

now lives in subsidized housing and depends on soup kitchens and food pantries to stave off hunger.

Yesterday I met with two outstanding young people—Starnica Rodgers and Brandon Dunlap—who have struggled with homelessness their whole lives. During high school, both were what is called “unaccompanied homeless youth,” meaning they were underage and without a home.

Against those odds, both Starnica and Brandon are now thriving. Starnica is enrolled in college and is an expectant mother. Brandon is a college graduate with a good job and a bright future. Both are incredible success stories, but they are the exception to the rule—particularly in today’s economy. More common are the homeless to whom I passed out sandwiches on a recent cold Chicago night, working with the Night Ministry.

Too many Americans born in poverty don’t have the tools to escape it. And too many formerly middle-class Americans are falling into poverty. We must promote and protect affordable housing, nutrition assistance, good schools, and other services to enable everyone to have a chance at the American Dream.

We have a responsibility to reduce poverty so that no one has to make the choice between medication and heat, and so that every child has a place to call home and food to eat. We owe it to our constituents and our country to buffer existing social safety net programs so that Shirley, Jack, Starnica and Brandon can keep a roof over their heads and put food in their stomachs.

I am troubled with the vitriol that many public figures have directed at those struggling with poverty and at the programs that give them a chance to thrive. This is a time when all Americans need to help one another succeed.

The Half in Ten Campaign has set an ambitious but achievable goal of cutting poverty in half in ten years. I am an original cosponsor of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE’s Half in Ten Act, which would strengthen anti-poverty initiatives by creating a national plan to meet the goal of reducing poverty by 50 percent, eliminating extreme poverty, and eliminating child poverty over the next decade.

This task will be difficult. It will require an honest assessment of the successes and failures of our social safety net programs, and make recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of those programs. It will also seek solutions to the causes of poverty; income inequality, economic instability, lack of living wages, and lack of investment in low-income communities.

Poverty touches every community in America, and we should be able to formulate a robust, bipartisan solution to the crisis. I thank Congresswoman LEE for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to come together in support of the Half in Ten Act.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, some have raised concerns about potential

ambiguities in section 2207 of the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act and I wanted to provide clarification on some of these matters. It was asked whether section 2207 restricts the obligation of funds for contract modifications to ongoing projects or awarding minor supporting contracts required to complete projects that have already begun. First, it is not the intent of the bill to restrict the Department of Defense from modifying current contracts or awarding required ancillary contracts in support of active projects because those prior-year funds have already been obligated and therefore are not subject to the restrictions set forth in section 2207. We understand that minor additional obligations may be required to complete those previously authorized projects, and we do not object to such minor obligations as long as they are within the scope of the original authorizations.

Others have asked me, can the Department of Defense use any funding to continue planning and program management activities or begin new studies that will help inform or develop any of the five requirements that are outlined in section 2207 that must be met before further funds are obligated? The language in section 2207 is not indented to restrict the Department of Defense’s ability to use prior-year funding to conduct program management activities, planning and further studies or complete ongoing studies that will better inform or allow the Department to complete work on the five requirements that are called out in section 2207 of this bill. This provision is not intended to stop the military buildup, but there are questions that remain outstanding.

I am committed to working with the Gentelady from Guam to continue to address these issues regarding the stationing of Marine Corps forces on Guam.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WILLIAM MOBLEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. William C. Mobley, Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosciences at the University of California San Diego. On December 8th, Dr. Mobley was awarded the International Sisley-Jerome Lejeune Prize, in Paris, France, for his therapeutic research on Genetic Intellectual Disabilities.

Dr. Mobley’s many contributions in the field of Down Syndrome have been truly valued in the special needs community. His research to identify causes of neurodegenerative disorders has brought new optimism to those afflicted with diseases from Alzheimer’s to Down Syndrome.

As the parent of a child with Down Syndrome, I understand first-hand the daily challenges that families are facing. We are the beneficiaries of Dr. Mobley’s important research and future generations will be enabled as a result.

Dr. Mobley has used his expertise to serve this Congress. As the expert advisor for the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus, Dr. Mobley has educated Members of Congress on this important issue, raising public awareness while advancing critical research.

This award is a well deserved recognition of his life’s work to eradicate debilitating neurological diseases and disorders. I applaud Dr. Mobley on his outstanding commitment to this vital research and look forward to a continuing partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Mobley. Because of his efforts, I know that those with Down Syndrome, and their families, will see easier days ahead. With Dr. Mobley’s work, we will one day see a world free of these devastating neurological disorders.

TRIBUTE TO JANICE “TEKO” WISEMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer this tribute to Janice “Teko” Wiseman, a native of Mobile, AL, who recently passed away at the age of 83. She spent her life in active service to her community and her family.

Married for 62 years, Teko and her husband, Dr. Hollis Wiseman, originally met as high school sweethearts.

During the 1960’s—a decade of turmoil in Alabama—Teko and Hollis set an example of courage and commitment to justice and the city they loved by founding ABLE (Alabamians Behind Local Education), an organization to help peacefully integrate the Mobile County schools. Although opposed by some political leaders at the time, the Wisemans stood fast and eventually saw their goals realized. Their efforts received international attention on a Voice of America broadcast.

In 1983, Teko helped found Keep Mobile Beautiful and worked as its coordinator for ten years. Her energy and creativity resulted in a beautification competition called No More Eyesore, which engaged residents from schoolchildren to bank presidents to clean up and beautify the ugliest eyesores around town. Other projects included planting the intersection of I-65 and I-10 and landscaping the entrance to Bankhead Tunnel. Her impact on the city is visible to this day.

When they retired twenty years ago, Teko and Hollis moved to Fairhope, Alabama. There, Hollis, who had built the University of South Alabama Neonatal Intensive Care Unit named in his honor, became president of the Fairhope Library Board and spearheaded the drive to raise approximately seven million dollars to build the current state of the art library.

Meanwhile, Teko Wiseman turned her attention to the lack of sidewalks along the Bay and conceived a project to building a hike/bike trail beginning at the Battleship on the Causeway and extending along the Eastern Shore to Weeks Bay. The organization she founded in 1995 to realize this dream, the Eastern Shore Trailblazers, has raised over \$6.5 million through private donations and grants. The 32 mile trail is only two miles short of completion.

Mr. Speaker, Teko was a treasure to South Alabama and her loss is one that is shared by our entire community.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to her husband, Hollis; her sister, Merrellyn Miller; their six children, Holly Wiseman, Merrell Wiseman, Valery De Laney, Carole Norden, Jay

Wiseman, and David Wiseman; and their six grandchildren and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DAVID
DAWSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. David Dawson as he retires after 40 years of service at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is a law firm for low-income individuals and provides services in the areas of consumer rights, domestic violence, education, employment, family law, health, housing, foreclosure, immigration, public benefits, utilities and tax. It was founded as a nonprofit in 1905 and until 1966 operated primarily with volunteers. In 1966, staff attorneys were hired and today there are 53 attorneys, 40 staff members and more than 1800 volunteers that serve Cleveland's low-income individuals. Legal Aid's mission is to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and otherwise vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

Mr. Dawson attended Kenyon College where he received a degree in English in 1964. He earned his Juris Doctor in 1971 from Vanderbilt University. He bravely served with the United States Navy between 1964 and 1967. He began working at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in 1971 as a staff attorney in the Hough Neighborhood Office. Throughout the past 40 years Mr. Dawson has also served as an Attorney in Charge, the Civil Director, and today serves as the Deputy Director for the Main Office and Interim Managing Attorney for the Lorain County Office.

Because of his dedication to serving the people of Cleveland and vast expertise in poverty law, Mr. Dawson was honored by the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation in 2010.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. David Dawson as he retires after 40 years of dedicated service to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST
CHRISTOPHER KURTZ

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Army Specialist Christopher Kurtz of the 1st Platoon, Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division. This month marks the one year anniversary of an IED blast that nearly took his life and left him without his legs and took from him part of his hand.

As a Lieutenant Colonel in the Ohio Army National Guard, I have had the honor and privilege of witnessing firsthand the heroism, selflessness, and dedication of those who serve in our military. We enjoy unparalleled

freedom and opportunity in this country, because brave Americans like Christopher Kurtz have dedicated their entire lives to building and preserving the United States as the greatest nation on earth. I truly am grateful for this opportunity to pay tribute to Christopher Kurtz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In . . .

All In That Fight!

Are but all of those courageous brave hearts,
who must bring their light!

Whose most magnificent hearts, must somehow reach upward but to the greatest heights!

Who are all Airborne, with but their fine hearts so worn . . .

Who so courageously must ignite!

While, moving all out there into that darkness of war. . . .

Armed, but only with their most courageous of all lights to victory to insure!

To So Find That Courage . . . To So Find That Faith. . . .

All in how their fine hearts have so behaved. . . .

All with such Strength In Honor, so all in place. . . .

To so win that battle, to so win that fight!

As from out of such darkness, they so bring their light!

While, one and all are so willing to face!

That Face of Death!

And not so ask why, while there all of their fine hearts so crest!

Armed but with only your saw gun in hand,
as Chris you so heroically went out ahead. . . .

As was heard your most courageous battle cry, all in your stead!

As from out of such darkness as said!

As from out of all of your heartache, as your great heart so led. . . .

With such courage and faith, all in this your most amazing grace. . . .

Excepting this fight!

Because, from hearts of courage full like yours,

America's Sons over darkness have so shown their might!

Because with only such fine men as you Christopher, will we so win that fight!

As on that day, when you so walked through that valley death. . . .

Armed with but only your courage as so left,
as with your Brothers In Arms as you had all so pledged!

When, a bomb almost left you for dead!

While, lying there all between life and death!

As you had so died several times, as when you said the Lord came to you and so said!

So said, "don't give up, I have more work for you to do!"

As from that moment on, you began your new fight as onward you so moved!

So on that next morning as you so awoke, so close to death. . . .

As in that moment, your fine heart so spoke. . . .

So spoke to you about all what you had so left!

As into the future, with all of your courage our nation would so bless!

As you had lost your two strong legs, and part of your hand. . . .

But, somehow your great heart still found the strength to stand!

As we so watched you Chris, so watched you grow. . . .

As you so came back from the dead, and all of that pain and woe!

As what a fine work of art, your life to our world would show!

To So Teach Us All! To So Beseech Us All!

As it was you who so led!

To take us to higher places, with tears upon our faces. . . . with but your heart so pledged!

To places where only hearts of courage, have so sped!

For you will walk again my son, and you will so run!

As you rebuild your life, America's most brilliant of all sons!

For from what you've lost. . . . far much more you've gained!

But, with your iron will, the price you paid. . . .

With your beautiful children and wonderful wife!

Oh yes you are now so winning that fight!

For heroes like you are put upon this earth, to so teach us all what so comes first!

And if ever I have a son, I wish he could but be as brilliant as you this one!

Who All In The Fight, so did what must be done!

And led with his heart of honor, upon battlefields so on!

And came back home, through all of this pain and heartache. . . . as Thy Will Be Done!

Who has taught us even greater things, showing us all to what new heights hearts can run!

And one day for all of your sacrifice, you will shine. . . . all up in Heaven's sun!

For up in Heaven, you need not arms or legs!

And that's where Christopher you are going one day!

All for what you gave! And what you've done!

But your life here on earth, is not finished!

Is not so done, because our Lord has more work for you my son!

All In That Fight!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHOEBUS
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise, on behalf of Congressman ROB WITTMAN, Congressman SCOTT RIGELL, and myself, to call attention to a group of young students from Hampton, Virginia, who have, for the fourth year in a row, distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Phoebus High School Phantoms football team had a remarkable season. On December 10, Coach Stan Sexton and the Phantoms won their fourth consecutive Virginia state football championship, defeating South County High School of Lorton 20-10 at Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, Virginia.

After overcoming injuries to finish 8-2, Phoebus High entered the postseason tournament as the number three seed. Led by Coach Stan Sexton, after a series of close games, including a come from behind fourth quarter win in the regional semifinals, and a 27-26 win in the state semifinals, Phoebus High entered the state championship game.

To cap what Coach Sexton could only call "an unusual season," Phoebus High turned to their defense to bring home a championship. The Phantoms forced five turnovers over the course of the game on their way to a 20-10 win, and another state championship. The Phantom's excellence in football is characteristic of the quality of athletics on the