

families of our fallen servicemen and women. Project Compassion has earned major international, national, local, and military media recognition of its unusual service, including from CNN, CBS, NBC, and PBS, and it is certainly well-deserved.

Mr. President, the story of Project Compassion is one of which we can all be proud. It is a story of everyday Americans bringing comfort to those who have lost a loved one in uniform. Ms. Hancock has taken her gifts as an artist and used them to honor people she has never met and never known. But she has stated that "These soldiers and their families are our buddies, they are our family as Americans, and we love them." I am proud to honor the work of Project Compassion today.

HONORING HAL POTE

● Mr. BROWN. President, today I pay tribute to the life and legacy of Harold Pote. Hal, the founder and president of the Spina Bifida Foundation, SBF, passed away suddenly on June 26, 2007. My staff and I are deeply saddened by this loss, which is felt not only by his friends and family but by many of us on Capitol Hill. My staff and I first had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Mr. Pote nearly 6 years ago when he began a campaign to increase congressional awareness of—and the national attention paid to—spina bifida, the Nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect.

Hal's nephew Gregory was born with spina bifida almost 22 years ago. Spina bifida occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column does not close completely. In the United States, spina bifida occurs in approximately 7 out of 10,000 live births and currently there are 70,000 men, women, adolescents, and children living with spina bifida. Hal supported his nephew through more than 20 surgeries and was there to share in many wonderful moments, including the moment in 2004 when Gregory carried the Olympic torch. Hal was dedicated to ensuring that Gregory and others living with spina bifida enjoy a high quality of life. He also maintained a steadfast commitment to helping prevent spina bifida by promoting efforts to educate women of childbearing age about the importance of daily consumption of a multivitamin containing folic acid.

Hal joined with a group of colleagues to form the Spina Bifida Foundation in 1999. In its 8 years of existence, the SBF, under Hal's steadfast leadership, made remarkable progress on behalf of the spina bifida community. Not so long ago people born with spina bifida did not live past their teenage years. Thanks to research and outreach enabled in part by Hal's exceptionally effective foundation, many children with spina bifida are now living to be adults and are enjoying a higher quality of life than previous generations.

Hal's achievements go beyond his philanthropy and advocacy on behalf of

people with spina bifida. He was born in Penns Grove, NJ, in 1946 and received his bachelor's degree in economics from Princeton in 1968, and his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School in 1972. In 1984, at the age of 37, he was named chairman and CEO of Fidelity Bank. Hal left Fidelity in 1989 and that same year co-founded the PFR, a private real estate group, which was later acquired by Prologis. In 1993, Hal co-founded the Beacon Group, a Manhattan-based investment partnership later acquired by Chase Manhattan. He led Chase's regional banking group and after that bank merged with JP Morgan he became chairman of retail financial services for JP Morgan Chase. After retiring from JP Morgan Chase, Hal returned to Philadelphia in 2006 to serve as CEO of the American Financial Realty Trust.

Hal Pote's sudden death is a tragedy. Yet his life was a triumph. I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family—his wife Linda Johnson, his mother Lucille Bock Pote, his two brothers Frank and Corey Pote, and his nephews.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and honoring the many achievements of this extraordinary man.

TRIBUTE TO BRADLEY BUTLER

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Bradley Butler of Paducah, KY, for his accomplishments in the 2007 SkillsUSA State Competition.

SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA chapters help students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations excel. Formerly known as VICA, Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, SkillsUSA has more than 280,000 students and instructors as members annually.

Mr. Butler, a student at Paducah Area Technology Center and a junior at Paducah Tilghman High School, completed this competition as a gold medalist with a first place finish in related technical math. His success serves as an inspiration for his peers to achieve academically and give back to society.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Butler for his remarkable achievement and commitment to his education.

TRIBUTE TO MAYSVILLE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the faculty and staff of Maysville Community and Technical College for their efforts in promoting student engagement, service learning, and community service.

Maysville Community and Technical College is an exceptional venue for Kentucky students wishing to continue their education. M.C.T.C. offers several

degree, diploma, and certificate programs to the surrounding region. They also offer several opportunities through the Kentucky Virtual University and degree programs in association with Morehead State University, Lindsey Wilson College, Midway College, and Northern Kentucky University.

This year, Maysville Community and Technical College is working to increase levels of student engagement by promoting organized service activities and community-based partnerships in order to provide a valuable learning experience for its students. This initiative teaches students essential civic responsibility and critical networking skills, while improving the local community.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the Maysville Community and Technical College for creating a solid foundation for the future of Kentucky and the United States.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN THOMPSON

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Allen Thompson of Hickory, KY, for his accomplishments in the 2007 SkillsUSA State Competition.

SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers and industry, working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA chapters help students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations excel. Formerly known as VICA, Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, SkillsUSA has more than 280,000 students and instructors as members annually.

Mr. Thompson, a student at Paducah Area Technology Center and a senior at Graves County High School, completed this competition as a gold medalist with a first place finish in board drafting. His success serves as an inspiration for his peers to achieve academically and give back to society.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Thompson for his remarkable achievement and commitment to his education.

RECOGNIZING ROGER MADSEN

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to recognize an Idahoan who since 1995 has served four Idaho Governors as director of the Idaho Department of Labor and twice served as interim executive director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts. He also served as an Idaho assistant attorney general and as an Idaho State senator for 4 years. After 12 years, Roger Madsen is among the longest-serving State employment agency directors in the Nation, and he is my friend.

Roger has been a tireless volunteer for the betterment of his community and State. The list of his activities and leadership is long and prestigious. Roger has served as: delegate to the White House Conference on Families;