

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