Gaston's unique history, but it won the award because it has some great plans to fight illiteracy, enhance the arts, and provide a safe environment for our kids.

The West Gastonia Boys and Girls Club has created a great mentoring program. College students mentor high school students who then mentor younger kids.

To help the arts, St. Stephen's AME Zion Church has teamed up with the United Arts Council to move into a Historic Baptist church. The church hosts shows and—on Sundays—St. Stephen's holds services.

And, Gastonia has done great things to fight illiteracy. No one demonstrates the impact of the Gaston Literacy Council better than Gary Avery, who says: "Now I can read the Bible at church, I can read with my children and I can even write my wife a love letter."

There is no doubt that Gastonia is a city of hard workers. Now Gastonia has proven to the country that no problem is too big, as long as we work together.

I commend Mayor Jennie Stutz for her pledge to create "City Pride." As the All-American City logo is placed around town, everyone will know: Gastonia can be proud of its past, but its greatest days are ahead.

HONORING REVEREND RUTH SMITH OF ADDISON, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
F riday, June 9, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known, that it is with great respect for the outstanding contribution of love, caring and message, that members of Congress join in honoring the Reverend Ruth Smith. Ruth Smith have served for twenty years as an active minister and approaching twenty years as a retired minister of the East Liberty Church Universalist-Unitarian.

Reverend Ruth Smith and Donald Smith have been community leaders. In addition to their church, they have made significant contributions to education through their involvement with the East Liberty Church Universalist-Unitarian.

Reverend Ruth Smith has dedicated her success and caring in helping others along their life's journeys. Ruth Smith's leadership in improving the church in such ways as renovation, being a catalyst for harmony, and developing successful church groups such as the Kupplies Klub and an active youth group is recognized.

Therefore, we are proud to join with her many admirers in extending highest praise and congratulations to Ruth Smith for her dedication and devotion to her family, her community and her forty years of association with the Universalist-Unitarian Church of East Liberty. This honor is also a testament to the family members, friends, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable woman, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support for H.R. 4444, a bill to extend normal trade relations to the People's Republic of China. As you know, the congressional district I represent is located in North-west Iowa. It is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the country and I am very proud of the fact that we export out products all around the world.

We are in the process of debating probably the most important issue facing this Congress this session. This is a debate that challenges us to engage the international marketplace, or to hide behind our borders.

I believe that trade is an integral part of our foreign policy. The more our two nations interact in the marketplace, the greater potential there is for our two peoples to communicate on other issues that will foster democracy and promote values that honor and respect the basic freedoms that we take for granted here in the United States.

In addition, China's $1.2 billion people represent a huge market for American agriculture and manufactured goods and services. Already, China is the sixth-largest market in the world for American agricultural products. The USDA projects that China will account for over one-third of the growth in U.S. agricultural exports over the next decade.

It is my opinion, and those of many of my constituents, that Iowa is better off with a Chinese market economy that plays by WTO rules and is subject to a binding WTO dispute settlement process.

We need to work with the Chinese to end export subsidies and quotas that harm Iowa farmers and those throughout the country. Under the WTO agreement, China will lower its tariffs on beef, and pork by 2004. Furthermore, these tariff reductions will enable Iowa's corn growers and over 18,000 hog producers greater access to this important market.

In the end, this debate is not about how much product we sell to China. It is about how we interact with the global community and how we shape the future. Trade will not doubt help both our great countries prosper, but in the end it will have a much more profound effect by forging a relationship that will ensure cooperation and open up Chinese society to new ideas. That is an investment worth making.