Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Harold Brown. Harold is celebrating his 30th anniversary as chief executive officer at Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital.

Wisconsin’s second oldest city, Prairie du Chien, is a town of 5,500 people that is rich in both history and culture. Located on the beautiful Mississippi River, Prairie du Chien works hard to maintain its pioneer heritage. Memorial Hospital, a model for rural hospitals around the country, is a 40-bed facility that receives approximately 1,800 admissions and 6,600 emergency room visits each year. Under Harold’s guidance, Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital has won both national and state awards for its exemplary service.

My friend Harold has brought an enormous amount of leadership to his per-hospital organization. He has been a small and rural hospital administrator for 37 years and was previously a health care consultant and medical education administrator for 6 years. He has received numerous awards, most recently the Governor’s Exemplary Employers Award and the Wisconsin Children’s Trust Fund Award, both in 2002. In 1988, Harold received the Louis Gorin Award for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Health Care by the National Rural Health Association. Continually awarded the Employee of the Year Award by the employees of Memorial Hospital, he also received the Community Distinguished Service Recognition Award for 25 years of service.

From 1985 to 1990, Harold worked hard to provide new services for the elderly at Memorial Hospital. He developed and implemented certified hospice and rural regional hospice, as well as day care for the elderly. He helped establish an independent living program for seniors, as well as meals-on-wheels service. Further, Harold was instrumental in starting elderly apartment housing, as well as a companion care program.

In 1990, Harold expanded Memorial Hospital’s service to the community to include, among other programs, child day care, expanded rehab services, athletic training, parish nursing, and personal care.

A longtime member of the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Harold is also a part of the National Rural Hospital Association, serving as the group’s president in 1996. He is also a board member of the Rural Wisconsin Hospital Cooperative, an organization that includes 26 rural hospital leaders in the state. He has also served as a member of the American Hospital Association’s committee, Harold is involved with Shared Health Services, a corporation providing services to 400 hospitals and nursing homes.

Harold continues to take an interest in Prairie du Chien. A highly active member of the community, he is a member of the City Planning Council, the Special School Board Committee, and the St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Council. His service has not gone unnoticed; in 1997, Harold was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award by the National Rural Health Association. He has received the Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce C.F. LaPointe Award in 1999, an honor that is given annually for service to one’s community. He has committed himself to not only the healthcare needs of Prairie du Chien but to its other needs as well.

Harold’s service to the state of Wisconsin and the community of Prairie du Chien has been tremendous. He has dedicated much of his life to providing quality health care and has touched many lives along the way. Harold is truly a man of integrity, and I feel privileged to call him a friend.