

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 McInville; 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

for giving tax cuts to billionaires for two years when we can't even give our seniors on Social Security \$250 for one.

Speaking of Social Security, this bill represents the single greatest threat to the program since President Bush wanted to privatize it. This bill requires a \$111 billion infusion from general funds into the Social Security Trust Fund to make up the difference for cutting two percent from the employee payroll tax. Next year, if the economy hasn't recovered sufficiently, Congress will not have the stomach to let the tax holiday expire—no Member of Congress will want to "raise" payroll taxes by two percent. Any future extension of this tax holiday necessarily means that Social Security will compete with other federal programs, such as veterans, medical research, and defense, for its funding. This dangerous precedent means that Social Security's dedicated funding, payroll taxes, is under attack. This opens the door to means testing and benefit cuts for beneficiaries. Make no mistake, Social Security's opponents will be enticed to move in for the kill by moving to privatize the program.

I don't oppose extending the middle-class tax cuts for 98 percent or 99 percent of taxpayers. In fact, before this compromise was struck, I supported raising the threshold from \$250,000 to something more reasonable, such as \$400,000, because where my constituents live there is a much higher cost of living than in other parts of the country. However, to hold extending those middle-class tax cuts hostage to pass a bill that will cost more than TARP, more than the stimulus, and add \$860 billion to the national debt, is not acceptable.

Mr. Chair, it's hard to climb the ladder of prosperity if the middle rungs are missing. This bill does nothing to restore those middle rungs; instead, by giving the most to those who need it the least, it perpetuates the failed thinking that somehow the rest of us will benefit. I for one won't pay this ransom—my vote—for a few crumbs when we should be getting what's fair for our constituents. I will vote no on the underlying bill and I ask my colleagues to do so as well.

TRIBUTE TO THE DAPHNE HIGH SCHOOL TROJANS—ALABAMA'S 6A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding achievement of the Daphne High School Trojan varsity football team in capturing the Alabama Class 6A title.

On December 3, the unbeaten Trojans held tough, despite a determined Hoover High School that was knocking on the one yard line, to cinch a 7 to 6 victory at the State Class 6A championship game. It was truly a classic in Alabama high school athletics.

I would like to congratulate the Trojan coaching squad, Glenn Vickery, Brian Campbell, Milton Sutton, Mike Vickery, Lawrence Yelding, Bart Sessions, Mike Barnard, Benny Houston, and Nathan McNair as well as the entire Trojan varsity team, including, Israel Lamprakes, Leo Battiste, Kyndal Minnefield, T.J. Yeldon, Torren McGaster, Tyrell Hollaway, Ryan Anderson, Justin Jackson, Chris

Hill, T.J. Fleeton, Chris Sain, Cartels Young, Horace Johnson, Russ Mosely, Douglas Perdue, Adam Lofton, Brandon Roberts, Trey Jenkins, Zack Morgan, Markell Jones, Jonathan McGaster, Robert Nettles, Jr., Rodrick Tate, Michael Pierce, Jalan Coleman, Trey Rembert, Josh Johnson, Zach Houston, Preston Conley, Trey Thomas, Bennett Barr, Patrick Wilson, Clark Newsome, Daniel Coole, Jeremy Freeman, Zach Sanchez, Malik Pruitt, Dominic Edney, Zack Taylor, Caleb McMillan, Cain Knox, Kevin Wilson, Pierce Parker, Josh Kirchharr, Willie White, Trent Johns, Greg Jenkins, Nic Morgan, Andy Headley, Ben Lewis, Ashton Mcquiter, T.J. Jackson, Carlos Barrera, Jordan Davis, Colton Byrd, Jonathan Perry, Anthony Rudolph, Lucas Carson, Cameron Lemcool, Hunter Broadus, Elliot Williams, Kevin Caldwell, Matthew Mabry, Jeremy Sparks, Ronnie Williams, Monya Brown, Robert Alexander, Jonathan Parslow, Jacob Olmsted, Ryan Olson, Dalis Houston, Clay Myers, Blake Douglas, Adam Daniel, Serge Kolotov, David Phillips, Alex Jackson, James Reynier, Eric Lee, David Carroll, Ryan Pugh, and Duquan Able.

Congratulations, gentlemen on a truly amazing season and Alabama Class 6A victory.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF KENT SYLER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Kent Syler for his contributions to the Sixth Congressional District of Tennessee. As any member of Congress knows, our legislative achievements and successful constituent services programs would not be possible without a cadre of great staff working behind the scenes. Throughout my time in Congress, I have been fortunate to have many bright, able staff members with an interest in serving their country by working in this body. Today, I'd like to single out someone who has accomplished an amazing feat that deserves recognition, applause, and perhaps, a test of his sanity; incredibly, Kent Syler has been a part of my staff for all of my 26 years in Congress.

Kent and I both attended Middle Tennessee State University, where we both served as student body president. Kent then came to work for the Tennessee State Democratic Party, where I served as chairman. As my district Chief of Staff, he has managed an outstanding staff in Tennessee, represented me at events when Congress' voting schedule has prevented me from being home, and provided me with advice and counsel on some of the toughest challenges facing our nation.

So many of my legislative accomplishments would never have been possible without Kent's invaluable contributions and hard work. In the early 1990s, Kent traveled with me to Romania to visit orphanages and talk with Romanian policymakers about the country's adoption policies. His hard work helped lead to the easing of Romania's cumbersome adoption restrictions, allowing hundreds of Romanian children to find loving homes in the United States. Kent also inspired the first regulations on the 1-800 and 1-900 number in-

dustry, prompted by a late night TV session when he was on bottle-feeding duty with his then-baby daughter Liala. The Telephone Disclosure and Dispute Resolution Act is now law, and Liala is now a student at MTSU.

Kent and I have done our best to stay true to our principles over the years, and we have never lost faith in MTSU's Blue Raiders. Kent has always had his finger on the pulse of the community, a valuable attribute that has made him a trusted advisor.

Kent is an institution in Rutherford County, which has seen enormous development and nearly tripled in population since he and I first began working together three decades ago. Together, we have worked to improve the quality of life in our community through the expansion to Stones River National Battlefield, the development of the Greenway system and improvements to MTSU.

Kent is one of three men who have stood by me from the very beginning, through victories and disasters—through hell and, literally, high water in the aftermath of tornadoes and severe flooding. Along with Jimmy Stubblefield and Billy G. Smith, Kent has been there every step of the way.

Kent has dedicated his entire adult life to me and to our community. I can't ask for much more than that. He was best man at my wedding. He met his wife Lynell while working for me, and I've watched their daughters Liala and Emily grow up to be bright, accomplished young women.

Madam Speaker, any success I've had is Kent's success. He is a dedicated public servant, a respected leader in his community and a trusted friend. Kent, thank you for all your help and dedication over these many years. I wish you, Lynell, Liala and Emily all the best.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 17, 2010

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

Ladies and gentlemen, thanks for coming to the oldest post of the Marine Corps, the Marine Barracks of Washington, D.C. A little history on this hall—it is now called the Crawford Hall, named after that great band director that you see on the wall over there. But this was the original stomping grounds of John Philip Sousa.

And this was where John Philip Sousa, who was raised in Washington, D.C. a block-and-a-half from the Marine Barracks of Washington, wrote his many, many military marches. So this is sacred ground for the Marine Corps . . . the grounds were actually discovered by the then-Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Burrows, and the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson.

It's good to have you here. We're honored to have many distinguished guests with us today.

First, the chairman's lovely wife, Patty. Patty, thank you for braving the rainstorm. I was watching the weather—being a good pilot, I pay very close attention to the weather—and I managed to pick the one day that there was supposed to be heavy rain and a flood in Washington, so I'm glad you're here. And for everybody else that managed to get it out, thank you for being here.