

first-rate mediator gave rise to his selection to serve our country regardless of the political party at the helm.

He was the U.S. Secretary of Transportation for President George W. Bush and U.S. Secretary of Commerce for President Clinton.

Despite being forced to leave his home and relocate to the Hear Mountain internment camp during World War II (a sad example of civil rights injustice), Secretary Mineta's love of country never faltered.

He fought for our freedom in the U.S. Army, and later was elected mayor of San Jose, California.

He continued his public service as U.S. Representative to the 15th district of California where he founded and chaired the bicameral and bipartisan Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

Secretary Mineta dedicated his life to our country and we are a better Nation because of his work and legacy.

Secretary Mineta is the fitting recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, in 2006, and the Grand Cordon, Order of the Rising Sun from the Japanese Government, which was the highest honor bestowed upon an individual of Japanese descent outside of Japan.

Secretary Mineta, we thank you for your service to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res 1377 in recognition of his lifetime of service to our Nation.

#### HONORING BYRON LEYDECKER

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 17, 2010*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON today to recognize the great accomplishments of our friend Byron Leydecker, who recently announced that he will conclude operation of Friends of the Trinity River, the organization he founded eighteen years ago and has led ever since.

The Trinity River flows through mountains in coastal northern California and is the largest tributary of the Klamath River. These rivers supported huge bountiful populations of both Chinook and Coho salmon, steelhead and other fish that sustained native Americans for millennia and visitors from other continents for the past two centuries. The impacts of ill-advised and poorly managed development had devastated both the Trinity and the Klamath. Thanks in large part to Byron, the Trinity is on its way to recovery.

He pushed the Department of the Interior to develop and then implement the historic 2000 Trinity Record of Decision, he has worked tirelessly ever since to ensure that the Trinity restoration program goes forward as intended, and he has pushed the agencies to follow the science.

Byron has led an active and vigorous organization over the years, devoting his time, energy, and financial resources to make a real difference in the direction of the Trinity River restoration program, which is today one of the leading efforts of its kind.

Byron and FOTR have worked with the usual alphabet soup of government agencies,

as well as tribes, fishermen, and water and power interests, to develop and implement the restoration plan. Byron has always been consistent and persistent, cooperative when possible and tough when needed.

Thanks to Byron and the work of FOTR, the Trinity River is now in better shape than at any time since the 1960s—we have seen increased flows, a healthier fishery, and a stronger scientific foundation for its management.

While there will always be snags and eddies in these undertakings, the successful restoration of the Trinity River will serve as a national model of a restored river below a federal dam. The Trinity River could have no better friend than Byron Leydecker. We are grateful to Byron for his leadership, and thank him for all his work on behalf of healthy rivers and sustainable fisheries.

#### TRIBUTE TO FORT DALE ACADEMY'S CHAMPIONSHIP EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 17, 2010*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor my alma mater, Greenville's Fort Dale Academy, for its outstanding achievement in capturing the Alabama Independent School Association's Class AAA title.

On November 19, the Fort Dale Academy Eagles soared to victory over their rival, the Monroe Academy Volunteers, winning the state championship by a 49 to 21 margin.

Both teams were outstanding this year, and while I represent Monroe Academy in Congress, I hope they will allow me to express my pride for this unique achievement by my alma mater.

I wish to congratulate the Eagles' head coach James "Speed" Sampley, assistant coaches Daniel Autrey, Josh Beverly, Clint Lowery, Jason Taylor, Jimmy Gardner, Jimmy Phelps, Bert Rice, and Will McInvale; and, the Eagles varsity players, Taylor Windham, Matthew Bender, Eli Blackmon, Ryan Salter, Andrew Callen, Stephen Till, Stewart Matthews, Hunter Armstrong, Ryan Taylor, Dylan Jones, Patrick Russell, Chip Taylor, Mason Stinson, Dow Gardner, Ethan Gregory, Luke Hamm, Zane Speir, Taylor Loftin, Perry Singleton, Jacob Phillips, Miller Owens, Brandon Matthews, Manny Norrell, Sawyer Reeves, Chase Whiddon, Loreda Russell, Caleb Luckie, Tripp Neilson, Patten Thompson, Charlie Scofield, Alex Bloodworth, Taylor Hartley, Cade Tillery, Brady Clark, Larry Harold, Tyler Jones, Ethan Edgar, Davis Crocker, Bud Thagard, Chase Smith, Chance Williams, Alex Medley, Jonathan Scott, and Will Davis.

Congratulations on an excellent season and for bringing Fort Dale Academy its first state crown.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 17, 2010*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, due to recent major surgery, I have been unable to

travel to Washington, DC and would like the record to reflect my stated positions on three major votes that I missed due to my recovery from surgery.

Rollcall vote 625 of December 8, 2010 on HR 5281 that contained the DREAM Act, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 638 of December 15, 2010 on the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote 647 of December 17, 2010 on the Tax Compromise, I would have voted "nay."

I look forward to returning to Washington, DC next month when cleared to travel by my doctor.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 17, 2010*

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 642, to suspend the rules and pass S. 3447 the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### TAX RELIEF, UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 16, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for airport improvement program, and for other purposes:

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4853, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010.

It is fundamentally wrong to hold for ransom unemployment benefits to the most vulnerable individuals among us for tax cuts to billions. That's what happened here: 99.7 percent of us will not be affected by the estate tax, yet a \$23 billion bribe to just 6,600 families across the entire country was needed to get those unemployment benefits in the bill. And, we then add the entire cost of the bill, all \$860 billion, straight to the deficit.

Surely, there are worthwhile provisions in this bill. However, these worthwhile provisions should not be held ransom for tax cuts to the richest taxpayers—\$60 billion in tax cuts for them—some \$24 billion more than the struggling middle class who've been the hardest hit by the economic downturn. I fully support extending such low and middle-class tax relief such as the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, the dependent care credit, the earned income tax credit, the student loan interest deduction, and Alternative Minimum Tax relief, among others. But don't tell me I have to vote