

woman. Darlene has always been involved in the community and her dedication to make Monterey County a better place will surely continue, even after she retires. For all that she has done and all that she will undoubtedly do, I extend my most sincere thanks and warmest wishes to our friend and professional colleague, Ms. Darlene Dunham.

**TRIBUTE TO SPANISH FORT HIGH
SCHOOL'S TOROS—ALABAMA'S 5A
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS**

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the great accomplishment of a talented group of young men who worked together to propel the Spanish Fort, Alabama, Toros to the pinnacle of the State Class 5A championship.

On December 2, the Spanish Fort Toros varsity football team ended a historic season by defeating Briarwood Christian 14 to 0 to win the Alabama Class 5A title. This victory represents the first time the Spanish Fort Toros have captured a State football championship during their brief four years of fielding a team.

I would like to congratulate coaches Bryant Vincent, Tommy Walker, Chase Smith, George Brown, Richard Kelly, Duane Davis, Wayne Davis, Earnest Hill, Justin Moore, Michael Beasley, Rob Milam, and the entire Toros team: Connor Mitchell, Otis Smith, Christopher Beasley, Billy Harris, Blake Dees, Joel Poe, Ameriol Finley, Barkley Sims, Garrett Horst, Davares Ambrose, Shane English, Jonathon Cook, Demarco Montgomery, Matthew Harris, Conner McGavin, Troy Brown, Daniel Pond, Michael Tynes, Matt Hall, Devontae Patrick, Brett Lesinger, Kylan Cotton, Hunter Glass, Jarred Hodges, Brendan McCants, Dillen Malone, Alex Thomas, James Rocket, David Sullivan, Cory McCarron, Cameron Bosarge, Keland Dotch, Marcus Walton, Alec Morgan, Jake Clemmenson, Blain Crain, Jack Wilson, Bobby Creighton, Brandon Sledge, Tyler Bexley, Brannan Crosby, Aaron Caldwell, Conner Gates, Jake Brackhan, Byron Stringer, Russell Whisnant, Tanner McNair, Grant Horst, Will Martin, Chase Holliman, Patrick Connick, Zac Fowler, Reed Pennington, Grey Curtis, Victor Dunning, Chris Morehouse, Zack Burnett, Cameron Gates, Patrick Williamson, Cade Burgin, Osmond Curtis, Walker Betts, Reese Dismukes, Chandler Wilson, Kaleb Hall, Hampton Cline, David Bertagnoli, Kevin Townsend, Timothy Pharez, Grant Curreton, Jared Burtrico, Adam Adcock, John Jagae and Brandon Hayliger.

Congratulations Toros.

**HONORING MARY ELLEN
BRANDELL**

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Ellen Brandell, who lost her coura-

geous battle with leukemia on September 24, 2010.

I first got to know Mary Ellen when she was working at Central Michigan University, and I was just beginning my political career. She gave this young candidate a lesson in Mt. Pleasant and Isabella County politics and the confidence to ultimately win a congressional campaign.

Her kindness has stayed with me throughout these years, as I have grown closer to the Brandell family.

In fact, her son Jim is my Chief of Staff. Now a decade into service for this institution, Jim carries with him the sensibilities instilled by Mary Ellen: Family, faith, and true citizenship.

For far too many people, these are mere words, but for Mary Ellen, these were the pillars on which she built and lived her life. And they served her well. She was a constant presence in the Mt. Pleasant community. From continuing her work with the ever-growing Central Michigan University, to her extensive list of charities including most recently with the Isabella County Sesquicentennial Committee, Woodland Hospice, Access to Recreation, and the Rotary Club. In fact, her efforts were so well recognized that she was named Mt. Pleasant Citizen of the Year.

She was also a world traveler, taking yearly trips with Jim to see new corners of our planet. She valued the time she spent with her family, but also used these opportunities to meet distant relatives and make new friends. She was even utilized in her role as a community leader of Mt. Pleasant to reach out to sister cities.

Even with these public and global accomplishments, I know that Mary Ellen's proudest accomplishment was her family, which includes seven children and fifteen grandchildren. She has given them the love and nurturing they needed to grown and excel in their careers and she led by example, by returning to school and getting her master's, specialist and doctoral degrees, after her seventh child was born. And she put her family first, selflessly caring for her husband Dick at home for many years as his health declined prior to his death in 2004.

Mary Ellen was a remarkable woman, and one that cannot be replaced. She will be remembered for all of the lives that she had touched. I will be forever grateful for her kindness and generosity.

TRIBUTE TO PAT HEDGES

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community leader, Pat Hedges, on his retirement after 33 years of service with the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department, most currently as Sheriff-Coroner.

Sheriff Hedges grew up in San Luis Obispo County, graduating from Morro Bay High School in 1970, earning an associate degree from Cuesta College and later a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from California State University, Sacramento. After receiving his degree from Cuesta College, Sher-

iff Hedges went on to join the United States Coast Guard in 1971, went through boot camp in Alameda, California, and served in the Coast Guard until his retirement in 1997. He went to work for Pacific Engineering in 1973 and then Thrifty Drug in 1974. In 1977, he began his career with the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Hedges was elected Sheriff of San Luis Obispo County in 1998, and served 3 consecutive terms. As Sheriff, he was responsible for law enforcement for an area in excess of 3,200 square miles, oversaw 400 employees, and oversaw a county jail that currently houses more than 500 inmates. Sheriff Hedges instituted many improvements and was instrumental in forging the modern Sheriff's Department. Among many things, Sheriff Hedges helped facilitate opening the new North Patrol Station in Templeton and a DNA laboratory for the department. He improved the efficiency of law enforcement in San Luis Obispo County by creating an Independent Sheriff's Narcotics Unit, forming the Rural Crime Task Force, and implementing school resource officers. Sheriff Hedges also was a founding member of the Anti-Gang Coordinating Council and established the Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Unit.

Sheriff Hedges currently serves on the Board of Governors for the San Luis Obispo County Narcotics Task Force and has previously served in many community organizations including the North County Women's Shelter and the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center Board, San Luis Obispo Mental Health Board, California State and San Luis Obispo County Cattlemen's Associations, and the Anti-Gang Coordinating Commission. Sheriff Hedges is a member of the Los Angeles Joint Terrorism Task Force Executive Board.

Dedicated to serving his community in a variety of ways, Sheriff Hedges' leadership at the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department will be deeply missed. I've known Pat for years and value his friendship and support, and while he may no longer be Sheriff, Pat will continue to be a leader in our community. I plan to continue to call on him for advice and counsel, and a good dose of his dry wit.

In this new chapter of his life, I'm sure Pat is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Sandy, and children. I commend his service to the County of San Luis Obispo, and I hope that Sheriff Hedges enjoys the next stage of his life.

**HONORING NORMAN YOSHIO
MINETA**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for one minute. I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1377, a resolution honoring the accomplishments of Norman Yoshio Mineta.

There are not too many public servants that are requested to serve as a cabinet member by a President of a different political party.

Norman Yoshio Mineta's good nature, astute knowledge and seamless ability to be a

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, Lored 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