

spelling contest as well as competing on her high school debate team. Her studies were always very important to her and this earned her the honor of valedictorian at her high school graduation.

It was not her achievements in her younger years that Ruth will be remembered for, rather it was her work for the communities of Gypsum and Eagle that will forever keep her name alive. For over three decades Ruth worked with the Eagle County Social Services helping citizens of her community overcome great challenges in their lives. She is also known for her dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary and her work with the Eagle County Historical Society Museum.

Ruth Beasley was very committed to her community. Her dedication and compassion for her fellow human beings will not soon be forgotten and will live on in the hearts of all that knew her. She was a loving person and she touched the hearts of all that she came in contact with. She will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF PEACE WEEK IN
SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, as this session of Congress races to a close, we often lose sight of some of the wonderful things happening at home in our communities, and this is especially true when Washington, D.C. is consumed by political battles. That is why I rise today to commend the remarkable city of Santa Maria, California, which I am very proud to represent, for its fourth annual Peace Week.

Mr. Speaker, two years ago, I stood on the House floor to congratulate Santa Maria on being named one of 10 All-America Cities. This high honor was justly granted to a city that has distinguished itself by its diversity and the fact that all the residents of Santa Maria work together to find innovative ways to solve their problems.

One glowing example of this community cohesiveness is Peace Week, which will begin tomorrow, October 13. The goal of Peace Week is to stress nonviolence and conflict mediation. Each day brings a focus on a new topic and allows community members of all ages and cultures to discover ways they can make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of their neighbors.

Examples of daily Peace Week activities include a candlelight march, nonviolence education, and children's friendship games. Participants will enjoy a free community breakfast on "Community Peacemaker Day" and a keynote address given by Clayton Barbeau. There will also be stress relief through massage and Reiki therapists, a workshop on healing racism, and an Ecumenical Musical Reflective Peace Service.

Mr. Speaker, Peace Week is the product of an entire city and its enlightened leadership. I want to pay special tribute to my friend, Sister Janet Corcoran of Marian Medical Center Mission Services, for her remarkable dedication and tireless work on behalf of her community and the precious cause of peace. She is a role model for me and a role model for us all.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE EN-
ACTMENT OF THE STAGGERS
ACT

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago, on October 14, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the Staggers Rail Act of 1980 into law. This landmark legislation transformed the nation's freight railroad industry from a state of physical deterioration and widespread bankruptcy to the modern system we have today that is the envy of the world.

In the 1970s, after years of federal regulation that did not allow the railroad industry to compete effectively with other modes of transportation, the railroads were in severe decline. Twenty percent of railroad mileage was being operated in bankruptcy. Capital investment was not being made. Infrastructure suffered from deferred maintenance, and accidents were on the rise.

The Staggers Act partially deregulated the railroads and freed them to operate in the free market system like other industries. It allowed the railroads to make their own business decisions, to establish their own routes, to set rates based on market demand and to invest in new technologies and infrastructure.

Our nation's economy has benefited enormously from the Staggers Act. Lower railroad rates mean consumers pay less for the goods they buy. Railroad customers have more money to invest in their own businesses. Fewer accidents mean a safer working environment for railroad employees.

Mr. Speaker, twenty years ago the enactment of the Staggers Act set the stage for the renewal of the railroad industry and today our nation's economy continues to benefit from this important law.

IN RECOGNITION OF FRANK
DAVIS' PARTICIPATION TO THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OVER
60 HEALTH CENTER, BERKELEY,
CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mrs. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the participation of Berkeley activist and realtor Frank Davis in the establishment of the Over 60 Health Center in Berkeley, California.

Mr. Davis has been a resident of Berkeley for over 50 years and owned the property where the Over 60 Clinic now calls home. While Mr. Davis had many offers to sell his property at a larger profit, he rejected those offers to sell until he was moved by the idea and challenge of a combination senior housing and health care project. Mr. Davis sold his property to the Over 60 Building Project, which ultimately helped create this unique facility that combines a health clinic downstairs with affordable housing for seniors upstairs.

The Over 60 Building is a unique collaboration of three local non-profit organizations. Over 60, a division of LifeLong Medical Care, is the oldest community health center serving

seniors in the United States; the Center for Elders Independence is one of 13 nationally-acclaimed "Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly" (PACE); and Resources for Community Development is a developer of low-income housing in Alameda County. This partnership offers medical and community-based long term care services for low-income elders while allowing them to remain independent, socially active and live in the same community throughout their life span.

Mr. Davis is a native of Mississippi who came to California to "seek a better quality of life and to get away from discrimination." He is the current Chair of the Black Property Owners Association, President of the Tyler King Neighborhood Association, and remains active in helping to improve the quality of life for South Berkeley.

The Over 60 Building is truly an innovative model of care for seniors, quickly becoming a source of civic pride and a valuable resource for the citizens of Berkeley. I applaud the vision that Mr. Davis had to sell his property to this important project despite personal financial gains had he sold to for-profit developers.

HONORING SUSAN LOHR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to congratulate Susan Lohr, on her recent award. Susan is one of two recipients of the Cranmer Award, sponsored by Colorado Open Lands. Susan is the co-founder of Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy, an organization that works to preserve family-owned ranchland in southern Colorado. Together with ranchers and community leaders the organization is attempting to preserve and protect over 20,000 acres of land.

Susan is no stranger when it comes to conserving farm and ranchland. She is currently president of a private land conservation consulting firm, Lohr Associates. She also recently retired as Director of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, where she worked for over a decade. Susan serves the Legacy in the capacity of Founding Director and Board Member Secretary/Treasurer.

Susan has worked very hard to ensure that family ranchlands are protected throughout southern Colorado. This dedication has helped a great number of people preserve thousands of acres of land and for that she deserves the recognition of this body. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Colorado and the US Congress I congratulate Susan on this prestigious and well-deserved award.

Congratulations!

FLAWED ELECTIONS IN BELARUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, October 15th, Belarus will hold parliamentary elections. Based on the run-up to the elections, the possibility of free and fair

elections simply does not exist. Belarusian strongman Alyaksandr Lukashenka—who illegally extended his own term in office—is once again attempting to dupe the international community into believing that there are viable electoral processes in today's Belarus. The reality is different.

The Lukashenka regime has not met any of the four conditions that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe set back last spring—namely, a democratic election law, an end to human rights abuses, access by the opposition to the state media, and genuine powers granted to the parliament. As a result, on August 30, the OSCE and other institutions decided not to send a full-fledged international observation team to Belarus. This decision could have been revisited if the situation in Belarus had improved. However, since August 30, the Lukashenka regime has denied registration to many opposition candidates on highly questionable grounds; detained, fined, or beaten over 100 individuals advocating a boycott of the elections; burglarized the headquarters of an opposition party; and confiscated 100,000 copies of an independent newspaper. My friend, opposition leader Anatoly Lebedka was physically assaulted during a commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the disappearance of opposition leader Viktor Gonchar and his associate Anatoly Krasovsky. I might add that another leader of the opposition, former Interior Minister Yuri Zakharenka, remains missing after having disappeared 17 months ago, and two leading opposition members, Andrei Klimov and Vladimir Koudinov, remain imprisoned on politically motivated charges.

Mr. Speaker, governmental interference in the election process appears to be rampant. There are reports that regional and local government executive committees have been threatened to ensure that government supported candidates will be elected. The registration process also showed strong signs of arbitrariness, with the rejection of a large percentage of candidates, especially opposition candidates. According to today's Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty East-Central Europe Report, Belarusian authorities—in an attempt to counter the opposition's call for an election boycott—have begun urging early voting and even threatening reprisals if voters fail to go to the polls. Furthermore, in Brest, the government-controlled local press is publishing election materials devoted solely to one candidate. All of these and other incidents, Mr. Speaker, have contributed to an atmosphere highly obtrusive to free and fair elections.

Given the pre-election atmosphere, the international community will be hard-pressed to recognize the new parliament, which succeeds the old, Lukashenka hand-picked parliament that was not recognized by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and much of the international community. Moreover, the current election environment does not in any way inspire confidence that the presidential elections scheduled for next year will be democratic. Mr. Lukashenka would do well to keep in mind that, with the fall of Slobodan Milosevic, he becomes increasingly isolated as Europe's sole remaining dictator.

HONORING MR. JOHN HERNANDEZ

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Hernandez, one of Fort Worth, Texas' finest sons, in honor of his receiving the Ohtli Award from the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his lifetime service to the Hispanic community. There is no person more deserving than John Hernandez.

The Ohtli Award recognizes individuals of Mexican descent who live outside of Mexico who have dedicated the better part of their lives to "opening up new paths" to make it easier for future generations to follow in their footsteps. Mr. Hernandez has done this and much more for the Hispanic community of Fort Worth.

Born in Fort Worth in 1931, Mr. Hernandez graduated from Laneri Catholic High School in 1951. Six years later, in 1957, he married his wonderful wife, Jeanette. Together, they have dedicated their lives to faith, family, and community.

Mr. Hernandez has tirelessly served Fort Worth's Hispanic community. He is a Board member of the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and served as its Chair from 1991–1992. Mr. Hernandez currently serves as the Chair of the North Texas Unity Council of La Raza and as a Board member and Second Vice Chair of the Red Cross. He is a member of the University of North Texas School of Community Service's Board. Mr. Hernandez also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth and a Council Member at All Saints Catholic Church. As a Scout Master and Executive Board member of the Longhorn Council, he has been actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America for almost two decades. These are just several examples of his invaluable contributions to our community.

Paving the way for others to follow, Mr. Hernandez has helped tear down the walls of discrimination. He has always been a crusader for the betterment of the Hispanic community, never seeking the glory for himself, but instead for those around him. Our community is stronger for his presence and forever blessed for his dedication and devotion.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Hernandez, his wife of 42 years, Jeanette, his eight children, and fifteen grandchildren and wish them all continued happiness and success in their endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hernandez embodies the spirit of community responsibility we all strive towards. His life's work makes America a better place to live in every day.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE ROMAN
S. GRIBBS UPON RETIREMENT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the end of an era in the government of my home state of Michigan. With the retirement of Judge Roman S. Gribbs, the people

of Michigan are losing more than just a Judge, they are losing a man who has dedicated his life to serving the people. His dedication and work over the years for the people of Michigan has been truly admirable and aspiring to many.

With over 45 years of service to his community, Judge Gribbs has left his mark on a countless number of lives. This loving husband and father of five children, began his career as professor at the University of Detroit in 1954. His distinguished career included many different positions within the legal profession. His jobs ranged from Assistant Prosecutor to Sheriff of Wayne County by 1969. He was elected Mayor of the city of Detroit serving from 1970–1974, during which he was elected as the President of the National League of Cities.

In the 25 years since he left the Mayor's office, Judge Gribbs has dutifully served the citizens of Michigan, first on the Third Judicial Court and then on the Court of Appeals. His service throughout his life is a testament to the man that he is, a compassionate, committed worker for the people. Such a public servant is one that the people should treasure and feel fortunate to have in our democracy.

The state of Michigan and our country have been beneficiaries of the generous and outstanding service provided by Judge Roman S. Gribbs. It is my great pleasure to honor him today, and to wish him a happy, healthy and productive retirement.

HONORING BILL TRAMPE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to recognize Bill Trampe on his recent award. Bill is one of two recipients of the Cranmer Award, presented by Colorado Open Lands. He was selected by the Board of Directors for his work with an organization he helped to co-found, which works to preserve family owned ranchlands throughout the Gunnison Basin.

Bill co-founded the Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy in order to help maintain a tradition that has long inhabited Colorado. This organization is made up of ranchers and community leaders aiming to protect and preserve over 20,000 acres of ranchland that is family-owned in southern Colorado. Bill is a third generation rancher and this organization holds a place dear to his heart.

Bill's dedication to preserving land for ranchers is quite evident in his past work with a number of different organizations. Bill is an advisor to the Colorado State University Mountain Meadows Research Station, a member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado River District and has served as member and President of the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District for nearly two decades. While his civic duties were great in number, he also found time to manage his family ranch, Trampe Ranches.

Bill has worked very hard to assist the ranchers and farmers of southern Colorado and ensure that their ranchland will be protected. Bill's dedication and hard work for his community has earned him the admiration of