



MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

Bill Stouffer  
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# Senator Stouffer Legislation Naming Ike Skelton Bridge to Be Signed

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*Highway 13 Missouri River Span To Be Called 'The Congressman Ike Skelton Bridge'*

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JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, announces that on behalf of Governor Blunt, Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder will sign Senate Bill 233 into law tomorrow June 28 at 1 p.m. The bill, sponsored by Senator Bill Stouffer, names the new Missouri River bridge linking Ray and Lafayette counties “The Congressman Ike Skelton Bridge.” A ribbon cutting ceremony June 25 marked the official opening of the new structure.

“It’s been an honor and privilege to facilitate this project,” Stouffer said. “Ike Skelton has been and continues to be an outstanding model for his constituent work and for his years of dedicated service for our military.”

Congressman Ike Skelton has been serving the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which covers Ray, Lafayette and Saline counties, since 1977. The Lexington native’s district encompasses Stouffer’s state senate district.

The new four-lane bridge is set parallel to an aging two-lane iron bridge that has been ferrying Highway 13 traffic over the Missouri River between the two counties 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 new bridge's namesake. Stouffer included a provision in Senate Bill 233 that allows a highway or bridge to be designated after someone who is still living.

Like many in the region, Stouffer feels this tribute is the least the state can do to celebrate Skelton's achievements. "I feel naming the new Missouri River bridge in his honor would be a fitting tribute."

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*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.*