

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. XIAODONG WANG

**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. Xiaodong Wang, professor of biochemistry at UT Southwestern Medical Center, for his research on cell death.

Dr. Wang has been awarded the 2007 Richard Lounsbery Award by the National Academy of Sciences for his extraordinary achievement in biology and medicine. This high honor includes a \$50,000 award and a prestigious medal. As a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, Dr. Wang studies apoptosis, programmed cell death, which is applicable to numerous diseases, including cancer.

Last year, I honored Dr. Xiaodong Wang for being awarded the \$1 million Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine for his discovery of the biochemical basis of programmed cell death which is a vital process that balances cell birth and prevents cancer. His scientific breakthrough marks a turning point in the history of medicine and will indeed benefit the lives of millions around the world.

As a UT Southwestern Medical Center alumnus, it is with great honor that I am able to congratulate Dr. Xiaodong Wang on his remarkable scientific achievement. His intelligence and dedication to the field of science and medicine has proven him to be an outstanding professor and mentor. Dr. Wang is an inspiration and a role model to many, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

CONGRATULATING AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES

**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 Auburn Maroons of Auburn High School for making history in winning the Class AA New York State Football Championship on November 25, 2006—their first-ever Class AA State championship.

The athletes of Auburn High School in New York's 24th district and their coach, Dave Moskov, proved their ability and dedication as they brought 10,000 fans to Syracuse University's Carrier Dome, cheering them onto victory. In the championship game, the Maroons defeated the Monroe-Woodbury Crusaders in overtime by a score of 27–26.

Having played football at Proctor High School and later, at SUNY-Albany, I know how much hard work and commitment goes into developing a successful football team. I commend these players and Coach Moskov for their outstanding efforts. They have certainly made their families, their friends, and their community very proud.

I am honored to have such skilled athletes and committed fans as part of my constituency and would once again like to congratulate the Maroons on this notable accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING WILL DAVID MORRIS  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK 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 Will David Morris, 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 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Will has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Will has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Will's dedication to his school work and church are outstanding. Will works hard in school, while being an active member of the Liberty United Methodist Church, where he plays guitar in "Decided," the youth praise band, sings in the JAM youth choir and participates in Sunday school and the evening youth group. Will has also contributed significantly to the community, by leading a group of Scouts, friends, and adults in landscaping the Outdoor Worship Center at Liberty United Methodist Church. Will and his crew planted more than a dozen low-maintenance bushes and shrubs.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Will David Morris 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 JACKSON, MI  
RESIDENT ALICE MANNING

**HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, the renowned author William Shakespeare once wrote, "How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alice Manning, an 87-year-old resident of Jackson, Michigan whose example has been a shining light to her community for over fifty years.

According to a February 21, 2007 article in the Jackson Citizen-Patriot, Manning took a first-aid course through the American Red Cross in March of 1956 and began volunteering with the organization.

To this day, the dedicated mother of two, grandmother of four and great-grandmother of four hasn't stopped.

Though she has never actually donated blood due to the Red Cross' weight requirement of 110 pounds, Alice has served the organization in various capacities for more than 50 years.

One blood donation can save up to three lives, and Alice has been an integral part of American Red Cross' efforts in the Jackson area.

So we thank Alice Manning for going above and beyond the call of duty by working to save lives in south-central Michigan through her service to the American Red Cross Blood Center.

IN MEMORY OF ADJUTANT  
GENERAL CHARLES M. KIEFNER

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 27, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Adjutant GEN Charles Kiefner.

General Kiefner was born on June 28, 1930, in Cape Girardeau, MO. Upon completion of high school, he attended Westminster College. Kiefner began his military career by enlisting in the Missouri National Guard as a private in Company F, 140th Infantry Regiment. On September 11, 1950, he entered active duty with Missouri's 175th Military Police Battalion.

General Kiefner was commissioned a second lieutenant, Infantry, on December 21, 1951. He served as a platoon leader, company commander, battalion motor officer, battalion S-2, brigade adjutant and S-3, executive officer and logistics officer on the staff of the adjutant general.

General Kiefner was appointed adjutant general by Governor Christopher "Kit" Bond on May 8, 1973, and would serve in this capacity until March 1977. As a member of the U.S. Army Reserve he served as a liaison officer to the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, from 1978 to 1980. He was re-appointed to lead the Missouri National Guard by Governor Bond in 1981 and Governor Ashcroft re-appointed him in 1989. While serving in this position, General Kiefner served as president of the National Guard Association of the United States.

General Kiefner retired from the National Guard in 1993 and was promoted to the grade of lieutenant general, Missouri National Guard Retired Listm, by Governor Mel Carnahan. His decorations and awards include: the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Department of Defense Identification Badge, Ranger Tab, the NGB and

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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