

COMMENDING THE ABBOT SHI
YONGXIN OF THE SHAO LIN
MONASTERY IN CHINA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on November 15th Abbot Shi Yongxin of the Shao Lin Temple in China visited Washington, DC to meet with Members of Congress and other U.S. Government officials. I had the privilege to meet this remarkable man and his traveling companions all of whom are expert practitioners of a specialized form of the martial arts commonly known as Kung Fu.

The Abbot leads one of the most ancient and most respected monasteries of its type in China, where he and his colleagues teach a synergistic philosophy based on the Buddhist, Confucian, and Taoist traditions. Thousands of Americans have traveled to the Shao Lin Temple over the years in order to advance their spiritual lives; and upon their return to the United States shared what they learned with their friends, family, and neighbors. I firmly believe that these types of person-to-person exchanges are and rightly ought to be a critical component of our foreign policy strategy. These types of exchanges inevitably break down old stereotypes and foster deeper understanding between the United States and other countries. Although my conversation with Abbot Shi Yongxin was all too brief, I was impressed with the Abbot's unique insight into China and Chinese culture. As our nation struggles to cope with the rising power and influence of China, these are the kinds of insights and perspectives we will need in order to understand what motivates China's leaders.

The Abbot's visit to the United States, specifically, Alabama, New York, and Washington, DC, was facilitated by Dr. Thomas J. Rosandich, the president of the United States Sports Academy. The Academy is a unique degree-granting institution of higher education, focused primarily on sports management, sports medicine, and sports education. In fact, Abbot Shi Yongxin recently received an honorary degree from the United States Sports Academy to coincide with the launch of a cooperative agreement between the Temple and the Academy to teach Shao Lin Kung Fu in various locations around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the Abbot and the other monks of the Shao Lin Temple—as well as the parallel efforts of the United States Sports Academy—to use their teachings to help foster international peace and understanding deserve our deepest appreciation and respect. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending Abbot Shi Yongxin and his colleagues for their outstanding work, and wishing them a safe and pleasant journey back home to China.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT WEST

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, Albert Caswell wrote the following tribute to my constituent,

Scott West, who was injured while serving the United States in Iraq.

GO WEST YOUNG MAN

Go West Young Man!

Scott You are but The Very Best Young Man, as you are nothing less Young Man!

As oh how our Nation You So Bless Young Man!

A Brave Heart who went off to War . . .

Who so walked through The Valley of Death, all so our Freedom could be insured!

A Patriot who gave his most precious of all gifts, his legs! But came back home with far much more!

A Heroes Hero . . . This Army Man . . .

Such Strength In Honor . . . As such a Magnificent Hero, before us now so stands!

Who can defeat terror and death, who with but only his courage left . . . to new heights so ran!

For his new battle has just begun,

From Sun-up to Sunset, as This Magnificent Heroes quest shall never be done!

For there is no quit, for This Champion Is! Is the stuff of which movies are made of my son!

Just look at His Heart, Just look into His Eyes!

For in This Splendid Man of Courage and Faith, you'll find No Missouri Compromise!

He's not giving up! He's not giving in! As before us, The True Fine Definition of Where Courage so Lies!

And our time here upon this Earth, is but such a short time's worth!

Most people lead such useless lives, for only those of such splendid faith . . . shall so to Heaven rise!

As they teach us, as they so reach us . . . the ones in our Lord's Heart who so come first!

For We All must Walk This Road of Life,

Could we, in such dark moments in time . . . to somehow the courage find, as Scott to not think twice?

With head up high, with no pity to find . . . how we love you Scott! As to our World You bring Your Light!

Our Country Tis Thee, this our Sweet Land of Liberty . . .

Where our fine Nation, was so built upon such Heroic Heroes all throughout her history!

Go West Young Man, You Are America's Best Young Man . . . if I have a son, I pray like you he'd be!

Dedicated to Scott West and his family, and all those like them. Who teach us so much!

May our Lord Bless you, and he will!

HONORING NEW YORK STATE
SENATOR MARC COPPOLA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform the House of the effective and faithful service in the New York State Senate of a great son of North Buffalo, New York State Senator Marc A. Coppola.

Marc Coppola's career in elective public service began with his appointment and subsequent election to the Buffalo Common Council's Delaware District seat in 2000. In that capacity, Marc and his office staff devel-

oped a reputation as one of the most effective and efficient constituent service operations in city hall. Constituents from throughout the city came to know that their problems and concerns could be addressed in Councilman Coppola's office.

In 2004, following an election cycle that saw the Common Council successfully downsized from 13 to 9 members, Marc was chosen by his council colleagues to serve as Majority Leader of the Common Council. Marc's leadership resulted in a number of important reforms in city hall and opened up city government to the people in greater numbers than ever before. I recall watching sessions of the Common Council in those days—I began my career as a Buffalo Councilman back in the 1980s—and I remember being struck by the professionalism that Marc displayed in serving as floor leader for the council at that time. Gone was the infighting and the grandstanding that marked floor debates years ago; Marc's steady hand and patient leadership brought dignity and honor to that legislative body.

Early in the year, after the election of then-Senator Byron Brown to the office of Mayor of the City of Buffalo, Marc Coppola won a special election as State Senator. In only several months in office, Marc developed a formidable record in the State. As a veteran of the New York State Legislature myself, I know well how partisan that institution can be, and as a Democratic senator in a Republican-dominated Senate, Marc demonstrated time and again his ability to reach across the aisle and work with the party in power. In so doing, Marc was able to see important legislation pass and become enacted into law, and he was able to best represent his constituents in Buffalo, Tonawanda, Grand Island and Niagara Falls.

Although Marc won't be returning to Albany in January 2007, the impact of his brief service in Albany will be felt long after his senatorial career concludes. The people of Buffalo and Western New York were well served by Marc Coppola, and as a young leader in our area, his service to our community is not complete. My personal best wishes go out to Marc, his wife Denise and their three sons, and I hope that you, Mr. Speaker, will join with me in extending to the Coppola family our best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. FRANK
LUCAS ON BECOMING THE CHAN-
CELLOR OF FELLOWS OF THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHI-
TECTS

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my good friend Mr. Frank Lucas on becoming the Chancellor of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

Frank founded LS3P Associates Ltd. in 1963 and built the firm to its present level of success where it employs over 160 people in Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina and Charlotte, Raleigh, and Wilmington, North Carolina. LS3P Associates Ltd. provides architecture, interior architecture, and land planning

services for clients throughout the Southeast. During its history LS3P Associates Ltd. has designed over \$7 billion worth of construction projects.

LS3P was the recipient of the Outstanding Firm Award and for Distinction in Design by the Tau Sigma Delta Architectural Fraternity of Clemson University. In 1990 LS3P received the South Carolina Arts Commission's Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award for community service in the arts. In 1995 the firm was honored with the 25 Year Distinguished Service Award for firms by the American Institute of Architects South Carolina. Mr. Lucas has also received Clemson University's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1992 and the American Institute of Architects South Carolina's highest honor, the Medal of Distinction, in 1997. He was recognized as Architect of the Year by the Charleston Contractors' Association. He is a past president of the Hibernian Society and is involved with numerous civic, professional, and business organizations.

Mr. Lucas and his wife, Edith, both native Charlestonians, have three daughters and five grandchildren. LS3P and Frank Lucas proudly and strongly believe in giving back to the community, working for the betterment of the architecture profession, and serving his fellow man.

Frank Lucas has been a great success story, but he has not let that success change him. Frank has continued to give back to the community that he grew up in and I am very proud to congratulate him on achieving such a prestigious achievement as becoming the Chancellor of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MGM
MIRAGE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the MGM Mirage for its laudable treatment of its Reserve and National Guard employees.

Under the leadership of Terri Lanni, Chairman and Chief Executive of the MGM Mirage, employees who are also serving in the armed forces as either Reservists or in the National Guard receive their full pay and benefits when they are deployed. This program has been in effect since 2003, and has so far covered 113 employees. Recently, the MGM Mirage, Nevada's largest casino operator, was honored by the Department of Defense with its Employee Support Freedom Award, the highest award that the military can bestow on employers.

In a time when many Reservists and National Guard troops are getting deployed and having to leave their primary sources of income, this program shows an acute awareness of the needs of those individuals and their families. When asked how much this program costs the company, Mr. Lanni responded, "I literally don't care . . . it was the right thing to do, its just that simple."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the MGM Mirage and its Chairman, Terri Lanni. The program they instituted truly shows a dedication to the well-being of employees of the MGM

Mirage and their families. I applaud them for their dedication and congratulate them on their recent honors by the Department of Defense.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MAX MAYFIELD

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of the works and accomplishments of Dr. Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL. Mr. Mayfield has played a key role in hurricane forecasting and has helped protect the lives and property of millions of people in the United States.

Since taking the helm of the National Hurricane Center in 2000, Director Mayfield has overseen a team of hurricane forecasters, specialists, and technical personnel at the center's headquarters in Miami. Mr. Mayfield strives to improve the warning lead times and increase the center's understanding of the tracks and intensity of hurricanes. As dangerous storms approached our Nation's coastal shores, Director Mayfield personally contacted governors and state officials stressing the importance of preparation and timely evacuation. He has spent countless hours providing warnings and valuable information to all those Americans located in the potential path of a hurricane.

Mr. Mayfield and his wife, Linda, celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary over the weekend of October 21, 2005. What was initially supposed to be a weekend get-away in Duck Key, just south of Miami, turned into another working weekend for Mr. Mayfield. Once again, a Category 3 hurricane, Wilma, was headed towards South Florida and Mr. Mayfield provided calm and clear hurricane forecasting.

Just a few days after the landfall of Hurricane Wilma, on October 27th, President Bush received a tour of the important hurricane facility and thanked Mr. Mayfield for his notable service to our Nation.

After more than 30 years of distinguished service to weather and hurricane forecasting, Mr. Mayfield will be retiring in January 2007. I know that the residents of South Florida will miss his calm and clear voice as approaching hurricanes threaten our coast. His pending retirement will mark the end of an exceptional career, and finding a worthy successor will undoubtedly be a difficult endeavor.

South Florida and our country are grateful for Mr. Mayfield's dedication in preparing and assisting the people of our community. Through his guidance and skilled predictions, Director Mayfield and his staff closely watched the path of countless hurricanes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Director Max Mayfield's numerous accomplishments and his dedication to weather forecasting. The citizens of South Florida and the United States as a whole have benefited from this man's service, and we owe him our gratitude. As Mr. Mayfield and his wife prepare to spend more time with their families and enjoy retirement, I know that my colleagues will join me in wishing them well.

COMMENDING MR. MAX MAYFIELD, DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE NATION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that Mr. Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida would be retiring in January 2007.

I want to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and all the Democratic Members of the Committee on Science to thank Mr. Mayfield for his service to our nation and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

Mr. Mayfield will be missed. He has served our nation with distinction for over 30 years. Mr. Mayfield is well known to all of our citizens, especially those in hurricane-prone areas. Mr. Mayfield's leadership of his forecasting team at the National Hurricane Center, his clear presentation of hurricane forecasts, and his abilities to coordinate and communicate with local emergency management personnel resulted in countless saved lives and better informed communities.

Prior to the tragic events resulting from Hurricane Katrina, the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center—under the Directorship of Mr. Mayfield—did an excellent job of predicting the track of the storm and issuing watches and warnings that permitted state and local officials to evacuate many of the people who were in the path of this devastating storm.

The active hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005 demonstrated the tireless dedication of Mr. Mayfield and his team, each of whom worked tirelessly to refine and deliver forecasts of the tracks and intensities of the storms that threatened our coasts.

Max Mayfield has set a high standard for future Directors of the Hurricane Center. I suspect he will continue to be involved in meteorology through his membership in the American Meteorological Society, and I can think of no better mentor and teacher for current and future meteorological professionals.

Thank you again, Mr. Mayfield, for your work at the National Weather Service. Your knowledge, experience and sound direction have been assets to the safety of our nation and the security of our citizens.

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF
MR. BRITT "MAX" MAYFIELD'S
RETIREMENT FROM THE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Britt "Max" Mayfield on an exemplary career of service to his fellow citizens, and to wish him well in his much-deserved retirement. In his 34 years of service to the nation, Max Mayfield has personified the