

Benjamin S. Scott III
1049 Pitt Lane
Clarksville, TN 37043

Office of Senator Jeff Melcher
Attn: Ms. Cristina Fischer
State Capitol
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

Sir or Ma'am,

Second Lieutenant Justin Sisson served as Platoon Leader of 1st Platoon, Able Company, 1-506th Infantry Regiment (Red Currahee), at Chamkani, Paktia, Afghanistan, in May and June 2013. I am honored to have served as his Company Commander, and I thank you for the opportunity to write about his memory now.

My first interaction with Justin was in the Battalion Headquarters shortly after he was assigned to Red Currahee as one of a batch of newly arrived Second Lieutenants. Justin had already once deployed to Iraq as an enlisted Soldier and possessed both "Ranger" and "Sapper" qualifications. Justin immediately stood out as exceptional. Assigned the most challenging and important tasks by the Battalion Operations and Executive Officers, his work was always first-rate. Justin's attentiveness and thoughtful enthusiasm for the job were displayed whether in the office or on a live-fire range. On a platoon live-fire range shortly before deployment, Justin was confident and fully engaged as he observed each Platoon conducting battle-drills and maneuver with live ammunition. While he served as Range Safety Officer and we observed platoons, I asked him about the trends and performance between and across units. Justin provided thoughtful insights with clarity and significance well beyond expectations of a Lieutenant. Moments like these made Justin a first-pick for any Commander in need of a new Platoon Leader to lead troops into combat.

In April 2013, Justin deployed as part of the advanced element of the Battalion. Immediately integrated into the operations of the unit we were to relieve, Justin sent regular reports and updates on operations as the Battalion began movement to Afghanistan. Justin was already forward when the Platoon Leader position for 1st Platoon, Able Company, became vacant and needed a Lieutenant. When asked by the Battalion Commander my preference to fill the position, there was no doubt in my mind that Justin was the man for the job. I was elated when his assignment to Able Company was approved, and I knew that the men of his Platoon and the Company would benefit from his calm leadership and vast abilities. We exchanged e-mails in the beginning of May as I congratulated him on his selection for the job and he responded with his eagerness to get to work leading troops. Two weeks later, Justin stepped off the aircraft at Assistance Platform Chamkani and into his job as Platoon Leader. He was the perfect man for the job and quickly integrated into the Platoon. Well respected by his peers and subordinates, Justin took a great Platoon and made it exceptional in just a few weeks. On various missions, I was impressed by Justin's planning, rehearsals, and execution. Whether mounted or dismounted and in any terrain, his leadership exemplified what Soldiers deserve from junior officers. He instilled a winning spirit and a will to "get it done" in his Platoon. He and his Platoon were performing at the highest level and I had absolute confidence in him, his Platoon, and their ability together to complete any task.

On 3 June 2013, Justin was again doing all the right things. He planned and rehearsed his Platoon's mission to the Chamkani District Center for an engagement with the District Sub-Governor and Afghan National Security Forces leaders. He ensured his subordinate leaders

checked and double-checked their Soldiers and the equipment needed for the mission. Once on patrol, Justin coordinated the movements of his squads and supervised security at the District Center. As the meeting concluded, Justin got up and went to see to his men and prepare them for the movement back to our base. As we left the gate of the Chamkani District Center, Justin was in the center of his Platoon's movement. He ensured proper spacing and security were maintained and that his men were ready for contact with the enemy. It was as he led his platoon that a suicide-bomber detonated the motorcycle-borne improvised explosive device amongst the lead squad of 1st Platoon. One Soldier, SPC Allen Pierce, was killed instantly. Justin and six others were seriously wounded in the blast. Immediately after the blast, the Platoon Sergeant, SSG Jared Allen, sprung into action with the Squad Leaders, medics, and remainder of the Platoon. The most badly wounded were evacuated immediately as the other members of the Platoon, many with wounds themselves, fought on. Justin's wound took his life, but the lives and limbs of the other wounded were saved by his Platoon. 2LT Sisson's men maintained security, cared for and evacuated the wounded, and completed the mission on that day. It is directly because of Justin's planning and leadership that his men survived. The fighting spirit that Justin helped instill in 1st Platoon carried his men through that attack and the other hardships that lay ahead.

The naming of a portion of Highway 69 in Overland Park, Kansas, as the 2LT Justin Lee Sisson Memorial Highway is a meaningful honor to Justin's service and sacrifice. It is a reminder both to all who knew him in life and to those that did not know him who's Nation he selflessly served. Thank you for the opportunity to honor Justin's memory by providing my testimony, and thank you for your consideration of this worthy measure to honor Justin's memory and sacrifice.

Very respectfully,

Benjamin S. Scott III