

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;

chair of the Governor's task force on unemployment insurance; vice chair of the Multiple Sclerosis Society; chair of the mayor's citizen's advisory panel on public housing; chair of the Governor's advisory council on worker's compensation; member of the job training and workforce development councils; member of the TechHelp science advisory board and the Governor's rural economic development committee; chair of the Idaho State Employee's United Way Campaign; cochair of Idaho Rural Partnership; and, cochair of the "Katrina Evacuee Resettlement" effort in Idaho.

Without hesitation and despite his weighty workload, Roger twice agreed to guide the Idaho Commission on the Arts through difficult periods and did so in an inimitable manner, with much gratitude on behalf of the staff and arts community. Additionally, he served as the interim director of the Idaho Disability Determination Services.

In 2005, the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor received the William J. Harris Equal Opportunity Award for its "commitment to intensifying assistance to minorities and ensuring those new to the State receive the same quality service as longtime Idaho residents." The annual award honors a work force agency administrator and the agency's equal opportunity officer for outstanding accomplishments. Under Madsen's leadership, the department increased its bilingual staff, doubled the number of female managers in local offices, increased the number of employees with disabilities and launched new programs such as special job search workshops in Spanish.

In June 2007, the International Association of Workforce Professionals named Director Roger Madsen as its Administrator of the Year for his leadership in economic and work force development in 2006, when average wages rose 5.6 percent and Idaho's growth in real gross state product led the Nation.

I recognize and commend Roger for his continued efforts and accomplishments on behalf of all of the citizens of Idaho. He is a great advocate for Idaho and I look forward to continuing to work with him on issues important to Idahoans.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT ART COMPETITION

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to recognize three students from New Mexico who entered and were recognized in the Education: A Gift Without Boundaries, 2007 Native American Student Art Competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Indian Education. There were almost 1,400 entries from 34 States in 6 events divided by age.

Native Americans put a very strong emphasis on their culture and in particular, art. Even though the art may be different from tribe to tribe, the universal importance of art is seen in

the number of entrants and from the diverse geographic areas that they come from. The number of entrants also speaks to the immense support from teachers and parents in the Native American communities.

Deidra Lee, an eighth grader from Ceciditai Middle School, won first place in the sixth- to eighth-grade division; Robert Francis, a 10th grader from Grants High School, won third place in the 9th-10th grade division; and Michael Curly, a 10th grader from Pine Hill School, won first place in the 11th-12th grade division. I ask that all three of these students be recognized for their accomplishments in the arts. These New Mexicans demonstrated a clear understanding of the importance of academic, cultural, and artistic education. •

TRIBUTE TO ROXCY O'NEAL BOLTON

• Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, today I wish to commend the service and acts of South Florida's Roxcy O'Neal Bolton. She has made many contributions to women and society both locally and nationally. While she was born in Mississippi in 1926, Roxcy Bolton has made her mark in Florida over many long decades as a leading supporter of women's rights.

Mrs. Bolton has been the founder of many Florida organizations which have helped women. While a strong advocate of increasing opportunities for women in society, she still proudly embraced marriage and family life.

Married to a U.S. Navy commander named David Bolton—now deceased—they had three children together. In her life she has been an active wife, mother, and homemaker—all while supporting rights for women in Florida and beyond. Her good acts are well known.

A leading defender of, and advocate for, women who have been abused or suffered through domestic violence, Mrs. Bolton founded a nonprofit agency that provides rescue service, assistance to women in personal crisis, and emergency housing. This agency started after she personally took in four children and several women who were in situations of personal distress. I believe that is the definition of service—but it is just one example of Mrs. Bolton's kindness and vision.

At Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, she worked to establish one of the country's first rape treatment centers. Providing services and support over the decades to children, adolescents, and adult victims of sexual assault, the Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center has helped more than 42,000 people and their families; and importantly, these services are provided at no cost to the victim.

Today, Roxcy Bolton is still caring for the women of Florida and remains dedicated to the rights of women everywhere. Through her dedicated work, she has lived a life of purpose. I am

glad that we can call her one of Florida's own.

COMMENDING ANTHONY BURRUTO

• Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to commend a talented and courageous young American named Anthony Burruto. A rising seventh-grade student at Southwest Middle School in Orlando and a pitcher and first baseman for a Dr. Phillips Little League baseball team known as the Yankees, Anthony lives a fairly ordinary life; it is just that he is a rather extraordinary young man. Born without a fibula in his right leg or a shinbone in his left, he had his lower legs amputated as a baby. At the time, Anthony and his family were informed that surgery might one day make it possible for him to walk. Anthony, now 12, decided that walking would not be enough for him.

He started playing baseball nearly 5 years ago; hitting his first home run last November, he just recently finished the spring season with five—two of them Grand Slams. Amongst the league leaders in home runs for the spring season, Anthony has been an inspiration to everyone—his teammates, his opponents, the coaches, parents, and fans alike. Using two titanium and carbon-fiber prostheses, Anthony moves around well; be it on the baseball diamond or while playing baritone with his school's band, he embraces with confidence all of his opportunities.

In an Orlando Sentinel story written about Anthony, published earlier this year, one of his teammates was quoted as saying, "He's always the one who gets everybody up in the dugout . . . He always sticks up for everybody when they have a problem." For a child who was born 2 months premature and weighed just a little more than 3 pounds, the aforementioned says much about his character and personality.

While Anthony and his parents Vinny and Diane long lived in New York, they have now been living in Orlando for the past 2 years. I am certainly proud to call them Floridians. The Burrutos have been very supportive of their only child; their love and devotion have certainly helped this talented young man to shine even more brightly. The Orlando community has also given great support to Anthony. As an Orlando resident, I have yet another reason to be thankful that my family and I call Orlando home.

There are now other people who have been picking up on the rising star that is Anthony Burruto. For instance, earlier this season when Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Devil Rays hosted a three-game "home stand" at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando—the first regular season major league games ever played in the Orlando area—Anthony was asked to throw out the first pitch of the first game. On this momentous occasion, Anthony threw a strike. Additionally, the Devil Rays won.