

Norman Y. Mineta

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Norman Y. Mineta has been engaged by American Airlines as an advisor/counselor on global aviation matters, particularly those involving Japan and the effort to gain a U.S.-Japan Open Skies agreement.

Sec. Mineta is a native of San Jose, California, whose father was born in Japan and immigrated to the United States. A former U.S. Army officer who served in Korea and Japan, Mineta was a successful businessman who served in various positions in municipal government in San Jose before being elected Mayor in 1971. Sec. Mineta is the first American of Asian Pacific ancestry to serve as mayor of a major American city.

In 1974, Sec. Mineta became a member of the U.S. House of Representatives where he rose through the leadership ranks to become Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee from 1981-1988 and Chairman of the Public Works and Transportation Committee from 1992-1995. After serving 10 terms spanning 20 years in the House, Sec. Mineta returned to the private sector as Vice President of Lockheed Martin. In July 2000, Mineta became Secretary of Commerce to President Bill Clinton. He is the first Asian-Pacific American to serve in a President's Cabinet.

Sec. Mineta joined the administration of President George W. Bush on January 25, 2001, as the 14th Secretary of Transportation and served for six years, making him the longest-serving Transportation Secretary in the Department's history. The Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport is named for him.

Sec. Mineta currently is vice chairman of Hill & Knowlton in Washington, DC.