

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

Lower Peninsula area of Virginia. Phoebus High School's championship this year marked the 13th time in the last fifteen years that a Peninsula District team has won a state title in football.

Although very accomplished in football, Phoebus High's legacy of excellence is not limited to the field of athletics. Under the Direction of Principal Robert Johnson, the Phoebus faculty seeks to inspire all students to strive for excellence and achievement in the classroom, in their extracurricular activities and in their communities.

Phoebus has two innovative programs aimed at expanding the learning experience outside of the traditional classroom. One of them involves courses that prepare students for careers in technology. As host of the Hampton School Division's Information Design and Engineering Academy (IDEA), Phoebus offers magnet career classes in pre-engineering, design and information technology, and media technology and design. These courses provide the students a foundation to prepare for college classes and jobs in the technology sector. Phoebus is also home to the Blue Phantom Inn, a student-run restaurant that gives students an opportunity to develop their culinary arts skills. The restaurant program was nationally recognized in Southern Living magazine.

So we would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to Coach Stan Sexton, his coaching staff, the players on the Phoebus High School Phantoms and to all of Phoebus High School students, families, friends and fans, for their continued dedication to excellence in winning the Group AAA Division 5 Virginia High School League state football champions of 2011.

#### ENDING AMERICA'S WAR IN IRAQ

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, President Obama deserves tremendous credit for ending America's war in Iraq, honoring his commitment to bring all U.S. troops home by the end of 2011. As commander-in-chief he has always set the appropriate course of action in Iraq while always honoring the service and sacrifice of our troops and our military families.

The Iraq War has been a tragedy for far too many American and Iraqi families. The human costs of this war—in deaths, suffering, and permanent loss—cannot be calculated. U.S. troops served and fought with a profound sense of duty to our country. For this, all Americans should be grateful. The family members and loved ones of our brave troops also endured tremendous sacrifices that can never be repaid. Those selfless Americans who sacrificed their lives and bodies in service to our country, must always be remembered and Congress must always fulfill the promises it has made to our veterans and their families.

At home we cannot ignore the war's other costs. The Iraq War directly added \$800 billion to the nation's debt—a bill that will be paid by our children and grandchildren. Meeting the long-term health care needs of Iraq war veterans will require hundreds of billions more for

decades to come and that's an obligation Congress must never balk at paying.

Over the past nine years, my opposition to this war has been well known. Iraq was a war of political choice, not strategic necessity. While Iraq is no longer ruled by a dictator, the human price the Iraqi people paid in death, destruction, violence, and misery casts a very dark shadow over their country's future.

In the final analysis, America's war in Iraq was a strategic and human tragedy that must never be repeated. Now, as armchair generals in their disgraced neo-conservative pinstripes plot a new misadventure, this time with Iran, the American people must not be deceived, not be driven by fear, and not yield to another expensive and painful war of choice.

Mr. Speaker, I request the attached New York Times editorial regarding the end of America's war in Iraq entitled "A Formal End" be included.

[From the New York Times, Dec. 15, 2011]

#### A FORMAL END

It is a relief that the American role in the misguided Iraq war is finally over. It came to an official close on Thursday with an appropriately subdued ceremony in Baghdad. We mourn the nearly 4,500 American troops and tens of thousands of Iraqis who lost their lives.

After so much pain and sacrifice, Iraqis now have the responsibility for making their own better future. The fighting is not over, and success is still a long shot. The United States has a major role to play: encouraging, supporting and goading Iraq's leaders to make the long-delayed political compromises that are their only hope for building a stable democracy.

The fact that Saddam Hussein is gone is a genuine cause for celebration. But the list of errors and horrors in this war is inexcusably long, starting with a rush to invasion based on manipulated intelligence.

The Bush administration had no plan for governing the country once Saddam was deposed. The Iraqi economy still bears the scars from the first frenzied days of looting. The decision to disband the Sunni-dominated Iraqi Army helped unleash five years of sectarian strife that has not fully abated. Iraq's political system remains deeply riven by ethnic and religious differences.

America's reputation has yet to fully recover from the horrors of Abu Ghraib. The country is still paying a huge price for President George W. Bush's decision to short-change the war in Afghanistan. American policy makers, for generations to come, must study these mistakes carefully and ensure that they are not repeated.

As for Iraq today, the authoritarian tendencies of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki are deeply troubling. A member of the Shiite majority that was badly persecuted under Saddam, he has been far more interested in payback than inclusion.

Washington has pushed him over the years—but, often, not hard enough.

The Baghdad government promised jobs to 100,000 members of the Sunni Awakening movement—insurgents whose decision to switch sides helped end the civil war—but only half that have been hired. Parliament still needs to enact a law, called for in the Constitution, that would provide a legal basis for determining who should be prosecuted for supporting Saddam's Baath Party or other extremist ideologies. Iraq's leaders have many more issues to resolve. Incredibly, they have still not decided how to divide the country's oil wealth. There is no agreement on who will control the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, which is claimed by both

Baghdad and the semiautonomous Kurdish regional government.

Iraq's oil production still has not rebounded, and basic services like electricity are still woefully inadequate. Iraq needs an impartial justice system. Washington has pressed Baghdad for years to end corruption and build a representative government. It will need to keep pressing.

After investing billions of dollars, the United States has had more success rebuilding Iraq's security forces. But Iraqi and American commanders say these forces are not ready to fully protect the country against insurgents or potentially hostile neighbors. There are critical weaknesses in intelligence, air defenses, artillery and logistics.

The Obama administration was unable to reach a new defense agreement with Baghdad that would have allowed several thousand American troops to stay behind as backup. We hope that the Iraqi Army will do better than expected. The administration must be prepared to offer limited help if the army does get into serious trouble.

President Obama, who first ran for office campaigning against the war, has never wavered on his promise to bring the troops home. The last few thousand will be out of Iraq by year's end. We celebrate their return. But this country must never forget the intolerable costs of a war started on arrogance and lies.

#### RECOGNIZING CROSSROADS INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, BOSMA INDUSTRIES AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two organizations in Indianapolis, Crossroads Industrial Services and Bosma Enterprises. Both of these organizations are a part of the AbilityOne Program, which has helped more than 47,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment.

Together, these organizations employ 189 people in Indianapolis, jobs made possible by the AbilityOne Program. This critical program harnesses the purchasing power of the federal government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. It affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life.

This segment of the population has suffered from significant unemployment. Federal opportunities through the AbilityOne Program have played an important role in bringing people with disabilities into the workforce. For example, one of Bosma Enterprises' employees Kevin Mossberger exemplifies how training and the AbilityOne Program can make a real difference in the life of someone. Kevin, who is in his early twenties obtained a degree in Business Management, but because of a genetic eye disease called Retinitis Pigmentosa was unable to find work in his small, southern Indiana hometown.

His parents suggested he go to Bosma Enterprises' Rehabilitation Center to receive additional training to live independently and to