



hilltopper

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

INAGURAL HALL OF FAME ISSUE

May/June 2010

2010 Alumni Banquet

Saturday, June 19, 2010 at the Thompson
Speedway Restaurant

Reservations can be made by contacting Eileen Deary at TMHSAA@Charter.net or by calling Eileen at 860-928-2154. Cost is \$25.00 for members and their guest, \$35.00 for non-members and includes the social hour. Seating is limited - FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE! **Please note:** This year, our function will be ticketless. We will have a list of attendees, and you will give your name upon arrival.

Banquet Day Program:

- 2:00 - 4:30** 1st Annual Athletic Hall of Fame presentation and school tour at the Thompson Public PS auditorium. Open to everyone!
- 5:00 - 6:30** Social hour – Thompson Speedway – Reservations needed!
- 6:30 - 7:30** Dinner – Thompson Speedway
- 7:30 - 11:00** Dancing – Thompson Speedway

Welcome New Members!

Maurice Negip '44 - Maureen (Mulligan) Degen '68 -Henry Almquist '55 - Frank Greene '55 - Van Thomas '55 - Mary (Dumas) Fazio '60 - Rudolph Almquist '52 - Nancy (Greene) Bugbee '57 - Kathryn (Naum) Peters '52. - Henrietta (Groh) Panu '61 - Charles Panu '61

First Athletic Hall of Fame Class to be Inducted

**AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED JUNE 19, 2010
at 2:00 P.M. TPS Auditorium**

After many months of planning and research the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association has announced the school's first inductees into the newly formed Tourtellotte Memorial High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

The TMHS Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes the school's exceptional athletes, teams, and coaches who have distinguished themselves to be among the very best in Tourtellotte athletics.

Deb Spinelli, Tourtellotte Athletic Director and Hall of Fame committee member, reported the TMHS Hall of Fame will be inducting ten members this year and will then induct future members in batches of three to five. "This is long overdue and we are so glad we were able to finally put a process together that will recognize these athletes." She continued, "The number



Above: The 1927 State Championship basketball team, coached by John Dexter Coombs. Mr. Coombs' son, Alan will be accepting the HOF award on behalf of his father and the 1927 team. Members included George St. Marie (Captain), Shava Condos, James Canty, Daniel Chubbuck, Edward Vito, Earl Bousquet, Romeo Poulin, John Sherry, James Mangan, Manager: Leroy Johnson. The team was part of a 45-0 undefeated run finishing their season 24-0.

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Membership Drive – Seeking Friends Making Connections

Membership and renewal applications can be found in the December 2009 edition of the Hilltopper. Remember dues are due!! \$15.00 for regular membership - \$5.00 for senior citizens.

Lions Club Presentation

Members of the TMHSAA presented Mrs. Tourtellotte's Centennial Letter (actually written by the TMHSAA) and slide show to the Thompson Lions Club recently. On May 20, 2010, after a short dinner in the high school cafeteria, approximately 60 Lions and their guests moved to the Ryscavage auditorium to listen to the historic presentation. The presentation was topped off by a visit to the Tourtellotte Memorial Room where the guests were able to see the newly painted museum and hear a short presentation on the art, the restoration project, and history of the room.

Jim Naum, TMHSAA member and Thompson Lion gave the group a short tour of the new schools which included a visit to "Harmony," the beautiful bronze ballerina sculptured and donated to the school district by long-time Thompson art teacher, Guy Daigle. Mr. Daigle then showed the Lions his new project, a life-sized bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln.

"This is something we should do every year," stated Rachael Johnston, TMHSAA executive member. Thompson Lion, Rene Morin, agreed. "It's great for an organization like ours to get a better understanding of our history and the wonderful gifts we have here right in our own community."



If you are interested in taking in a race or playing golf contact Thompson International Speedway / Raceway Golf Course at: 860-923-9591 or visit at: 205 East Thompson Road, Thompson, CT 06277

NOTICE TO ALL CLASS PRESIDENTS!! Have Your Class Reunions at the Alumni Banquet

If your class is planning a reunion this year or you want to set aside a special section during the Alumni Banquet to meet old friends - contact the TMHSAA at TMHSAA@charter.net.

A major benefit of the TMHS Alumni Banquet is it allows all classes an easy method in which to meet and gather without all the required work while supporting the Alumni Association.

Make those phone calls and help us make this year's event as successful as last year!

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of gifted athletes Tourtellotte has produced over the years is truly amazing when considering the school's small size. Many of our athletes went on to great college and professional careers."

According to the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, TMHS has amassed 14 state championships in 22 showings, leading all area schools. Many of its players have been selected to all-state teams to include the entire starting lineup of the 1927 boys' basketball team, a first in State history.

Hall of Fame committee member Jim Sali stated, "It was such a pleasure growing up and watching many of these athletes play. When I was a kid Tourtellotte always had great basketball and baseball teams." Another committee member and 2010 inductee, Jim Naum added, "It was fantastic playing basketball and baseball with some of these great players. It's an honor to be considered part of this group."

The 2010 list of inductees include the 1927 boys' basketball team. Coached by John Dexter Coombs, the 1927 team went 24-0 to earn the school's first state championship title. The team was also part of a 45-0 winning streak that was not surpassed until 1951.

Jim Canty, class of 1929, received the most votes for an individual athlete. Arguably one of Tourtellotte's finest athletes and coaches, Canty is the first Tiger to have state championships both as a player and a coach. He was among the first Connecticut high school coaches to hit the prestigious 500-win mark in basketball and is still listed among the top all-time winning coaches.

As an athlete, Canty might be best known for his exceptional talent in covering the outfield grass. He still holds a Holy Cross College (Worcester, MA) consecutive-hitting record which has stood for more than 60 years. Canty was part of six state championships while at Tourtellotte and is a member of the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

Also making the 2010 list was the 1949-50-51 boys' basketball team. This powerhouse went 46 straight finishing their three-year northeast Connecticut domination with a remarkable 72-5 record. They are one of only four Class "S" teams to ever earn back-to-back-to-back state championships in boys' basketball.

Another 2010 Hall of Fame addition is long-time coach Jim Naum '50. Naum was part of the 1949-51 basketball squads and the second player/coach besides Canty to earn a state championship. After a brilliant high school baseball, basketball, and cross-country career, Naum went on to play college basketball at Eastern Connecticut State University. He returned to Tourtellotte as a coach in 1977 and led the Tigers to a 1987 state championship.

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George Dargati, class of 1950, played baseball, basketball and track while at Tourtellotte and was the first Tiger to break the 1,000 point mark in basketball placing him among the top TMHS all-time scorers. Dargati later went on to play basketball at Eastern Connecticut State University where he is still ranked 11th in all-time scoring. He, like his mentor Canty, is a member of the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

As Tourtellotte's all-time leading basketball scorer with nearly 2,000 points, Ted Vriga '54 was an easy pick for 2010 HOF class. Vriga's abilities on the basketball court were only surpassed by his abilities on the baseball diamond. After leaving TMHS in 1954, Vriga was drafted by the Boston Red Sox and went on to play professional baseball. After his playing days, Vriga continued with athletics coaching boys' basketball at St. Mary's High School located in Worcester, Massachusetts and became an NCAA women's basketball official.

Also making the list is Jerome Ryscavage '55. Ryscavage played basketball, baseball and cross country all four years while at Tourtellotte. He captained his basketball and baseball teams his senior year and was a member of the 1,000-point club. He went on to play baseball and basketball for UCONN and baseball and basketball at Central Connecticut State University where he earned CCSU's Gladstone Award for Academics and Athletics.

Another inductee, Brian Murphy '75, was an all-state baseball player while at Tourtellotte. He distinguished himself as being one of the best pitchers ever at Eastern Connecticut State University and is ranked number eight on that school's all-time win list. Murphy is a member of the ECSU Hall of Fame and was drafted by the New York Yankees in 1979.

Also making the list is long-time professional baseball coach Alan Labeouf '79. One of Tourtellotte's greatest baseball players, Leboeuf attended ECSU in 1979 and 1980 and was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1981. This started a 31-year professional baseball career that continues to this day.

The youngest member to make the list is Eva Houle '87. Houle distinguished herself in basketball and softball while at Tourtellotte Memorial. She is a 1986 QVC All-Tournament Basketball Award winner, a member of The Time's 1986 All-Star Soccer Team, and a member of the All-ECONN 1986 Soccer Team. She played college softball at Becker College where she earned the 1989 National Junior College Athletic Association All-New England Award.

The induction ceremony is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., June 19, 2010, at the new Thompson Public Schools' Auditorium located at Tourtellotte Memorial High School in North Grosvenordale, Connecticut.

Any questions can be directed to the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association at: TMHSAA@charter.net.

Edward A. Negip '59 (1940 - 2010)

BY: Joe Lindley

It is with great sadness that I write this particular article. Recently, TMHSAA and the Class of '59 lost one of its own. Ed Negip, the husband of Beverly (Valade) Negip '59, lost a gallant battle and passed away on May 8, 2010. Ed leaves his son, David Negip '85 and his wife Kate of Fort Myers, Fla.; his son-in-law, Charles LeVine Jr. of Pomfret Center; brother, Maurice Negip of Webster, MA; three sisters, Helen Fontaine of Southbridge, MA, Stasia Buczynski of Eagle River, AK, and Virginia Lavallee of Charlton. He also leaves four grandchildren, Charles, Nathan, Katherine and Madeline whom he enjoyed greatly. He was the father of the late Judith (Negip) LeVine (1969 – 2006) and the brother of the late Emile Negip, Theresa Leboeuf, Doris Augustynski and Richard Negip.

Ed was born in North Grosvenordale in 1940 and grew up in Greek Village, North Grosvenordale, CT. He participated in golf, baseball and basketball while at TMHS. He was the son of the late Alush and Stella (Lenky) Negip.

Ed was a retired insurance businessman and former part-owner of the Negip-Naum Insurance Agency.

I lived next door to Ed and Bev, and later his daughter Judy and her family, for more than 20 years. During this time I would like to think the Negips and my family became more than just neighbors. Dinners on the back deck, Judy and Chuck's children having the run of our house, usually helping themselves to a bowl of Cocoa Puffs or enjoying our pool, all led to a relationship that my wife and I will cherish forever.

Ed was an avid golfer and was often found on the links at Pleasant Valley Country Club, Raceway Golf Course and Quinatisett Country Club. Ed gave me the best piece of golf advice I ever received; "If you par every hole... no one can beat you."

I vividly remember Ed in his back yard with his son David, and later my son, Jonathan, teaching them the finer points of the game. My son eventually became a golf enthusiast and David a golf professional. I am certain Ed had something to do with both.

On Saturday and Sunday afternoons Ed was often found on his tractor, cigar in hand, mowing and caring for his property on Hill Road. Maybe the fine condition of his property had something to do with my wife and me eventually buying the property next door.

Based on the stories I heard exchanged at Ed's post-funeral gathering, I found my family and me were among many whose lives were touched by Ed and his family. He will be dearly missed.

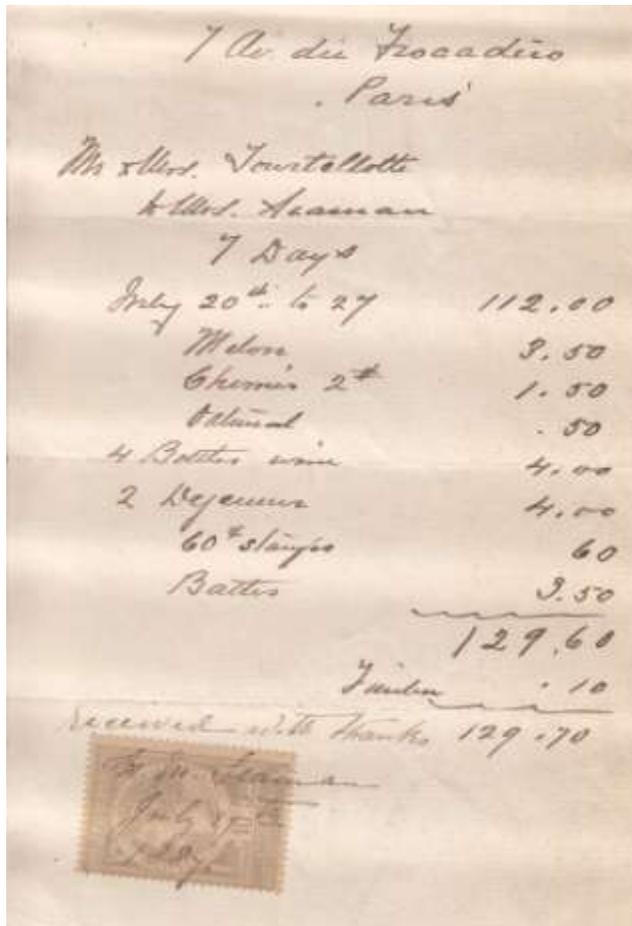
It doesn't take much imagination for those who knew Ed to see him on the big golf course in the sky teaching St. Peter the details of the game; "Pete, right hand over the top and take the club straight back..." Hit 'em straight Ed!

Historic Tourtellotte Hotel Invoice Found

While reviewing one of Mrs. Tourtellotte's scrapbooks stored in the archive room recently, one of our members found a July 20 to 27, 1884 hotel invoice. The statement is apparently from a hotel located at #7 Avenue Du Trocadero, Paris, France.

The date places the Tourtellotte's in Paris four months and six days after the passing of their second daughter Hattie. It has been long suspected that the Tourtellotte's took this trip after the passing of their second daughter in an effort to help deal with their loss. What was unknown to us, up to this point, was the specific dates this trip occurred.

One of our many open projects is electronically saving the remainder of the scrapbooks before the newspaper articles deteriorate. Anyone interested in helping with this project, please contact Joe Lindley at joelindley119@hotmail.com.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Due January 1st of each year
 Regular Membership..... \$15.00
 Senior Citizens (65 and older)..... \$5.00
 Graduating Class..... Free

hilltopper Staff

Editor: Kris Blanchard '87
 Staff Members: Gladys Tucker '52' - Jane Ellison '61' - Eileen Deary '77' - Rachael Johnston '75' - Alex Kirkland '08' - Lis Burton

Archives: Gladys Tucker '52' and Rita Rohr

If you would like to contribute short stories to the hilltopper please contact Kris Blanchard at kris87slick@gmail.com

We're Invited to the 2010 Graduation!!

June 21, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

The Tourtellotte Memorial High School has graciously invited all TMHS Alumni Association members to its 100th commencement ceremony to be held June 21, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the TMHS girls' softball field.

Come and support the newest TMHSAA members and those members receiving their honorary diplomas.



Above: A copy of the 2010 graduation invitation. This class marks the 100th graduating class from Tourtellotte Memorial High School. Copies of the invitation are available through the TMHSAA by contacting us at TMHSAA@Charter.net.

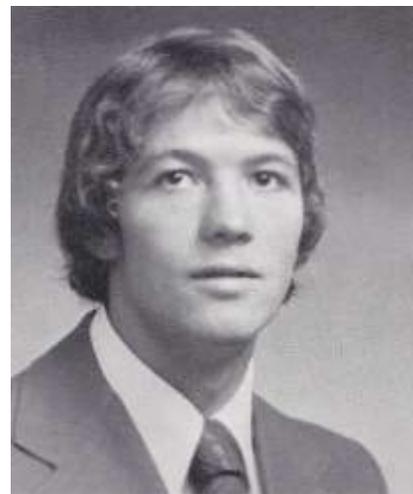
Have Articles or Stories??

Submit them to:
TMHSAA@Charter.net
 Or mail them to:
 TMHS Alumni Association
 PO Box 437, No. Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Don't forget the Alumni Banquet! Mark your calendar!

Tickets this year are either purchased online at TMHSAA@Charter.net or by calling Eileen at 860-928-2154.
 Cost is \$25.00 for members and their guest, \$35.00 for non-members.

2010 Hall of Fame



Above: The TMHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2010. Left to right, top row: Eva Houle '87, Al Leboeuf '79, Brian Murphy '75. Middle row: Ted Vriga '54, George Dargati '50, Jim Naum '50. Bottom row: 1950 boys' state championship team, also in this photo is Jim Canty '29, and Jerv Rvscavace '55. The 1927 boys' state championship basketball team is found on page 1.

Correction Policy

We try our best to get all our information correct. But if we get something wrong please contact us at TMHSAA@Charter.net.

In our March/April Hilltopper, page 7, we listed Carole (Boutillette) Kolakowski '49 as Judy (Benjamin) Kolakowski '49. Sorry Carole! And welcome aboard.

PHOTOS FROM THE PAST



Above: Mr. Canty playing for the Southbridge Merchants circa 1941. This photo was taken after Mr. Canty finished his professional baseball days. Photo compliments of George Dargati '50. If you have old photos of anything TMHS, please send them to TMHSAA@Charter.net

Who's Coming to The Alumni Banquet So Far???

Ada (Grenier) Temple '46	Kathleen LaMarre
Jerry Ryscavage '55	Lisa (LaMarre) Corrette '88
Mary Ryscavage	Theresa (Choinere) Walsh '87
Tasi Vriga '51	Madeleine (Dubeau) Witkowski '55
Ted Vriga '54	Ray Witkowski '54
Teresa Muraco '40	Gloria (Nizamoff) Giavara '53
Shirley Houle	Nick Giavara
Tim Fatsi '83	Carolyn (Heimall) Otto '68
Michelle Fatsi	Joseph Sich '83
Eva Houle '87	Marianne Vanghel
Jack Maloney	Maurice Negip '44
Rachael (LeFleur) Johnston '75	Mark Negip
Shawn Johnston	Beverly (Valade) Negip '59
Jessie (Eddy) Hughes '45	Karen Robbins '71
Trudy Murphy	Thomas Angelo '86
Arthur Murphey	Geoff Bolte '01
Tracy Johnson	Carolyn Molinaro '65
Brian Murphy '75	Zach Dauphinais
Bernard Mulligan '58	Luva (Mead) Hoar '38
Roberta Mulligan	Doris (Mead) Courtemanche '47
Stan Hosmer '87	Henrietta (Groh) Panu '61
Kristine (Pederson) Blanchette '87	Charles Panu '61
Jim Blanchette '85	

Who's coming continued....

Joyce (Johnson) Paine '49	Frances C. Gesualdi '49
Donald Furlong '56	Barry F. Kitka '68
Jean (French) Kestigian '49	Maureen (Mulligan) Degen '68
Michael Kestigian	Christopher Degen
Alice (Green) Smith '49	Hope Sali '61
Gladys (Krigsman) Tucker '52	Heather (Sali) O'Rourke '84
Priscilla (Gibson) Perkinson '48	Eleanor (Joslin) Wentworth '49
Karen (Langevin) Carlson '65	Ronald Wentworth
Eileen (Boutin) Deary '77	Joe Lindley '74
Judy (Benjamin) Kolakowski '49	Sue Lindley
Jim Sali '51	Dan Almquist '48
Jeanne Sali	Rudy Almquist '52
Nancy Sali '85	Paul Deary '77
Mildred (Hrabus) Litke '51	Carole (Boutillette) Kolakowski '49
Joyce (Barbor) Mezzoni '68	John R. Papierski '50
Kathryn (Naum) Peters '52	Irene (Weatherbee) Papierski '50
Louise (Naum) Guillot '61	Conrad Senecal '65
Larry Guillot	Dolores Senecal
David Johnson '57	Connie (Stoll) Crameri '84
Clarence Ballard '42	Kelly (Guzman) LaRochelle '84
Georgia Ballard	Art Vogel '49
David Ormsby '59	Edna Vogel
Patricia (Morway) Ormsby '59	Hank Almquist '55
William Nizamoff '57	Frank Greene '55
Mary Mulkern	Nancy (Greene) Bugbee '57
Gloria (Jolicoeur) Harvey '65	Henry Bugbee
Donna (Lindley) Brown '82	Van Thomas '55
Karen Lindley '80	Rose Thomas
Sarah White '72	Clara (Modliszewski) Pitkin '50
Rene Blanchette '47	Edward Pitken
Pauline (Lavigne) LaFromboise '40	Paul Karapanos '56
Suzanne (LaFramboise) Kline '72	Joan (Litchfield) Quinn '55
Cheryl (Rawson) Foshay '68	Mary (Dumas) Fazio '60
Janet Woodward '68	David Fazio
David E. Rawson '45	Jim Naum '50
Barbara (Johnson) Rawson '45	Anna naum
Mercedes Robbins	Emile Breault '55
Norma (Robbins) O'Leary '51	Barbara (Webster) Munger '60
Jane Ellison '61	Rodnet Munger
Corey Groh '08	Trudy (Govina) Heckendorf '59
June (Zmitrukiewicz) Duclos '72	Barbara (Knox) Pickett '59
John Zmitrukiewicz '68	Patricia Boutin '80
Eleanor (Zmitrukiewicz) Stewart '51	David Babbitt '57
Rita (Groh) Rohr '56	Margaret Babbitt
Charlie Seney '39	Lawrence Bellrose '56
Robert Mason '83	Arlene Nellrose
Gary Roy '84	Tom Morway '61
Paul Brinkley '87	Darleen Morway
Donna Rawson '65	Carol (Robbins) Smith '60
Phil Leveille '56	Robert Smith '59
Sue Leveille	Kitty (Shooter) Koss '65
Shirley (Prince) Houghton '54	Joseph Salkiewicz '84
Patricia (LaChapelle) Hollifield '53	Dawna Salkiewicz
Aileen Witkowski	

Honorary Graduates Announced

By: Staff Writer

Maurice Negip '44 and William Mayo '36 will be awarded honorary TMHS diplomas at graduation ceremonies being held at 6:00 p.m. on June 21, 2010, at the Tourtellotte Memorial High School.

In their monthly meeting held in May, 2010, the Thompson Board of Education voted unanimously to award diplomas to Bill and Maurice with all the rights and privileges worthy of such an honor.

"We could not think of two more deserving individuals," said Donna Lynch, Board of Education chair. "We have done this in the past, but not very often."

Maurice was drafted into the U.S. Army in March of 1943 while a student at TMHS. After the war he was unable to finish his high school education. Bill left school as a young man to help support his large family; he also later served in the U.S. Army during WWII serving some of his time with General George Patton

All alumni are invited to attend the graduation ceremony which is expected to be held at the TMHS girls' softball field at 6:00 p.m.

Come to the graduation and support Bill and Maurice!

TMHSAA Gives Civil War Class

What's the connection between the Civil War, Tourtellotte Memorial, and Thompson? Give up?

Recently, the TMHSAA presented approximately 20 TMHS high-school students a Civil War class with a Thompson and TMHS twist.

Thompson, at one point in the mid 1800's, was the ninth largest city in Connecticut with much of its population supporting the town's large, cotton-dependent textile industry. The mills, and town, were greatly affected by the interrupted supply of cotton from the southern states during the Civil War and many adjustments had to be made, not only to keep the businesses going, but to also support the northern troops.

The students learned of Dr. Tourtellotte's participation in the war as a ship's surgeon and found that his brother, John E. Tourtellotte, had left his own, more significant mark, on the war having worked his way through the ranks starting as a private and finishing his war-time duty as a general. During the war General Tourtellotte was best known as a well-respected aide to General Tecumseh Sherman. He accompanied Sherman on his infamous March to the Sea and is credited with writing much of Sherman's biography.

He later re-joined the Army, at the request of General Sherman, and served in the 7th Cavalry under General George Armstrong Custer. Custer is best known for his unfortunate last stand at Little Big Horn, Montana.

Gen. Tourtellotte went on to become a prominent architect and is widely known for his work in the west, especially the Idaho State Capitol and the Boise City National Bank.

Among his many decorations while serving in the U.S. Army is the prestigious Purple Heart.

General Tourtellotte is buried at Arlington National Cemetery



Above: Destruction in the South during Sherman's March. Sherman believed in the "Total War" concept. Photo compliments of George Barnard. Lower-left: General John E. Tourtellotte compliments of TMHSAA. Lower-right: General George Armstrong Custer at his height as a soldier and commander. Photo compliments of Google.



Above: General John E. Tourtellotte's grave marker located at Site 14-1, Arlington National Cemetery. Gen Tourtellotte died on July 22, 1891 in LaCrosse Wisconsin. His marker reads "As a soldier and citizen, his record is stainless." Photo compliments of Arlington National Cemetery Website.

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Office
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