

Curt has served in a broad range of assignments during his 20 years of service as a citizen soldier. As a lieutenant, he served as a rifle platoon leader in the 100th Infantry Battalion during combat operations in Iraq. As a captain, he served as an operations officer in a combined joint special operations task force, commanded a basic combat training company, and served as platoon trainer at the basic officer leadership course, 11th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 2013, following assignments as a battalion operations officer and executive officer with 1st Brigade, 98th Division, Major Owens was selected as an Army Congressional Fellow and assigned as the Defense Fellow in my office. In this role, Curt served as policy advisor on all matters relating to defense and national security. He provided me with candid advice and became a trusted source of counsel and productivity to my office.

After this, he served as a legislative liaison in the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve. In this capacity, Curt represented the Chief of Army Reserve directly with the Senate and House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees to educate and inform Senators, Representatives, and staff on critical Army Reserve issues and programs.

Throughout his twenty year career, Major Curt Owens has made positive impacts on the careers and lives of his soldiers, peers, and superiors. I am grateful that he has chosen to continue to serve as an Army leader. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army congressional liaison.

Curt is accustomed to working long hours in his congressional relations work. So let me also acknowledge Curt's wife Allison, and their sons Grayson, Carter and Brady, thank them for their sacrifices and wish them all the best for continued success in the future.

THE HONORABLE CONGRESSMAN
KERRY BENTIVOLIO

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the 113th Congress comes to a close, I would like to recognize my good friend and colleague from Michigan's 11th District, Congressman KERRY BENTIVOLIO. We grew up in the same community and went to the same schools, only to meet years later in our nation's capital.

He is one of five sons of a factory worker who put himself through college, eventually earning a Master's Degree, worked as an automotive designer, home builder and an exceptional, highly qualified vocational and general education teacher in both private and public schools. Married for 37 years to his wife Karen he raised two wonderful children and has four grandchildren. He's an effective legislator, a staunch defender of conservative values, and he, and his team, have provided constituent services that would be considered beyond exceptional by even the tenacious critic.

KERRY's conservative colleagues aren't the only ones to recognize his work, many groups outside of the halls of Congress have taken notice.

The National Taxpayer's Union honored KERRY with the Taxpayers' Friend Award and NFIB named him a "Guardian of Small Business". He earned recognition from the National Association of Manufacturing for his support of that industry. The Family Research Council gave him one of their highest awards.

He received high ratings from Heritage Action for America, Club for Growth, and FreedomWorks for his voting record. The American Conservative Union named Mr. BENTIVOLIO a "top conservative" for his defense of our limited-government values. And, his voting record has been recognized as the #1 in Transparency according to GovTrack.us.

As a freshman legislator, a House historian pointed out Congressman BENTIVOLIO was one of the most successful and effective first-term legislators in recent memory. He passed two bills as amendments, and his Safe and Secure Federal Websites Act unanimously passed the House with 100% bipartisan support. The Safe and Secure Federal Websites Act had 126 cosponsors—which is more cosponsors than any other freshman Republican bill secured during the 113th Congress.

KERRY's successes didn't begin nor end in the marble halls of Congress. While legislators clamor for attention and dream of their next major network television appearance, Congressman BENTIVOLIO and his team were working hard on behalf of their constituents. He and his staff received two awards for their constituent service—one from National Write Your Congressman for their superior constituent service and the Public Service Award from NASASP.

He's the same man who volunteered as Santa Claus year after year, to the delight of neighborhood children. He's the same man—and only member of Congress—who served with honor in the combat arms in both Vietnam and Iraq and received 28 military awards, including the Combat Infantryman Badge which he proudly wore on his lapel every day as a member of Congress.

The upstanding Congressman from Michigan's 11th Congressional District may not be returning to the 114th Congress, but Congressman BENTIVOLIO's legacy will continue to shine long after his time here as he carries the torch for conservative values and maintains his community stewardship.

HONORING KALEB WADE BARBER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kaleb Wade Barber. Kaleb is 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 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kaleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kaleb has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kaleb has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Kaleb Wade Barber for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FA'AFETAI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, last October 2013, because of complications due to Agent Orange exposure during my service in Vietnam, I was airlifted from American Samoa to Hawaii where I was not expected to live. Thanks to the prayers offered and the assistance provided on my behalf at a time when I needed it most, I am here today. And so, for historical purposes, I rise to express my gratitude for all those involved in making my evacuation and recovery possible, and to say thank you to the people of American Samoa for giving me the opportunity to serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives from the time they first elected me in 1988 until 2014.

At about 2:30 p.m. Washington, DC time (7:30 a.m. in Pago Pago), on October 24, 2013, my staff in Washington, DC released an official statement informing the people of American Samoa that I had been hospitalized at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center (LBJ) on October 22, 2013. My Washington team learned of my hospitalization on October 23, 2013 through Fili Sagapolutele, a local reporter in American Samoa. Upon learning of my hospitalization, my staff in Washington, DC immediately sought a first-hand assessment of my condition and facilitated a conference call on October 23, 2013 between Dr. Rahim Remtulla of the Office of Attending Physician at the U.S. House of Representatives and medical officer (M.O.) Jerome Amoa who was supervising my care at LBJ. In American Samoa, medical officers are spoken of as doctors and, out of respect and appreciation for the care he provided me, I also use the local terminology when referring to Dr. Amoa, who recently passed away. Dr. Amoa was a true servant of our people and I am forever thankful for him. During his conference call with my staff, Dr. Amoa reported that LBJ did not have the equipment necessary to provide further evaluation of my condition and that a medical evacuation (medevac) was needed. He also reported that I was stable for travel and was not in a life-threatening situation. Because commercial flights from American Samoa only fly to and from Hawaii twice a week, Dr. Amoa stated that he had requested medevac services through the American Samoa Government (ASG) and the local Veterans Administration (VA) in the Territory but that no action had yet been taken due to some confusion about whether or not ASG should request the medevac or if the local VA should since I am a Vietnam veteran. Due to these delays, my Washington staff contacted General Robert Lee, former Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii, who contacted Major General Darryll Wong, the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii who oversees the Hawaii Air National Guard and who provides direct support to the Office of Veterans Affairs. Based on letters my office obtained from Dr. Amoa and the Office