

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 CHANCELLOR OF FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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 ar-

chitecture 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 employees.

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 NA-
TIONAL 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 dedication and excellence that make the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service one of the crown jewels of the federal government. Since he began forecasting weather for the Air Force in 1970, and over more than three decades with the National Weather Service, Max has helped push forward the science of forecasting to help make our nation a safer place. But just making better forecasts has never been enough for Max, because a forecast does no good if nobody hears it. Mr. Mayfield has also dedicated his career to making sure that his always-improving forecasts get out as quickly as possible to the people who need them. For example, he has worked tirelessly to make more educational opportunities available to emergency managers so that they have the tools they need to interpret and respond to

hurricane and severe weather forecasts quickly and intelligently.

There is no doubt in my mind that Max Mayfield's exemplary efforts, and those of his hard-working staff at the National Hurricane Center's Tropical Prediction Center, have helped communities prepare for impending disasters and have saved lives in communities across the country and around the world.

I am not alone in my esteem for Mr. Mayfield. The American Meteorology Society, the National Association of Government Communicators, ABC Television, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the National Hurricane Conference, the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and President George W. Bush have all presented Max with formal awards for his outstanding achievements and service to his craft and to society. And those are just the formal awards—they do not include the many personal "thank-you's" that he has received from the very people he has spent his life serving, and from the people whose lives he has helped save.

So I am pleased to express my deepest gratitude to Max Mayfield, and to his endlessly supportive family for sharing him with us for this time. God bless you and the work you have done; I wish you calm weather and smooth sailing in your retirement.

MAX MAYFIELD RETIREMENT

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding public servant, Mr. Britt "Max" Mayfield, Director of the National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center. Since 2000, Mr. Mayfield has been the face and voice Americans trust for information about hurricane forecasts and warnings. He led the National Hurricane Center tirelessly during a time of many intense hurricanes hitting our highly populated coasts, including the record-breaking 2005 hurricane season that saw 28 named tropical storms.

For each tropical storm or hurricane, Mr. Mayfield and the staff of the National Hurricane Center work around the clock gathering information about the storms and constantly improving the projection of the storm's track. As a storm nears the U.S. coast, they often spend days at a time at the National Hurricane Center making sure that the public continues to receive vital forecast and warning information, even as their own families and properties may be in the storm's path.

Mr. Mayfield has served our Nation for 34 years, beginning in 1970 as a meteorologist for the Air Force before joining the National Weather Service in 1972. He is internationally recognized for his expertise in forecasting hurricanes. But, Mr. Mayfield also goes above and beyond his responsibility as a hurricane scientist. He dedicates much of his time to educating communities about the risks of hurricanes and making sure that the public understands the information in hurricane forecasts and what they need to do to protect them-

selves from these dangerous storms. Both his forecasting efforts and community service have been recognized with awards from many prestigious organizations.

I thank Mr. Mayfield for his more than three decades of service to this country and for the countless lives his hurricanes forecasts and warnings have saved. I also thank his family for the sacrifices they made to support him in this demanding job and wish him a long and relaxing retirement.

One final note. My wife, Marianne, contends that Max Mayfield is her favorite federal employee—and that, alas, probably includes me.

HONORING DR. EDWARD S.
BENTLEY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a celebrated colleague of mine in the health profession. Dr. Edward S. Bentley has been selected as the 2006 Physician of the Year by the Santa Barbara County Medical Society. His countless accomplishments truly warrant him the prestige associated with this award.

Dr. Bentley began his medical career at the University of Nevada and the University of Oklahoma Medical School. He then moved to California, where he worked for the University of Southern California Medical Center, serving as Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine and Chief Resident.

In 1986, Dr. Bentley established a private practice in Santa Barbara, specializing in gastroenterology. Over the past 20 years, he has proven to be a tremendous asset to our community. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Santa Barbara County Medical Society from 1999–2005 and was president of the organization in 2004. Additionally, Dr. Bentley served as Vice President of the Santa Barbara Select I.P.A., member of the Santa Barbara Consortium on Continuing Medical Education, and delegate for the California Medical Association. He is also a member of the Santa Barbara County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, the American Medical Association and the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease, among numerous other organizations. In addition, Dr. Bentley holds numerous affiliations with many hospitals across Southern California.

Mr. Speaker, clearly I could stand up here all day and list Dr. Bentley's impressive achievements. He is a truly extraordinary doctor, citizen and esteemed member of the medical community. I am proud to serve as both his representative and colleague in health care. I would like to extend to him my most heartfelt congratulations and sincere wishes for continued success in both his personal and professional endeavors.