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TRIBUTE TO EVELYN BANKS NEELY ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American and proud Californian, Evelyn Banks Neely, on the occasion of her retirement as director of the In- come Maintenance Division of the County of San Mateo, CA, Human Services Agency.

Evelyn Banks Neely has served San Mateo County honorably and with distinction for more than 32 years. She has been instrumental in developing and implementing innovative social services, programs, including the homeless General Assistance Program, the Greater Avenues for Independence [GAIN] Program, and the SUCCESS Program, which she piloted in Redwood City. She successfully negotiated San Mateo County's first In-Home Supportive Services contract and has served with distinc- tion as the past president of the County Ad- ministrators' Association and the San Mateo County Women in Management organization.

Evelyn Banks Neely has provided great leadership in forming Black Women in County Government, co-chairing the development of a symposium highlighting issues and strategies for preserving black families and serving as a member of the first Affirmative Action Advisory Committee in San Mateo County.

Evelyn Banks Neely has dedicated her lead- ership skills to many volunteer activities, in- cluding serving as past president of Delta Sigma Theta, serving as past president of Links, Inc., a volunteer service organization, serving as fundraising co-chair to provide scholastic benefits to high school graduates, and she has maintained active membership in the National Association of Black Social Work- ers.

Evelyn Banks Neely's accomplishments have been previously honored by the Cali-

fornia State Senate, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Evelyn Banks Neely has earned the respect, admiration, and dedication of the hundreds of Human Services staff who have served with her during her progressively responsible lead- ership positions with the County of San Mateo.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Evelyn Banks Neely for her more than 32 years of ex- emplary service to the people of County of San Mateo, the State of California and our Na- tion. Her life of leadership and community in- volvement is instructive to us all. Her dedica- tion to the ideals of democracy and public service stand tall and it is fitting that she is being honored on the occasion of her retire- ment. Therefore I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in honoring a great and good woman and someone I'm privileged to call my friend and colleague. We are indeed a better county, a better country, and a better people because of Evelyn Banks Neely.

THE DEDICATION OF THE JOHN D. ONG LIBRARY

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2000

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 10, Western Reserve Academy in Hud- son, OH, will dedicate a new building, the John D. Ong Library. I am pleased to note, that it is not a memorial service, but one of celebration. For John Ong, when he is not tending to his Pennsylvania farm, continues to contribute his time, wisdom, and service to our community and to our Nation.

John Ong has described himself as "the World's Most Flexible Man." But that flexibility does not mean inconsistency. Since his col- lege days, John Ong has recognized that a knowledge of history and the humanities is es- sential for well-rounded citizenship. So, while John embraces change, he values the prin- ciples that guide and strengthen our Nation. He understands that committed corporate ac- tivism strengthen communities as much as it does corporate ledgers and the national econ- omy. He is a reminder of the good things that come about when businesses and their lead- ers see themselves as part of the community rather than as self-interested, self-contained entities.

John Ong's career in business is a well doc- umented story of accomplishment and service. A graduate of the Ohio State University and the Harvard Law School, John spent 36 years at the BFGoodrich Company, rising from as- sistant counsel in 1961 to chairman and CEO from 1979 to 1997. At a time when the tire and rubber industry was buffeted by global change, John Ong demonstrated remarkable vision and leadership as he guided and trans- formed his company from a tire manufacturer into a leading provider of aircraft systems and specialty chemicals.

Today, as chairman emeritus, John has not rested on his laurels, but looks to the future, most notably through his work with New Amer- ican Schools, a non-profit corporation dedi- cated to raising student achievement through comprehensive school reform.

That devotion to the highest values in education also abides in his long relationship with Western Reserve Academy, one of the Nation's oldest and most respected independent schools. The school, like John Ong, reveres and respects the past, while keeping pace with educational innovation. Both John Ong and Western Reserve Academy are committed to excellence and high personal standards.

The founders of Western Reserve Academy hoped to create "the best institution for learning in the world." John Ong has done his part to make that vision a reality. John's service to the academy includes 20 years as a board member and 18 years as board president, directing renovations and chairing capital campaigns. During his tenure as president the school's endowment more than tripled.

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 RE-
PUBLIC 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 North-west 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.