to consider dropping that ban in 2019. “That has to be changed by the legislature first and foremost, and I think it will,” said Rep Steve Holland, a Plantersville Democrat. “Beyond that we’ve got to sell the co-ops on it. It’s going to be a heavy investment on the co-ops.”

Presley said a federal bill allocates \$600 million for electric cooperatives and rural utilities to bring broadband to rural areas. Jason Siefried, CEO of Taylorsville-based Southern Pine Electric, tells the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal that farmers served by his Mississippi cooperative could benefit. “If a farmer can monitor a chicken coop remotely, it just increases the opportunities he has to keep bad things from happening like losing a houseful of chickens due to fans not working properly,” Siegfried said. Foshee said fiber service costs \$49.95 monthly for 100 megabytes and \$79.95 monthly for 1 gigabyte in residential areas. — **Associated Press**

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Facebook Inc. disclosed it gave dozens of companies special access to user data, detailing for the first time a spate of deals that contrasted with the social network’s previous public statements that it restricted personal information to outsiders in 2015.

The deals with app developers, device and software makers—described in a 747 page document released to Congress late on Friday—represent Facebook’s most granular explanation of exemptions that previously had been revealed by The Wall Street Journal and other news organizations. The disclosure comes as lawmakers have demanded accountability at Facebook for allowing companies access to data on its billions of users without their knowledge, and questioned how far the universe of firms extends.

Facebook said in the disclosure that the special deals were required to give app developers time to become compliant with changes in its policies, and to enable device and software makers to create versions of the social network for their products.

The company disclosed it was still sharing information of users’ friends, such as name, gender, birth date, current city or hometown, photos and page likes, with 61 app developers nearly six months after it said it stopped access to this data in 2015. Facebook said it gave these 61 firms—which ranged from the dating app Hinge to shipping giant United Parcel Service Inc.—a six-month extension for them to “come into compliance” with the 2015 policy. In addition, five other companies “theoretically could have accessed limited friends’ data” because of access they received as part of a Facebook experiment, the company said in the document.

Ime Archibong, Facebook’s vice president of product partnerships, acknowledged the preferred deals in an earlier interview with the Journal, but said they were with individual developers to test new features or when winding down products. He said that the company

maintained a “consistent and principled approach to how we work with developers over the course of the past 11 years.”

The disclosure follows a Journal article in June [that reported Facebook struck customized data-sharing deals](#) that gave select companies such as Nissan Motor Co. access to user records for their apps well after the point in 2015 when it said it walled off that information. Nissan is listed in Friday’s document. Facebook provided the document to the Energy and Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives in response to hundreds of questions from the committee, which quizzed Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg during testimony in April. The committee said on its website that it received the responses shortly before midnight on Friday; the deadline for the responses was the close of business Friday.

It is [Facebook’s second attempt at answering Congress’s queries](#). In June, Facebook delivered 450 pages of answers to two Senate committees, deflecting some questions about its influence and market power while offering [some detail about the information it collects on users](#). Facebook’s handling of its user data has been under scrutiny since March when revelations surfaced that political analytics firm Cambridge Analytica, which aided President Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign, purchased data on 87 million users without their consent.

In the ensuing hearings, lawmakers asked Mr. Zuckerberg whether Facebook was in violation of a settlement the company made in 2012 with the Federal Trade Commission, under which the company is required to give its users clear and prominent notice and obtain their express consent before sharing their information beyond their privacy settings. Facebook said in the document that it hasn’t violated the FTC pact.

Facebook indicated it has struggled to fully reconstruct what happened to its users’ information. “It is possible we have not been able to identify some extensions,” Facebook said in the document about companies that had access to users’ friends’ information past the 2015 cutoff. Many of the app developers that scooped up unusually large chunks of data are out of business, according to developers and former Facebook employees. In some cases, the company says, developers contacted by Facebook [aren’t responding to requests for further information](#).

The social network also said in Friday’s document that it shared information about its users with 52 hardware and software makers, including big U.S. companies such as Amazon.com Inc., Apple Inc. and Microsoft Corp. , as well as some Chinese firms such as Huawei Technologies Co. and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. Fourteen companies continue to have access to information about Facebook’s users, the document said. These partnerships “do not involve data sharing with partners for their independent purposes,” Mr. Archibong said in a statement on Sunday.

A spokeswoman for Facebook said the company provided access to these device and software makers after users logged into the Facebook app. According to the document, Facebook allowed this access so these companies could create versions of Facebook for their devices, provide “hubs” where users could see notifications from

Facebook, allow users to sync Facebook contacts and photos on their devices and send users notifications from Facebook via text message. “These integrations were built by our partners, for our users, but approved by Facebook,” Facebook said in the document.

Facebook has severed this data access with 38 of the companies on the list, the company said in the document. Seven companies will continue to have this access until July, and three companies—including Apple, Amazon and accessibility app Tobii—have agreements with Facebook to continue to access this data beyond October, according to the document. — **Wall Street Journal**

