

For all of his business and civic good works, I think it is especially appropriate to honor John Ong by affixing his name to a library. Libraries preserve the past, the record of our Nation, the fundamentals of our culture and our society. Libraries enable us to share ideas over time and distance with great minds from the past and the present.

Most important, libraries are concrete manifestations of a commitment to our fellow citizens, to learn from the past and to look to the future. We cannot know where we are going as individuals, communities, or as a nation, if we do not first know where we have been.

Libraries today face growing challenges as they continue their honored role as guardians of free speech and inquiry, and as providers of information. The new John Ong Library at Western Reserve Academy answers that challenge—built with an appreciation of the past, but incorporating the digital technology that is daily challenging and changing how we gather and manage information.

No name could be more appropriate for such a library than that of John Ong.

Mr. Speaker, John's own words drawn from a commencement address he delivered at the Ohio State University a few years ago serve well on an occasion like this. Towards the end of his speech, he echoed the timeless words of an earlier age: "My message is . . . ask not what your rights and freedoms are in society, ask rather what duties and obligations you have toward society. Focus not on your rights but on your responsibilities. As graduates of a great university you will have plenty of opportunities for rewarding and fulfilling careers. As you pursue those careers, however, please keep in mind the larger social context in which you will be operating."

Mr. Speaker, John Ong not only spoke those words, he has lived them. His leadership has extended across the nation, but his legacy endures at home. I am proud to call him a friend, and I can think of no more fitting tribute to him than a library, dedicated to learning, dedicated to the community, and grounded in the past but dedicated to the future.

GASTONIA, AN ALL AMERICAN CITY

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Gastonia, North Carolina for being named one of 10 All American Cities.

Gastonia has a 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

Friday, 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 with her many friends and family 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.

Ruth and Donald Smith have been community leaders. In addition to their church, they have made significant contributions to education through their involvement with Addison Public Schools. Ruth and Donald have contributed time and effort to improve their community, their state, and their country. They have raised four wonderful children and have seven grandchildren.

Reverend Ruth Smith's knowledge, experience and dedication to the church as well as her understanding of humanism and its abiding worth has helped and guided many.

This tribute is made to Ruth for demonstrating 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 Kupples 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.

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

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 Northwest Iowa. It is one of the most productive agriculture areas in the country and I am very proud of the fact that we export our 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 no 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.

TRIBUTE TO LEON BRACHMAN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Leon Brachman, one of Fort