

Bill Stouffer 21st Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 332 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release: March 9, 2005

Contact: Heidi Osner (573) 751-1507

Senator Bill Stouffer's Legislation Honors Ike Skelton Approved by Senate

Highway 13 Missouri River Bridge to be 'Congressman Ike Skelton Bridge'

JEFFERSON CITY – State Senator Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, received Senate approval yesterday for a bill to designate a bridge located on Missouri Highway 13 "Congressman Ike Skelton Bridge." The bridge is located between Lafayette and Ray Counties.

"Congressman Skelton has served the citizens of Missouri for many years," Stouffer said. "His commitment merits recognition, and I believe naming a bridge over the Missouri River in his honor would be an appropriate dedication."

Skelton, a Lexington native, has served Missourians in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1977 and is the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee. Portions of Congressman Skelton's 4th Congressional District encompass Stouffer's state senate district, including Ray and Lafayette counties, which share the Missouri River as a common border.

Under construction and set to open this year, the new four-lane bridge on Missouri 13 will replace an aging two-lane bridge over the Missouri River that has been in place since the 1920s.

Some 25 percent of the participants in a public bridge naming campaign held last fall suggested that Ike Skelton be commemorated as the bridge's namesake. Stouffer agreed with the request and gladly volunteered to sponsor the legislation needed for the new designation. The bill will now go to the Missouri House of Representatives for consideration.

"It is an honor to be involved in this worthwhile project," Stouffer said. "I look forward to the opening day of the Congressman Ike Skelton Bridge."

-END-

Senator Bill Stouffer represents Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray and Saline counties and northeast Clay County in the state legislature. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-1507, or toll free at (866) 768-3987.