

Yet, this support for the effort is accompanied by a deep sense of anxiety and concern. Mr. Speaker, nobody wants war.

The death, destruction and misery of war are things that we should never ignore and we cannot forget. When our troops are called to defend our nation and international peace, we do so with a heavy heart but strong confidence that we will prevail.

While I remain unequivocal in my support of these men and women, I am deeply disappointed that the House Republican leadership has chosen to bring forward such a divisive resolution to the floor. Unlike our colleagues in the Senate, who passed a non-controversial and bipartisan resolution in their chamber earlier this evening, the House Republican leadership has chosen to craft a resolution with some provisions that are troubling. It is clear that even during a war, the Speaker and his team will continue to play political games.

It is obvious that Republican leaders are hoping that by including contentious language they can break apart the unity that I believe the House has for our troops. Despite some of my concerns over some of this maneuvering, my support of our New Mexico men and women and the ones they have left behind far outweighs that.

My thoughts and prayers are with our armed forces personnel and their families. At this time of national crisis, our troops and their families must know that their nation is behind them, they are forever our heroes, and they have our full support.

I also want to reassure our future veterans that I will continue to work throughout my tenure in Congress to maintain and expand the benefits that they and their families have earned. The benefits these men and women earn are but a small gesture of repayment for sacrifices and courage that can never be quantified.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this conflict is over as quickly as possible, with the least number of casualties on both sides. I yearn for nothing more than a peaceful and prosperous future for America, Iraq, and the entire world.

A CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER REMEMBERED

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Audrey Yvette Wall Augustus was born on November 3, 1956, at Saint Agnes Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina. She departed this life and entered into eternal rest on Saturday, March 1, 2003, with her loving, devoted husband holding her hand. Audrey was the eldest child born to Richmond Wall, Jr. and Lydia Thomas Wall.

"Little Audrey", as she was affectionately known, was named after her father's sister. When she was two years old, the family moved to Washington, DC. Audrey was educated in the District of Columbia and Prince Georges County Public School Systems. She graduated from Largo High School in 1975. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Lydia and her Godmother, Nurry, Audrey became a "Bennett Belle" when she enrolled at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina. In the

Spring of 1977, she pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She established a legacy of love, strength, endurance, patience, courage and enthusiasm and became a beacon of light for all to follow. In 1979, Audrey graduated from Bennett College with a degree in Early Childhood Education and a minor in Library Science. Her love for children was evident in her everyday life, and her home was always a popular gathering place for them.

Audrey joined the United States Capitol Police Department on October 5, 1981, and achieved the rank of Private First Class (PFC). As an educator, she sought and became an instructor in the Capitol Police Training Academy in August 1991, thru June 2001. She taught over 1,000 of the men and women that currently protect and serve the United States Congress today. She shared her enthusiasm and gave of herself until her untimely death.

Audrey leaves to cherish her memory: her husband Kevin A. Augustus; also a Capitol Police Officer since, February 21, 1978. Daughters, Ashli Kai-Leen Jordan, Aysha Monaye Jordan; son Kevin A. Augustus, Jr.; parents, Richmond Wall Jr. and Lydia T. Wall; sister, Adrienne M. Wall; brother, Richmond Wall, Jr.; aunts, June Swindell (Richard), Norma Haywood (David L), Audrey Wall, Nurry Johnson (John), Mary Jeffries and Bes-sie Morgan (Ed); cousins, Denise Brown (Freddie) and Marielle Posey (Derrick); sister-in-law, Bonnie Claggett; father-in-law, Alfred A. Augustus; nephews, Derek Augustus and Michael "Mikey" Claggett; niece Joy Peterson; devoted friends and guardian angles; Liz Harris, LaMont Lewis, Anita Stoddard, Sherri Morgan, Beverly Davis, JoAnne Morgan; and Godmothers, Kimberley Scott and Mischelle Corbin.

To all who were blessed to know her, Audrey will be remembered as the kindest, most gentle soul.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA KELLY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barbara Kelly who was recently awarded the Humanitarian Award from the Milbury Democratic Committee. Mrs. Kelly was chosen for her active work for the Democratic Party and her continuous dedication to its principles.

Mrs. Kelly is a close friend of mine, and she has helped out on my campaigns for Congress. She is also a dedicated supporter of the party and a salient activist for the core principles the party represents. She had demonstrated her willingness and commitment by volunteering much of her time to tedious campaign work.

In addition to her work for the Democratic Party, Mrs. Kelly has been a leading advocate for social causes. She is active in the fight for access to health care. She is a leading voice on behalf of our senior citizens. Specifically, Mrs. Kelly has looked for ways to lessen the tax burden that plagues our seniors. She has fought for single payer health insurance. Mrs. Kelly has worked hard to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

In addition to her work in the Democratic Party, Mrs. Kelly is active in many local organizations. She served as president of MSAC, the Massachusetts Senior Action Council and received its "Unsung Hero Award." Mrs. Kelly is currently a member of the Women's Club; she has worked with Alzheimer's patients; she is a senior companion; and she is active in St. Brigid's and St. John's parishes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call Mrs. Kelly a friend. I am confident that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in congratulating her for a lifetime of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, on February 13, 2003, I was unavoidably absent for two rollcall votes, due to the death of a family member.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 31 (Obey motion to recommit on H.J. Res. 2), and 32 (Final Passage of the Conference Report to Accompany H.J. Res. 2, the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Bill).

DISMAY OVER THE END OF U.N. NEGOTIATIONS IN CYPRUS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise to register my dismay that negotiations between the President of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopoulos, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash on a United Nations settlement plan to reunite Cyprus ended two weeks ago without a final outcome.

Mr. Denkash has put most of the blame on his own shoulders for this lost opportunity. By not allowing the Turkish Cypriots to vote on the U.S. settlement plan by a referendum, Mr. Denkash has made the decision for the Turkish Cypriots that they will not live under the European Union's laws or reap its economic benefits. Mr. Denkash should not just look at this as a personal matter, or even as a dispute between Turkey and Greece, but should rather take into consideration what is the right choice for the people of Cyprus.

As may other members have expressed, I do not want the recent reunification talks, the fourth attempt since the Turkish invasion of Northern Cyprus in 1974, to end in an impasse. The U.S. settlement cleared a path for all of Cyprus to unite once again, to share in the European Union's prosperity, and to end military zones. Now with just the Republic of Cyprus poised and ready for membership into the EU in 2004, a deeper divide between the two sides may grow without a push for future negotiations.

The United States must continue its role in supporting negotiations so that there is still potential for all of Cyprus to join the EU. Consequently, I recently sent a letter to President Bush asking that we continue to encourage reunification negotiations in Cyprus. Although

frustration levels at this point are high, the United States should still play a positive and supportive role that will lead to a final Cyprus settlement. I urge Congress to continue to support Cyprus' membership to the European Union and the United Nation's settlement plan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, last week Colorado experienced a very heavy snowstorm—in fact, it was a blizzard in many areas. This was good news for our state, which has been suffering from a serious drought. However, it seriously interfered with travel. As a result, I was unable to be present for votes on several measures. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 65, H. Con. Res. 26—Condemning the punishment of execution by stoning as a gross violation of human rights—I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 66, H.R. 868—Nicaragua Property Dispute Settlement Act of 2003—I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 67, H. Res. 109—Urging passage of a resolution addressing human rights in North Korea at the 59th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and calling on the Government of North Korea to respect and protect the human rights of its citizens—I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 68, H.R. 314—Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act (Royce Financial Services)—I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 69, H.R. 417—Cibola Wildlife Refuge Boundary Correction—I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 70, H.R. 699—To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer, located in Idaho and Washington—I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 71, the Sherman amendment to H.R. 975 (bankruptcy bill), I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 72, the Nadler amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 975 (bankruptcy bill), I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 73, the Jackson-Lee motion to recommit H.R. 975 (bankruptcy bill), I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 74, passage of H.R. 975 (bankruptcy bill), I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 75, on approving the Journal, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 76, H.R. 1307—To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for members of the uniformed services in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence and to restore the tax exempt status of death gratuity payments to members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes—I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 77, H. Res. 132—Expressing the sense of the House that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Newdow v. United States Congress* is inconsistent with the Supreme Court's interpretation of the first amendment and should be overturned, and for

other purposes—I would have voted “present.”

I would have voted that way because I am not a lawyer and have not studied the relevant decisions of the Supreme court—and so I do not think it would be appropriate for me to say that the cited decision of the Court of Appeals is inconsistent with those decisions.

Last year, I voted in favor of a related (but not identical) resolution. However, as I said at that time, I did so not because I necessarily agreed that the Circuit Court's decision is “inconsistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's First Amendment jurisprudence” as that resolution said, but because I agreed that “the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals should agree to rehear” the matter, as that resolution also stated.

I am proud to recite the Pledge of Allegiance because I personally consider it as being neither a prayer nor a religious practice and so think its recitation is not a religious exercise but instead a verbal expression of support for our country. However, obviously not everyone shares my view. And, as I said last year, I am not prepared to conclude that the author of the Ninth Circuit decision—a long-serving judge originally appointed by President Nixon—was clearly wrong as a matter of law, even though as I understand it another appeals court, in a similar case, has ruled differently. So, I definitely think the issue needs to be resolved by the Supreme Court.

On rollcall No. 78, the Hill (Blue Dog) substitute to the budget resolution, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 79, the Toomey (Republican Study Committee) substitute to the budget resolution, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 80, the Cummings (Black Caucus/Progressive Caucus) substitute to the budget resolution, I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 81, the Spratt (Democratic) substitute to the budget resolution, I would have voted “yes.”

On rollcall No. 82, on passage on H. Con. Res. 95 (the budget resolution), I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall No. 83, passage of H. Con. Res. 104—expressing the support and appreciation of the Nation for the President and the members of the Armed forces who are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom—I would have voted “yes.”

I would have done so because although I have disagreed with the way the President has handled the diplomatic events leading up to war, it is now time for us all to support our brave men and women in uniform who are charged with carrying out this mission and to pray for their success and safe return home. We all hope for a swift resolution with minimal casualties—among our troops and Iraqis as well. And we must do more to protect ourselves at home. I am confident that the United States and our allies will win the war. That will not be the end, but the beginning of the more difficult task of securing the peace. Congress must commit to providing aid to rebuild Iraq and the Administration must work to repair relationships with our allies. We will need them and the rest of the international community in our corner to rebuild Iraq, bring stability to the Middle East, and win the war on terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO GARLAND THOMPSON

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Georgian and an outstanding American citizen. I am proud to recognize Mr. Garland Thompson in the United States Congress for his invaluable contributions to his community, his state and his nation.

Mr. Garland Thompson was born on June 5, 1928 in Soperton, GA. His dad operated as a one-horse share cropper until he could save enough money to buy a small farm. Garland grew up on the farm planting row crops.

Garland showed signs of the talent, determination and achievement that have been the hallmarks of his career at an early age, when he graduated from Soperton High School. He then attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and then University of Georgia where he earned his Bachelors degree. He then attended the University of Georgia School of Banking as well as the L.S.U School of Banking.

He met his wife, Anita, in Macon and they married in June, 1943. They have four children; Kirby, Andy, Beth and Tim and five grandchildren; Betsy, Macie, Kip, Katie and Trent.

Mr. Garland Thompson was employed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 12 years in Wilkinson County, before serving 37 years in banking between C&S Bank in Dublin, GA, and Sun Trust Bank in Douglas, GA.

Mr. Thompson has served on the Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority board for the past 21 years. He has also served as Interim President and Director for the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce. Thirty years ago Coffee County was 90% dependent on their agriculture base. Today, they have a widely diversified economy that boasts about \$200 million in the industrial base and \$200 million in the agriculture base. As Garland says, “it's about 50/50 now and we are extremely blessed”.

Garland has retired but still serves on the Georgia State Soil & Water Commission, SubBelt Exposition, ABAC Alumni Board of Directors, and has served on the Vo-Ag Advisory Committee, Georgia Extension Advisory Commission, and the G.T.E. Advisory Board. He is also a consultant on the U.S. 441 Economic Development Council.

It is my distinguished pleasure today to honor Mr. Garland Thompson for his service and dedication to Coffee County and its citizens. He remains an inspiration to us all.

A TRIBUTE TO MOLLIE WEST

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today, in celebration of Women's History Month, I rise to honor a woman from my district in Chicago, Mollie Lieber West, for her outstanding work and dedication to organizing women within the labor movement. Her leadership has opened