

People

Ambassador Charles A. Ford visits back home

By William H. Wild

Charles A. (Chuck) Ford remembers that as a senior in Oakwood High School in 1968 he won a Dayton Council on World Affairs scholarship for a trip to Spain. He hardly realized it at the time, he says, but it was the beginning of more than 30 years in international diplomacy

and commerce. Now he's close to retirement from public service and expects to return to the private sector.

He was back in Oakwood recently to see family and friends before heading back to Washington and final weeks of service with the Commerce and the State Departments. His mother, Mrs. Wanda Ford, well known for

her service with the Oakwood Board of Education, is in ill health and at Bethany Lutheran Village.

He was U.S. ambassador to Honduras 2005 to 2008 as that country began to suffer from regional political instability and a president seeking greater power on the model of Venezuela's Caesar Chavez.

Asked about the Honduran situation, Ambassador Ford explained that he's not free to comment on U.S. policy while still in government service. He said it is important to know, however, that Honduras is one of the most pro-American countries in Latin America.

"I went out to speak in many

cities and towns and was always received warmly," he said in a brief interview while visiting at the home of Tom Norwalk. "Honduras is a very poor country, but its democratic institutions helped the economy and fostered an emerging middle class." Ambassador Ford is proud to have

See **Home** on page 3

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