likewise ran the gamut; and there was Bob Murphy to share them with us.

His work behind the mike was as good as they come. One of my favorite calls remains the wild pitch thrown by Bob Stanley in the sixth game of the 1986 World Series. Everyone remembers the Bill Buckner error from that game. But, in truth, the biggest moment of that inning came a few pitches earlier, when Stanley's pitch to the backstop allowed Kevin Mitchell, the tying run, to score. Murph's succinct call was perfect. The excitement in his voice was unmistakable, and he let his brevity and his repetition indicate the profoundness of the moment.

''Gets away! Gets away! Here comes Mitchell! Here comes Mitchell! Tie game! Tie game . . .!'' And with that last ''tie game'' his voice trailed off—or maybe it was drowned out—to the loudest eruption that Shea Stadium has ever heard.

We're going to miss him. Bob Murphy gave a lot to us, more than we can ever thank him for. But today, on behalf of my colleges in the House of Representatives, I wish Bob Murphy the happiest of recaps to a tremendous career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Ms. Speaker, due to a scheduling conflict on September 25th, I was unable to vote on rollcall vote 522 and 523.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote 522, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act. It is vitally important that the Medicare Conferees accept the Senate-passed provisions requiring a federal ''fallback'' prescription drug benefit; agree to the best provisions improving Medicare payments to health care providers in rural areas; and reject the cut in payments to hospitals in the House bill which will adversely affect hospitals in rural areas.

I would also have voted ''yes'' on rollcall 523, the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1588, the Defense Authorization Act. At a time when we are asking more from our Reservists and National Guard than ever before, it is only fair that we provide these heroic women and men with the proper health care they need to care for themselves and their families. I will continue to support efforts toward a strong health care system for all our military women and men, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

RUFINO MENDOZA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding elementary school in my district. As a former school teacher, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Rufino Mendoza Elementary School in Fort Worth, TX. Recently, Mendoza was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a national ''Blue Ribbon school.''

Rufino Mendoza Elementary was recognized for outstanding academic improvement, and Mendoza has worked very hard to achieve this honor. Mendoza has overcome incredible odds to offer the very finest education possible. Ninety-seven percent of the students at Mendoza Elementary school are of a minority background, and 87 percent of those students come from low-income families. In fact, most of the students qualify for the free lunch program, and 56 percent speak Spanish as their primary language.

In the past 4 years, Mendoza has moved from being simply ''acceptable'' to being an example of excellence for all schools across the Nation. Mendoza recognized its educational challenges 4 years ago and designed a plan to directly meet those challenges. Mendoza Elementary called together school administrators, teachers, and school district officials in a cooperative agreement to study the needs of each student. The result is an education system that is based on the needs and potential of every student.

I am very proud of the students, parents, teachers, and administrators at Rufino Mendoza Elementary. Thanks to their hard work, Mendoza is a symbol of hope and achievement for students in our community and across this Nation.

Rufino Mendoza Elementary, congratulations on being named a Blue Ribbon school.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 25, 2003, I voted against the Kind motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, the Medicare Modernization Act, when I intended to vote in the affirmative. The rolreall vote was 522. Let the record show I intended to vote ''yea'' on the motion.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES HALL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen. Dr. James Hall of Livermore, California is a dedicated research scientist who diligently works to improve the safety of all Americans. James is a graduate of Colorado State University—Pueblo and is being recognized by that institution for his outstanding work in the field of science with their Outstanding Alumnus award. James is well accomplished in his field, and I am honored to recognize his achievements here today.

James is a Principal Investigator at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in. Livermore, California. His work includes utilizing nuclear technology to screen luggage and air cargo. James is a leader in his field, publishing over 60 articles, and he is a member of the American Physical Society. In the past, James worked with the U.S. Underground Nuclear Test Program and was selected by the Department of Energy to serve as their representative to the Eighth Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission in association with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

Mr. Speaker, James Hall exemplifies a life devoted to science and technological advancement. Through his hard work and dedication, James has worked to improve lives through scientific discovery. For his many accomplishments, I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. James Hall here today.

INTRODUCTION FOR THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, there is a tragedy going on across our country every day in which parents are being forced to turn over custody of their severely emotionally disturbed children to state child welfare agencies or the juvenile justice system as their only means of obtaining desperately needed mental health services. These instances of child custody relinquishment happen when families are uninsured or have inadequate health insurance to pay for treatment of their child's illness. Because this nation's social safety net is not designed to help these families stay together, parents are being forced to turn their child over to the state in order to get the medical attention they so desperately need.

The ''Keeping Families Together Act'' which Senator COLLINS, Senator PRYOR, Representative RAMSTAD and Representative KENNEDY, and I are introducing today will help end this barbaric practice of child custody relinquishment.

The problem is widespread. In a report we requested, the U.S. General Accounting Office report found that parents placed over 12,700 children in 19 states and 30 counties into the child welfare system or juvenile justice system as their only means to assure that these children could receive vitally needed mental health services.

The GAO report looked at a limited number of states and acknowledged that the number of families impacted nationwide is much higher. To add further credence to that finding, a recent survey conducted by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) found that 25% of parents of children with serious emotional disturbance reported being advised to relinquish custody of their child in order to access needed mental health services.

According to another report by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, the situations that cause parents and guardians to give up their seriously emotionally disturbed children to state agencies include the following:

The family has either exhausted their private health insurance benefits or their benefits do not cover required mental health services (e.g. Residential Treatment Program).

The family lives in a state or jurisdiction in which Medicaid services do not adequately address mental health needs and agency