

flight instructor. This tour saw him serve as the Assistant Operations Officer and Operations Officer of Helicopter Training Squadron 18.

In October 2001, Major Thompson was accepted into the Strike Transition Program. He reported to Naval Air Station Meridian, Mississippi for jet training, then to Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia for F-18 replacement pilot training. In March 2004, he joined the "Checkerboards" of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina, where he served as the S-4 Officer, Director of Safety and Standardization, and Executive Officer. Following this tour he reported to Marine Aircraft Group 42 in Atlanta, Georgia in October 2006 to serve as the group's Operations Officer.

In June 2008, Major Thompson became the Air Operations Officer for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in Okinawa, Japan. In this role, he directed all flight operations both ashore and aboard three air-capable ships for three squadrons. In July 2009, he reported to Training Wing Six in Pensacola, Florida to serve as the Standardization and Training Officer. He also served as the Integrated Project Team Lead for the Undergraduate Military Flight Officer Program.

Major Thompson accumulated more than 3,800 flight hours during his career. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He has been married for 17 years to Monica Miller Thompson, with whom he has a 5-year-old son, William Joseph Thompson.

As a skilled naval aviator and leader of Marines, Major Thompson embodies the American virtues of service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to congratulate Major Thompson on his retirement. My wife Vicki and I wish him and his family all the best for continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE CECIL C.
HUMPHREYS MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the mock trial team from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis for winning the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition that took place March 9th–13th, 2011 in Houston, Texas. The team consisted of LaChina Algers, Angela Harris, Chandra Madison, Joseph McKinney, and their coaches Melanie Stovall Murry and Bridgett Stigger.

The National Black Law Students Association founded this national competition in 2002 to encourage future lawyers to further develop their proficiency in the courtroom. Hundreds of competitors compete regionally each year in the hopes of earning national recognition for their trial advocacy skills.

This year, through their hard work and commitment to their professional development, the team from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law took home the national title, defeating delegations from Harvard, DePaul, St. Mary's

and Texas Wesleyan along the way. Their victory is a testament to the outstanding students that graduate each year from the University of Memphis to become successful professionals in cities all over the nation and the world.

Since it was founded in 1962, the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law has graduated over 4,500 students. Just this year, law graduates from the University of Memphis posted a 100 percent first-time passage rate on the Tennessee Bar Exam. As an alumnus of the School of Law at Memphis, I could not be prouder of the entire student body for their achievements and of the exceptional faculty dedicated to their success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial National Champions from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. I commend these students for dedicating many hours of study towards this competition. Their time spent in preparation in addition to their already rigorous professional law program is evident and represents the city of Memphis and the University of Memphis well.

A TRIBUTE TO MARVIN J. WALTER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Marvin J. Walter of Ames, Iowa who passed away this past Wednesday after an eight year struggle with multiple myeloma.

Marvin was born on August 22, 1940 and raised on a farm near Watkins, Iowa. After his high school graduation Marvin went on to receive two degrees in Animal Science from Iowa State University. Shortly after receiving his second degree from ISU, Marv married his wife Janice in September of 1964. Since his days as a commodity broker on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Marv maintained both a state and national profile by involving himself in several organizations that are related to the livestock and meat industry.

At the local level, Marv served his community as Chairman of the Board of Ames National Corporation as well as serving on the First National Bank and Mary Greeley Medical Center boards for many years. Marv was also a proud Rotary member and president. In college, Marv was a proud member of Alpha Gamma Rho and the identity and friendships he established in his fraternity would last a lifetime. He would go on to be inducted to the National Alpha Gamma Rho Hall of Fame.

While his contributions to his city and state have resulted in awards for his distinguished service, Marv would be the first to tell you that his family is what he is proud of most. Marv is survived by two daughters, three grandsons, two step-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Marvin Walter lived his life like a true Iowan by placing service and family above all else. It was truly an honor to count him as my friend and the friendship and counsel he has provided me over the years will be deeply missed. I offer his family my sincerest sympathies and best wishes in this difficult time. Thank you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM
J. GIANNONE OF MOUNTAINSIDE,
NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to announce the passing of William J. "B.J." Giannone III of Mountainside, New Jersey. B.J. was only 18 when he died suddenly following an athletic competition.

B.J. should be remembered for his outstanding academic achievements at Saint Peter's Preparatory High School in Jersey City. He was a commentator for the school football games, a co-founder of the Society of Comedic Appreciation and a member of the baseball and swimming teams. He was also active in Campus Ministry, the Yearbook Committee and Marauder's Nation.

With a love for community service, B.J. volunteered his time through his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America and Our Lady of Lourdes Church Youth Organization. And he left behind a strong and growing talent for songwriting.

A cherished son of Maureen and William Giannone and a beloved friend to many, B.J. Giannone will be missed.

I extend to the Giannone family my deepest sympathies and condolences.

HONORING THE STOWE CENTER OF
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT ON
THE OCCASION OF THE 200TH
BIRTHDAY OF AUTHOR AND ABO-
LITIONIST HARRIET BEECHER
STOWE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, June 14th of the year two-thousand and eleven will mark the two-hundredth birthday of author and impassioned abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Stowe, a teacher hailing from Litchfield, Connecticut, became a central figure during the fight to end slavery in America after writing her seminal work, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which was completed in 1852.

The book's heart wrenching depiction of life for African-Americans held in bondage captivated a nation and inspired the public will to end the reprehensible institution of slavery. This treasure of American literature based on factual events helped change the course of our Nation's history by exposing the horror of slavery to the larger population and became a corner-stone of the abolitionist movement and a "clarion call" for freedom.

Today, the legacy of Harriet Beecher Stowe is carried on by the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut. There, the Stowe Center carries on her passion and uses her story to inspire future generations to pick up the torch of social justice and carry forth the movement towards equal opportunity and justice for all.

I want to acknowledge and congratulate the wonderful staff from the Harriet Beecher