

Additionally, this legislation would extend the authority for schools, churches, and community organizations to operate Summer Food Service Program sites, and in 14 states, continue operation of special pilot programs that reduce paperwork requirements and thereby increase the number of low-income children who receive free meals and snacks during the summer months.

Finally, this legislation ensures that until a child nutrition reauthorization bill is signed into law, commodity distribution to schools will be maintained at sufficient levels and that schools will have funds available to replace commodities that pose a potential health or safety risk to students.

The child nutrition provisions that would be extended through this legislation benefit America's most vulnerable children. It is our duty as lawmakers to ensure that these at-risk children and their families can continue to receive the benefits for which they have been deemed eligible until the House and Senate complete work on legislation reauthorizing both the Child Nutrition Act and Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act in their entirety.

#### PREVENT PRICE GOUGING DURING A DISASTER—SUPPORT THE P.I.G. ACT

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, as we have just seen following Hurricane Isabel, some vendors charged residents exorbitant rates for essential goods and services following the storm. A recent Washington Post article reports that in one instance, a tree-cutting firm wanted \$17,000 to remove five trees that had already fallen to the ground. The same article refers to gasoline being sold for over \$3 a gallon and bottles of water sold for \$5 apiece.

While most merchants are honorable and help their neighbors by providing at a reasonable cost the products or services during a crisis, others seek to take advantage of these people in their time of need. Today I am introducing the Permanently Inhibit Gougers (P.I.G.) Act that would prohibit vendors from increasing prices on goods and services widely needed during a declared disaster.

Specifically, prices could not be increased by more than 10 percent in excess of the average price of a product over the last 90 days. This restriction would apply for the seven days before a foreseeable event and for the 90 days following a disaster. Increases in excess of 10% would be branded an unfair or deceptive business practice under the Federal Trade Commission Act. Reasonable exceptions would be made for vendors allowing them to raise their prices proportionally when their cost of doing business or acquiring wholesale goods increases during a crisis.

Additionally, violators would be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$250,000. People who are the victims of price gouging would be able to sue the purveyor for damages up to three times the amount they overpaid.

Congress must act to prevent unscrupulous vendors from taking advantage of consumers during an emergency. We need to make it clear that such despicable behavior, which is

as shameless as looting, will be punished severely in order to ensure that our constituents are not gouged at the worst possible time. I urge my colleagues to send gougers a strong message by signing on as cosponsors of this legislation.

#### HONORING CONSULEGIS

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an important semi-annual conference that will be taking place in my district over the span of four days in October. Becker & Poliakoff, a highly respected and diverse commercial law firm based in Hollywood, Florida, has been chosen to host the Fall meeting of Consulegis, an international network of law firms.

Consulegis, an international association of independent law firms, was first founded in Germany to provide cross-country services when numerous restrictions once were in place that hindered commerce between many countries in Europe. Members of this organization include law practices that achieve the hallmark of being independent, commercially minded, and possessing the highest professional standards. Since its initial inception, the organization has grown rapidly, once encompassing more of Europe and then later expanding to include members from other continents of the world.

The founding principles that guide this exemplary international group are based on the premise that within our globalized commercial framework, cooperation and cohesion amongst a strong network of firms will bring forth the ideal results for their respective clients. Simply by working together, Consulegis and its independent firms can rely on a number of resources and a solidified level of trust to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a special occasion to rise today and honor this event. Not only am I proud of the respected law firm in my district, Becker & Poliakoff, which has proven worthy as a member of Consulegis to host this crucial conference, but I am encouraged by this organization's efforts to bridge gaps in the international community. Indeed, forming a reliable network of professionals all seeking to help their clients and spur growth in our international commercial framework only has proven to be positive in every sense. From partnerships such as Consulegis and the cooperation they foster, these firms have been trailblazers in understanding and harnessing the beneficial context of the international economy.

#### TRIBUTE TO CALVIN HOPPER

**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. Calvin Hopper has worked for many years in the field of nu-

clear safety. His dedication and hard work has earned him widespread recognition, including the Outstanding Achievement Award from Colorado State University—Pueblo. Calvin is well accomplished in his field, and I am honored to recognize his achievements today.

Calvin is a distinguished Senior Development Engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he works in nuclear criticality safety process analysis and program management. Prior to his current work, Calvin held many positions in the field, including helping to develop the Department of Energy Standard Practices Guide for criticality safety projects for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. In addition, Calvin has served as the Deputy Advisor and Technical Expert to the U.S. Nuclear Technical Advisory Group and is a member of the American Nuclear Society, where he serves as chairman of several committees. Outside of his professional life, Calvin works to give back to his community through involvement in the Habitat for Humanity and the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra and Band.

Mr. Speaker, Calvin Hopper is a dedicated scientist and active citizen. His distinguished professional achievements and commitment to his community are truly an inspiration to us all. I am honored to join with my colleagues in recognizing Calvin here today.

#### ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BOB MURPHY

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 2, 2003*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, back home in New York, Mets fans are coping with the retirement of New York Mets announcer Bob Murphy. Murph was an original Met, having called Mets games since their inception in 1962, 42 seasons ago. He saw, and brought home to us, every peak and trough in between.

It's hard to explain the special bond that Mets fans have with Bob Murphy. But it is akin to a long-term friendship that begins in early childhood, suffers with you through adolescence, struggles with you through young adulthood, and triumphs with you through maturity. Friends who spend every summer day and night together, and whose hearts ache to be reunited during the long, cold winter.

As children, Bob Murphy tucked us in to bed at night. He sat with us in the classroom as we smuggled a radio into school. He rode with us as we sat in traffic. No matter what else was transpiring in our life, we could always turn to Bob Murphy bringing us a routine game in the middle of June, and be put totally at ease. Bob Murphy had that calming effect on us. Chicken pox, report cards, girlfriends all came and went—but through the years, Bob Murphy never left our side. He shared those moments with us all while bringing us to the edge of our seat, sharing with us the emotional roller coaster that comes with being a Mets fan.

He brought us laughter; he brought us tears (in the early years, often at the same time). In their history, the Mets have won two World Series and four pennants. But, nestled between those accomplishments, they have suffered at some of the leanest years that baseball has ever seen. All the while, our emotions

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. Re-

cently, 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 rollcall 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