PRESS RELEASE

PASSING OF VENERABLE ROS MEY
CAMBODIAN RELIGIOUS LEADER

Date: December 13, 2010
For Immediate release
Contact: John C. Chea, Vice President of Public Affairs, 401-699-1222
Where: 178 Hanover St., Providence, RI 02907

Providence, RI-Ven. Sean Prum, Buddhist Monk; Ven. Prum Chik, Buddhist Monk; Ven.
Pen Thol, Buddhist Monk, John C. Chea and the Cambodian Community of RI and
surrounding New England states.

With our deepest sorrow, Venerable Ros Mey, his holiness, the Chov Atika & President
of our Temple passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 8:39pm at the
temple with his children, grandchildren and members of the board of the directors at his
side.

Wat Thormikaram of Rhode Island, Inc. (Khmer Buddhist Society) was founded by the
late Preah Maha Ghosananda and supporters in 1980 here on this same location. It was
officially incorporated on May 1, 1981 in Providence, Rhode Island. This is the first
established Cambodian (Khmer) Temple founded in the United States of America. It
served as a focal point for many of the Cambodian refugees that came into the US and
here in Providence, RI.

Venerable Ros Mey succeeded his holiness Preah Maha Ghosananda here at the Temple
as the President.

Venerable Mey was ordained as a Buddhist monk in 1993. In 1998, he became Chov
Atika and President of our Temple. During his tenure, in addition to the countless
services & blessing at funerals, weddings, house warming, birthdays and everything else
in between he help preserved this important site and help made the construction of our
new worship hall possible.
Memorial services will be conducted here daily at the Temple at 5:00pm starting on Monday, December 13, 2010. Wake and funeral services will begin at 3:00pm on Thursday and will be ongoing until 2:00pm Sunday. On the last day of our memorial services, Sunday, December 19, 2010 beginning at 11:30 AM we’ll have speaking event for all dignitaries.

**Brief History**

The Cambodian has endured much suffering. In 1975, Year Zero, the Killing Fields, a scourge of destruction began and Buddhism was the first target. Monks were killed and temples desecrated. Of the 80,000 ordained monks, very few survived. Of 3,600 temples, none were left untouched and many were leveled.

In 1979, with its population reduced almost in half by the Khmer Rough (nearly 3 million murdered or dead from starvations and disease), approximately 500,000 Cambodian refugees came to the Thai border where refugees camps became our homes. The Cambodian people had witnesses incredible suffering—families had been immedialty separated, parents killed in front of their children, children sent to labor camps and others were executed just because...Weakened by their suffering, the Cambodian had lost, it seemed, even the dharma. Without the Dharma, a new society could not be forged.

Into the overcrowded refugee camps one day entered the Venerable Maha Ghosananda, a survived Cambodian Buddhist Monk. What followed was an instantaneous wave of rebirth of the Dharma. Tens of thousand of people came to hear him and to renew their spirits.

Maha Ghosananda became noted for his works of reconciliation efforts in the refugee camps—even faced with violence he was able to get ten of thousands of Khmer Rough soldiers defected, shaved their heads, some even became monks. Maha neutrality and non-partisanship were unique; his metta (loving kindness) over-coming; his dharma all-encompassing. He was prepared to stop violence even in the battlefield. He help established schools, temples and shelters.

On June 7, 1980 he organized an International Day of Prayer and Meditation for peace in Cambodia. Over 150,000 refugees and spiritual leaders of all faiths came to his callings. Letters of supports came from the Dalai Lama, Pope John Paul II, Mcther Teresa and other notable spiritual leaders from around the world.

An accomplished linguist, he's fluent in 15 languages. The Prince of Peace as he was called was born in Cambodia in 1929 and passed away peacefully at the age of 78 in Northampton, Massachusetts on March 12, 2007. He was nominated four times for the Nobel Peace Prize, and was awarded the 1998 Niwano peace prize in Japan and in 1992 Rafto human rights award in Norway. Twice in 1983 and 1986, he met Pope John Paul II in Rome to discuss religious basis for world peace and the plight of the many thousands of Cambodian refugees. The Dalai Lama was one his closest friends. They worked together on many issues relating to world peace before he passed.
ROS MEY
Cambodian Religious Leader

His holiness, the Venerable Ros Mey was born in Svay Rolom, Kandal in Cambodia on July 30, 1925. Mr. Mey was the fifth child, with four (4) older sisters and a younger brother. His father Ouch Mey and mother, Soeum Mon.

Mr. Mey worked for the Cambodian government as Land Surveyor. Mr. Mey was married to the late Mrs. Saythun Mey in 1945 in Cambodia. From this marriage, seven (7) children, three (3) boys and four (4) girls.

In 1975, Mr. Mey, his family and the entire country of Cambodia was imprisoned by the Khmer Rough, communist regime. Just as many Cambodian who lost their lives, Mr. Mey lost one son and three (3) daughters. In 1979, he and his immediate family members ended up in the Refugee camp, Khao I Dang, Thailand. After a few years living as refugees, he and his family came to Rhode Island on 2/12/1982. In 1993, he was ORDAINED as the Cambodian Buddhsit monk here at Wat Thormikaram of RI. In 1998, the Venerable Ros Mey became Chov Atika & President of our Temple.

He left behind his daughter Chanravy Mey, his sons Chantha Mey and Pov Mey, fifteen grandchildren and counting......

ORDAINED. A sacrifice. A decision to leave behind all of man belongings, neccessity and attachments(giving up all ties to family members) in search of truth, peaceful path...********NIRVANA.

HIS VENERABLE IS 85 YEARS OLD.
សិប្បនិមិត្ត

បង្គ់់តូល់ពណ៌តូច និង ពណ៌ស ពីឆ្នាំ២០០០ ដល់ឆ្នាំ២០២០ និង ឆ្នាំ២០២១ របស់កូន ដ៏ប្រុស និង ស្រី។

.ថ្ងៃទី០៨ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ប្រការណ៍ ៤:០០ ពេលវេលាក្រែង ម៉ាក់លេខ២ និង ម៉ាក់លេខ៣ របស់កូន ដ៏ប្រុស និង ស្រី។

.ថ្ងៃទី០៩ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ប្រការណ៍ ៩:០០ ពេលវេលាឡ្រូប្រ័ត្រ ការអំពើពាន់

.ថ្ងៃទី០៩ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ប្រការណ៍ ២:០០ ពេលវេលាម៉ាក់លេខ២ និង ម៉ាក់លេខ៣ របស់កូន ដ៏ប្រុស និង ស្រី។

.ថ្ងៃទី១០ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ប្រការណ៍ ៥:០០ ពេលវេលាឡ្រូប្រ័ត្រ ការអំពើពាន់

.ថ្ងៃទី១១ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ប្រការណ៍ ២:០០ ពេលវេលាឡ្រូប្រ័ត្រ ការអំពើពាន់ Carpenter Jenks Funeral Home 659 East Greenwich Ave, W. Warwick, RI 02893

.ថ្ងៃទី១០ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ប្រការណ៍ ៥:០០ ពេលវេលាឡ្រូប្រ័ត្រ ការអំពើពាន់

.ថ្ងៃទី១២ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ប្រការណ៍ ៥:០០ ពេលវេលាឡ្រូប្រ័ត្រ ការអំពើពាន់

.ថ្ងៃទី១៣ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ប្រការណ៍ ៥:០០ ពេលវេលាឡ្រូប្រ័ត្រ ការអំពើពាន់

.ថ្ងៃទី១៤ ខែមករា ឆ្នាំ២០០០ ប្រការណ៍ ៥:០០ ពេលវេលាឡ្រូប្រ័ត្រ ការអំពើពាន់