



*Vice President George H. W. Bush Addresses National Council for US-China Trade (now USCBC), Annual Meeting, May 1985.*

## **TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT GEORGE H. W. BUSH**

The US-China Business Council is saddened by the passing of President George H. W. Bush. As the country mourns the loss of a lifelong public servant today, we remember our 41st president as a man who believed in the importance of the relationship between the United States and China.

George H. W. Bush wore many hats during his life, excelling as a naval pilot, businessman, UN ambassador, CIA director, vice president, and president. China considered President Bush a “great old friend.” His diplomacy, statesmanship, and vision will be missed.

When President Gerald Ford offered Bush an ambassadorship in either London or Paris during the mid-1970s, he asked instead to be envoy to China. Of that request, Bush said, “It was obvious then that Asia would rise in importance on the world scene. And it was inevitable that China would eventually become a power broker, not only in the Pacific but in the world. China was, quite simply, the place to be.”

George H. W. Bush had great respect for the US-China Business Council. In 1985, then Vice President Bush attended the Council’s 12th annual membership meeting, where he noted that trade and investment were as important as political ties in the overall US-China relationship.

At the time of USCBC’s 30th Anniversary, President Bush concluded a congratulatory letter with, “We also need to remember that the question is not whether China will emerge as a great power on the world stage. It surely will. We should welcome rather than resist that development. The question is what kind of power China will become. We all want China to play a constructive and cooperative role. That should be the goal and the objective of our policies.

“I commend USCBC as it works to maintain confidence and predictability in the Sino-American commercial relationship.”