

NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal, Missouri Meritorious Service Medal, Missouri Conspicuous Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal: Indiana, Minnesota, and Tennessee; Minnesota Medal for Merit, 1992 Distinguished Alumni-Award-Westminster College, Field Artillery Association Order of St. Barbara, Army Engineers Association Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal, and the Sons of the American Revolution Silver Good Citizenship Award.

Madam Speaker, General Kiefner was a valuable leader who was respected by everyone who knew him. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his wife Marilyn and his sons, John and Keith.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF RONALD G.  
JONILA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Ronald G. Jonila, and to celebrate his lifelong commitment to the American worker. As the president of the United Auto Worker's Local 1005, Ron was an active proponent for worker's rights and served his union with integrity and honor.

For years, the American workforce has been confronted with numerous challenges from our economy and our world. Through it all, Ron was a model of constancy, devoting all his efforts to protecting workers' rights, fighting for workforce protections, and ensuring that Local 1005 thrived in an environment increasingly inhospitable to the American worker.

Ron never shied from a battle when his brothers and sisters of Local 1005 stood in harm's way. Whether the issue was jobs, health care, pensions, or working conditions, Ron always led the charge, and Local 1005 was well-served by his leadership.

Ron's devotion to the labor movement was exceeded in intensity and passion only by his commitment to his family. Ron was a generous and caring husband to Patricia; a loving father to Anthony, Nicholas, Thomas and Christopher; and the proud "Papa" of Jason and Thomas.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Ron Jonila. On February 20, 2007 we lost a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, friend and brother, but his unwavering commitment to family as well as the American workforce will serve as a model for us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE DE LA  
CRUZ

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest of pleasure that I rise today to honor a renowned reporter from my district, Mike De La Cruz, who retired from the Merced Sun Star on December 29, 2006 after more than 37 years on the beat.

Mike De La Cruz was the authority in and around Merced on news relating to law en-

forcement. He developed a great relationship with local authorities and earned the reputation of being a knowledgeable and ethical reporter. He chronicled Merced County's criminals in a style that mixed straight news with a tone of mild bemusement at how people ended up on the wrong side of the law.

Throughout his career, Mike has had his share of memorable moments such as the time he broke his ankle jumping over a fence while attempting to cover a police raid on marijuana growers. Or the time he suffered a terrible sunburn after waiting for hours in an orchard for deputies to bust a cock-fighting ring. Whatever the situation, Mike utilized his extensive contacts to ensure his stories were accurate, and at the same time to assure the people of Merced that law enforcement was looking out for them. Over the 37 years that he put pen to paper, Mike always garnered respect for his balanced reporting.

Madam Speaker, journalism in Merced will never be the same without the quick witted and balanced reporting of Mike De La Cruz. He will be missed by local law enforcement and the faithful readers of the Merced Sun Star. I want to take this time to express my sincere thanks to Mike De La Cruz for his many years of dedicated service and for all that he has done for our community. I certainly hope his future is as colorful and rewarding as his past. My fellow colleagues, I ask that you please rise to join me in honoring Mike De La Cruz.

TELEPHONE FEDERAL EXCISE TAX  
REPEAL BILL INTRODUCTION

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. JOHN LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representative JIM RAMSTAD, Representative RICK BOUCHER, and Representative GARY MILLER to introduce the Telephone Excise Repeal Act of 2007. Our bill will repeal this 107-year-old tax that is outdated and is only paid by Americans that cannot pay for expensive communications services.

The telephone FET was introduced in 1898 as a "luxury" tax to fund the Spanish American War. While it may have made sense then, there is no question that telecommunication services today are necessities, not luxuries.

Telephone tax revenues, first collected in 1898 to help finance the Spanish-American War, are deposited in the General Fund. Unlike other excise tax revenues, these revenues are not deposited into a specific account such as the Highway Trust Fund, which is made up of gas tax revenues. Additionally, other excise taxes serve the purpose of decreasing consumption of the taxed product; the FET serves no such purpose. A telephone is a necessity for every American, and thus does not fit with this list of "luxury" and other excise tax items.

The FET is now regressive and disproportionately burdens low-income, rural and lifeline telephone subscribers who have only local telephone service. As more and more Americans buy bundled communication services, the projected tax revenue collected from the FET continues to decrease and only affect those

with the least means to purchase more costly packages. CBO estimates that this tax will bring in \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years.

This tax is contrary to the national goal of having an advanced, highly efficient, and low cost communications network to serve the American people. Please help us hang up on the telephone tax by joining us on this legislation.

HONORING DR. JAMES WILSON

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Wilson, director of the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Dr. Wilson has recently been appointed to the National Cancer Institute's board of scientific advisors due to his outstanding achievements in the field of medicine. As a medical expert on the panel, he will be advising the NCI director on a variety of issues concerning scientific program policy, as well as the progress and future direction of extramural research programs of the cancer institute. As a UT Southwestern Medical Center alumnus, it is with great honor that I am able to congratulate Dr. James Wilson on his prestigious appointment. His intelligence and dedication to the field of science and medicine has proven him to be an outstanding professor and mentor. Dr. Wilson is an inspiration and a role model to many, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM  
GRIFFEN

**HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the truly honorable life of Mr. William Griffen of Tully, New York. Mr. Griffen was a student, an educator, an activist, a writer, a father, a husband, a friend, a neighbor, and an inspiration. Mr. Griffen will be remembered for the enthusiasm and sincerity he brought to his work throughout his 78 years.

Mr. Griffen attended SUNY Cortland where he received his B.S. in Education and went on to attend Cornell University, earning his M.A. and Ed.D. Mr. Griffen taught in Brentwood and Marathon, New York, for several years before returning to Cortland to become SUNY Cortland's longest-tenured Professor of Education. A beloved institution, Mr. Griffen was also honored as a distinguished alumnus of the university, "teaching for over forty years and diligently working for peace and social justice at the local, state, national and international levels."

Mr. Griffen aspired to influence our country on many levels, running for Congress twice, in 1968 and 1990. His extensive contribution through his writings has been seen in over 50 articles addressing war, technology, civil

rights, and revolution. Additionally, he coauthored the book of Lessons of the Vietnam War—A Critical Examination of School Texts and an Interpretive Comparative History Utilizing the Pentagon Papers and Other Documents. During the Vietnam War, he was responsible for starting the Cortland Citizens for Peace organization and went on to become very active in the anti-war movement. Mr. Griffen's dedication to activism also led him to Mississippi and Tennessee with the historic, pioneering freedom riders, where he worked to register minority voters so they could have a voice in government.

Even in his later days, Mr. Griffen continued his spirit of activism, helping the American Cancer Society by participating in a new program for people diagnosed with prostate cancer. He trained volunteers in upstate New York to counsel cancer patients and served on the speakers' bureau at the Syracuse Man-to-Man Cancer Support Group.

Many say that Mr. Griffen was truly a renaissance man, with interests in baseball, jazz, nature, photography, and the environment. He and his wife, Judy, had three children: Mark, Kimberly, and Amy.

William Griffen gave his heart and soul to improve the lives of the people he touched. His contributions and his sacrifices will live on for generations in upstate New York and around our great country. Thank you, Mr. Griffen.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL  
BAHARAEEN FOR THE AWARD  
OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Baharaeen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 354, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years, Michael has been involved in scouting, he has earned 39 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader and Scribe and is a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Michael built a storage area and refurbished playground equipment at Crestview Elementary in Kansas City, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Baharaeen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN PRAISE OF SCENE MAGAZINE'S  
"MAN OF THE YEAR," JIM  
HETTINGER

**HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, Jim Hettinger, a constituent of mine from Battle

Creek, MI, will be recognized as Scene Magazine's "Man of the Year" this Thursday. Mr. Hettinger is receiving this honor for his work in and around the community of Battle Creek over the past three decades.

Mr. Hettinger's work has spanned all areas of community service; from education to economic development to the arts to food banks to health care. Jim Hettinger has touched many lives in his community.

In 1978, Mr. Hettinger was named president of Battle Creek Unlimited, an organization, which brings together government, non-profit and business groups for the sole purpose of furthering the development of the economy of Battle Creek and Calhoun County.

Highlights of Mr. Hettinger's leadership of Battle Creek Unlimited include saving the Federal Center in Battle Creek in 1993, the addition of Duncan Aviation and Western Michigan College of Aviation and the establishment of the West Michigan Aviation Research Foundation. As the article in Scene Magazine honoring Mr. Hettinger states, "the Research Foundation will help to promote economic development and attract research dollars to this community."

Mr. Hettinger is probably best known for his efforts and foresight in transforming Fort Custer, which was an abandoned military training base, into the 3,000-acre Fort Custer Industrial Park, the largest modern industrial park in Michigan. Today, the industrial park has over 90 companies and employs thousands of good paying, high-skilled jobs.

This is not the first award for Mr. Hettinger as he has been rightfully showered with praise for his commitment to the Calhoun County community. Mr. Hettinger received Governor Engler's first Economic Developer of the Year award in 1995. He received Certificates of Recognition for Community Service from Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush in 1999 and 2001 respectively. Mr. Hettinger's community service endeavors are too expansive to list here today, and his work is best displayed by the tremendous number of lives he has touched throughout his career in Battle Creek.

I extend my sincere appreciation and offer the congratulations of the U.S. Congress to Mr. Jim Hettinger for being named Scene Magazine's "Man of the Year."

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 171,  
HONORING THE LIFE OF THE  
MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, as a lifelong resident of Lafayette County, MO, it gives me great pleasure to introduce H. Res. 171, a resolution honoring the life of the Marquis de Lafayette on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of his birth.

Lafayette occupies a considerable place in the history of the United States. More than any one person, he symbolizes the assistance American colonists received from Europe in the struggle for independence from Great Britain.

Lafayette was a man of considerable military skill who sympathized with American rev-

olutionary fighters. After withdrawing from the French army and traveling across the ocean at his own expense, the Congress voted Lafayette the rank and commission of major general in the Continental Army. His military service during the Revolutionary War was invaluable to GEN George Washington, earning him the title of "the soldier's friend." Lafayette's strategic thinking and dedication as a general officer serve as a model for present day military personnel.

After achieving military victory, Lafayette returned to France, helping the U.S. to secure trade agreements and critical loans with European nations. He also became a prominent figure in the French Revolution, speaking out in support of universal freedom and human rights.

Because of Lafayette's commitment to America, Congress honored him with awards of money and land. Congress was also presented a life-size portrait of Lafayette that hangs in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives. The portrait is one of only two in the House Chamber. The other is of President George Washington, Lafayette's closest friend and role model.

At the invitation of President James Monroe, Lafayette returned to the United States in 1824 and 1825. He embarked upon a triumphant tour, during which he visited 25 States, including Missouri, and he became the first foreign dignitary to address a joint session of Congress. During this visit and thereafter, various American leaders honored Lafayette by naming many cities, towns, and counties for him. Lafayette County, MO, which is my home, is named for Lafayette.

As we take a moment this year to honor the Marquis de Lafayette on the occasion of his 250th birthday, let us remember how he helped secure American independence and helped establish the United States as an international presence. The values of democracy espoused by our Founding Fathers and by Lafayette have been the bedrock of U.S. domestic and international policymaking for generations.

I urge all Americans and especially those in the military to study Lafayette as America pays tribute to him.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF REVEREND  
ROBERT DRINAN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Robert Drinan. Father Drinan was a great humanitarian that showed the world that being a servant of the people was not a conflict of interest when serving the Lord.

Father Robert Drinan effortlessly assimilated pious servitude with politics, showing that the purpose of both was oftentimes the same. He was an active and prominent voice when it came to civil rights, and as the Dean of Boston College Law School he called for and supported desegregation. He also challenged the students of Boston College Law School to be active in the civil rights movement.

Father Drinan was the first Roman Catholic priest to be elected to Congress. In 1970, Father Drinan ran for Congress on an anti-war