

# Opinion

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## FIRST AMENDMENT

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

### EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

## Minner's Hall induction well-deserved

D.C. Minner is a local legend. He has been working with children for years, teaching them an appreciation for a uniquely American form of music.

Minner, an extraordinary blues guitarist, will be inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame this year.

It's a long overdue recognition, as far as we're concerned.

Minner has ripped it up with some of the best musicians in the world, but he makes his home here, and he's committed to seeing music grow and be appreci-

ated in this area, working with an annual blues festival, teaching appreciation at schools and other activities.

His music is certainly something to behold. Along with his bass guitarist wife, Selby, Minner's blues is top-notch stuff.

But his legacy to Oklahoma music and more particularly to the Muskogee area's rich music history will be that he didn't keep his talent to himself, hoarding huge

buckets of cash and living the rock star lifestyle — something he certainly could have chosen and been successful at.

Instead, after a successful touring career, he moved back to his native Rentiesville with his wife.

The Minners equate this most recent recognition with having "made it."

Selby Minner said it best: "In Memphis, they know of him. Here, they know him."

For a child who heard his first live music from acoustic guitars because there was no electricity, Minner has grown into a



Minner

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man who has made his living doing what he loves: "Play the music."

We hope more young musicians will take Minner's example and give back to their communities, sharing the love for music that brings pleasure to all.

Music is one of the things

that separates man from the animals — the ability to appreciate such an abstract and ethereal thing as notes flying through the air.

Legends like Minner help us appreciate even more the music that gave birth to Rock and Roll and gave a voice to the concerns and triumphs of regular people.

Blues is one of music's more expressive and honest incarnations, and Minner is one of its finest musicians.

We congratulate Minner on his upcoming induction, and we applaud the hall of fame for recognizing local greatness.