

Inspired by the memory of his father, Jock developed his oratorical and academic gifts. He graduated with honors from Tuskegee University and then matriculated to the University of Notre Dame School of Law on an academic scholarship. As a first year law student, Jock founded the Black American Law Students' Association (BALSA) chapter at Notre Dame. Jock went on to earn his law degree from Notre Dame in 1973.

Jock Smith began his career as a legal advisor for the NAACP in Broome County, New York and was a Professor of Afro American Studies at New York State University. He then served as an assistant attorney general for the state of Alabama and served as a political science professor at Tuskegee University. Later, he opened his own law office in Tuskegee and thereafter became a city municipal judge in Camp Hill, Alabama. Jock Smith then went on to serve as County Attorney for Macon County, Alabama, a position he held for 15 years.

In 1996, Attorney Jock Smith co-founded a partnership with the late renowned attorney Johnnie Cochran and attorneys Keith Givens and Samuel Cherry. The law firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens and Smith has 22 offices across this country and continues to be one of the most well-known criminal defense and civil plaintiff law firms in this nation.

Attorney Jock Smith's remarkable legal career was filled with record-setting verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients, including a landmark \$1.6 billion verdict against Southwestern Life insurance, which was the largest in America in 2004. According to the National Journal and Lawyers Weekly, the verdict remains the largest civil verdict obtained by an African American lawyer in the nation's history. He also successfully won landmark cases against Orkin Pest Control, Monsanto and others. He represented the legacy estates of both Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr. and he represented the Negro League Players, and civil rights leader Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth.

Attorney Smith also had a passion for sports memorabilia. Jock Smith has the distinction of owning one of the nation's largest collections of game-worn, sports memorabilia. He used his national sports collection as an instrumental tool to motivate teens and young adults to overcome challenges.

During his illustrious legal career, Attorney Smith's hard work and leadership was acknowledged by numerous awards. He was recognized by the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association for his tireless dedication and unwavering commitments. He received the inaugural Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. Journey to Justice Award in 2005 at the National Bar Association Convention. And most recently, he was honored in the inaugural edition of Who's Who in Black Alabama and named a member of the Board of Trustees at Tuskegee University in 2011.

As an author, Jock Smith shared his amazing life journey in an autobiography entitled "Climbing Jacob's Ladder: A Trial Lawyer's Journey on Behalf of 'the Least of These'."

Media personality and author Tavis Smiley provided an insightful view of Jock's writing debut that accurately surmises his life's journey:

"Jock Smith's story is part history lesson and part sermon and one hundred percent fascinating. He and lawyers like his partner Johnnie Cochran are modern-day knights,

using their skills to protect both the poor and defenseless. On a personal level, Climbing Jacob's Ladder shows how faith and hard work can bring great success."

Jock Smith was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated and he was the first African American to serve on the board for the President's Advisory Council of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Attorney Smith also served as a member of the National Finance Committee and served on the President's Advisory Council for the Democratic National Convention (DNC).

Jock Smith is survived by his wife of 45 years, Yvette Smiley-Smith and his daughter, Janay Marriel Smith.

Our nation is eternally grateful for Attorney Jock Smith's contributions to the legal community and to this nation. His commitment to advocacy to fight for the rights of the disenfranchised is a great example for us all to follow. He left an indelible mark in Alabama and across this nation and his legacy will be remembered for generations to come.

On a personal note, I was so honored to know Attorney Jock Smith. I admired his great oratorical skill and legal brilliance. I was inspired by his tenacious spirit and passion for service to others. I know that he forged the path upon which I now walk, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Jock Smith lived out the meaning of his favorite quote: "Service is the price we pay for the space that we occupy."

It is with tremendous pride and a great privilege to honor on this day, February 2, 2012, the life and contributions of Attorney Jock Michael Smith with this tribute on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. On behalf of the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Attorney Jock Smith by paying our fair share for the space that we occupy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR: TET, 2012—YEAR OF THE DRAGON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Vietnamese New Year: Tet, 2012—Year of the Dragon. As the Vietnamese community in Greater Cleveland gathers to celebrate, I join them in honoring their rich history and culture.

Tet is the time of the year to pay homage to ancestors, reconnect with friends and family and celebrate every hope and possibility rising with the new year. This year's gathering will once again honor community volunteers and leaders, showcasing many Vietnamese cultural treasures including Vietnamese culinary cuisine, music and dance.

This year also marks thirty-seven years of service to the community by the Vietnamese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc. This organization has been an invaluable resource for hundreds of Clevelanders of Vietnamese descent, linking them to needed resources and preserving the rich heritage of the Vietnamese people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Le Nguyen, President of the Viet-

namese Community in Greater Cleveland, Inc., and every member, past and present, for their dedication to Vietnamese-Americans of Northeast Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebration of the Vietnamese New Year: Tet, 2012—Year of the Dragon. May every American of Vietnamese heritage hold their cultural legacy forever in their hearts, and find peace and happiness within every new day of the rising new year.

A TRIBUTE TO JACK O'DONNELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of West Des Moines Police Chief Jack O'Donnell, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment in his years of service in law enforcement.

Mr. O'Donnell's entire life has been one of service. During the Vietnam War, Jack served our country in the Army before returning home in 1969 to begin his law enforcement career. For the last 43 years, Jack has contributed his time and his talents to the betterment of communities both in Iowa and neighboring Nebraska.

For the last 13 years, Mr. O'Donnell has served West Des Moines honorably as Chief of Police. Under his leadership, the West Des Moines Police Department transitioned from a reactive department to a proactive one. Jack made it a point to get to know his residents and despite a boom in population over his tenure, West Des Moines crime rates have remained low under his watch.

Throughout his illustrious and lengthy career, Jack has never wavered in his commitment to justice and security. Mr. O'Donnell is a testament to the high quality character instilled in Iowans, and the city of West Des Moines owes him a great debt of gratitude for his service. While Jack's leadership will be missed, he leaves behind a more secure community that will continue to benefit from his service for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent the people of West Des Moines in the United States Congress, and I wish Jack and his wife Marilyn a long, happy and healthy retirement. Thank you.

A TRIBUTE TO MARVIN NEALS, CELEBRATED COACH, MENTOR, AND EDUCATION ADVOCATE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 3, 2012

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable coach, principal, and mentor to the young men and women in Missouri, Mr. Marvin Neals.

Marvin Neals has thirty years of coaching experience. In 1974 Marvin Neals started his epic career at Soldan High School, in St. Louis, Missouri, where he won a Class 4A state title. After 16 years, Marvin Neals left coaching to pursue a career in education administration. The Hall of Fame coach could not