

John Tanner to address top students

Former Congressman John Tanner will be the guest speaker at Union City High School's annual Top 10 Banquet.

Tanner is a 1962 graduate of UCHS and of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he claimed both his undergraduate and law degrees.



He presently serves as vice chairman of Prime Policy Group and joined Butler Snow Law Firm, headquartered in Jackson, Miss.

The banquet, which honors the 10 students with the highest academic standing in each class at UCHS, will take place Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the UCHS commons area.

Those who will be honored include the following members of the Class of 2013: Savannah Blackwell, Abram Carroll, Tara Elam, Aubree Guess, Sadie Hollis, Drake Parker, Garrett Ransom, Grant Ransom, Victoria Reedy and Chloe Smithson.

Members of the Class of 2014: Rachel Fowler, Brianna Hammond, Jonathan Hurtado, Halle Kennedy, Molly Maclin, Brittany Parker, Cody Robertson, Marley Speed, Jason Stone and Julian Viall.

Members of the Class of 2015: Thomas Beard, Grace Ann Calfee, Hunter Corley, Mary Lawrence Critchlow, Maddie Dotson, Maddie King, Garrow Miles, Davis Odle, Mary Ali Oliver and Holly Seng.

Members of the Class of 2016: Caroline Chism, Brantley Clendenin, Millie Critchlow, Jon Fuzzell, Kizer Harris, Emily Kizer, Kelsey Parker, Alexandra Parks, Bayleigh Powers and Jasmine Youngblood.

UCHS principal Wes Kennedy will welcome guests and Miss Reedy will offer the invocation. Director of Schools Gary L. Houston will introduce special guests and the speaker for the evening.

Making presentations to the classes will be Joanna Wisener for freshmen, Jacob (See Page 10, Col. 1)

Cross for sophomores, Kennedy for juniors and Houston for seniors. Vicki Wilkinson will make a special presentation and Kennedy will close the evening's activities.

Sponsors of the annual event, who will be recognized at the banquet Monday night, include Commercial Bank and Trust, First Citizens National Bank, First State Bank, Reelfoot Bank, Russell and Donna Caldwell, Mike and Cathy Cox, Mrs. Mike Dickerson, Mrs. John W. Drerup, Janice Sloan Faulk, Gary and Marsha Houston, Bob and Beverly Hunt, David and Teresa Johnson, Wesley and Teka Kennedy, Robert E. and Jenny D. Kirkland Foundation, Bill and Carol Latimer, Leaders Credit Union, Lowe's, MVP Brands, Ted and Brenda Perry, Burnie and Suzanne Powers, Reynolds Brothers Oil Co., Terry Petty Chevrolet, Tyson Foods Inc., Union City Insurance Agency Inc., Warner Law Firm, PLC and Fred and Vicki Wilkinson.

Tanner, who maintains homes in both Union City and Washington, D.C., with his wife, Betty Ann, retired from Congress in 2010 after 22 years spent repre-

senting Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District in the nation's capital.

He had previously been elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives and served in Nashville for 12 years.

While in Congress, Tanner served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, where he chaired both the Social Security and the Trade subcommittees. He also served on the House Armed Services and House Science Committees and as Chief Deputy Whip for the Democratic Congress in the 109th, 110th and 111th Congresses.

A leader and cofounder of the Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, he was known and respected for his advocacy of a fiscally conservative agenda, specifically directed at balancing the budget and decreasing the nation's debt burden.

He chaired the U.S. House delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the alliance's legislative branch, for several years and in November 2008, was elected by legislators from all NATO member nations to serve as president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly for two years.

He is a U.S. Navy veteran, having served in the JAG Corps from 1968-72 and having earned the rank of colonel before retiring from the Tennessee Army National Guard, where he was active from 1974-2000.

He has also been on the board of visitors for the U.S. Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy and the U.S. Military Academy.

Since retiring from public service, he has joined the boards of the Atlantic Council, the Center for Strategic and International



Studies, Center Forward, the Concord Coalition, the Institute for Representative Government and the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

He is also chairman of the International Conservation Caucus Foundation and is a Union City Rotary Club member and a Paul Harris Fellow.

The Tanners are the parents of two children and the grandparents of four, all of whom reside in Tennessee.