

he says his decision to leave the House is not health-related, but simply predicated by a desire to attend to family and business interests and to, as they say, "smell the roses" a bit, perhaps while dove hunting and fly fishing, two particular loves.

His wife, Mary Scott, says that having Andy at home on more or less a regular basis will translate into more opportunities to enjoy the company of friends, sans the demands that politics brings.

"I'll be able to say . . . 'Let's have dinner on Friday or Saturday night and we won't have to talk politics,'" Mrs. Guest said.

Without a doubt, she knows her man far better than we, but we suspect that politics will never stray too far from the mind of Andy Guest. Citizen-legislators may retire, but when "tradition" is born in the blood, the passion seldom expires. Nor does the legacy, which, in this case, is considerable.

THE D.C. EQUALITY BEGINS AT HOME EFFORTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the local Equality Begins at Home events here in the District of Columbia that will take place during the week of March 21–27, 1999. I will be at the Bipartisan Congressional Retreat in Hershey, Pennsylvania on Sunday, March 21, when the District of Columbia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) residents kick off a week of lobbying and conscience raising at Freedom Plaza.

These events, with an emphasis on local needs, are taking place throughout the United States, but no jurisdiction has experienced more bigotry associated with sexual orientation than the nation's capital. This prejudice, I am happy to say, does not come from the people of the District of Columbia, or their locally elected representatives, who have enacted the most progressive and far-reaching protections in the country. Residents of every background in the District feel particular anger when, in violation of all of the principles of self-government, Congress injects itself to enact measures at odds with principles of equality and anti-discrimination that the residents of this city hold especially dear.

Each year, under congressional attack, I am forced to defend the District's domestic partnership law, a very modest provision designed to afford relatives or partners who live in the same household the opportunity to qualify for health benefits at no additional expense to the District government. Last year, I spent ten hours on the House floor defending the District's appropriation from anti-democratic attachments, more of them seeking to impose sexual orientation discrimination than any other type of attachment that was proposed and passed. We must keep these and other anti-gay provisions off this year's appropriation. The right to adopt children or to qualify for health insurance has everything to do with kids in need of homes or residents in need of

health care, and nothing to do with the sexual orientation of our residents. The bigoted mischief done by Congress to the District in the name of homophobia has known no bounds. The city is now in court seeking to overturn the congressional attachment that prevents the release of the November ballot results determining whether District residents who are ill can use medically prescribed marijuana for medicinal purposes. Another amendment brimming with discrimination last year all but destroyed the District's successful needle exchange program, leaving this vital, life-saving program to a totally private group with little funding.

I very much appreciate the efforts of our dedicated and energetic LGBT community to educate Members concerning the injury done to individuals and the insult to self-government rendered by congressional anti-gay attachments. With Equality Begins at Home rallied to fight back, we will yet make the Congress understand that it must back off—back off bigotry against District residents whose sexual orientation differs from the majority, and back off the annual assault on the legislative prerogatives of the City Council.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this bigotry is not limited to anti-democratic legislation aimed at the LGBT community of the District. In the past year, this nation has been outraged at the inexplicable cruelty of the murders of two gay men in Alabama and Wyoming. These hate-inspired murders underscore the need to pass the Hate-Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) immediately. Another session of Congress must not go by without addressing both the crimes and the employment discrimination that emanate from sexual orientation. No other response is acceptable.

COMMEMORATING TEJANO MUSIC: 19TH ANNUAL TEJANO MUSIC AWARDS CELEBRATION

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today that will recognize one of the unique sounds sweeping across the Nation today—Tejano music. All across America the sounds of tejano have become the music of choice. From deep in the heart of south Texas to the Great Plains, from the east coast to the west coast, the pulsating rhythms of a loud drumbeat, a bajo-sexto guitar and an ubiquitous accordian are taking over the Nation to the beat of Tejano.

During the last several years Tejano artists have captured a large percentage of the Latin music market and continue to rise in popularity. From the legendary Selena to the incomparable Little Joe the sweet sounds of Tejano continue to climb the American music charts with one hit after another. The sound of Tejano is the sound of a people. For those of us in south Texas, Tejano is the tradition and history of the people's thoughts, feelings and

aspirations. Tejano is more than just the high energy mix of Rock 'n Roll, Country, Jazz and Rhythm & Blues, it is the music of our people that helps move us and express our emotions.

This week, the city of San Antonio—known as the Tejano capitol of the world—will be host to the 19th Annual Tejano Music Awards. The awards presentation will take place on Saturday, March 20, 1999, at the Alamodome in San Antonio and pay tribute to the best and brightest in the Tejano music industry.

A testament to the success of Tejano music and this annual awards show is the more than 40,000 people expected to attend the event this year. The Annual Tejano Music Awards, which began in 1980 with an enthusiastic 1,300 in attendance, is now one of our Nation's premier and fastest growing musical celebration.

Today, I offer up this resolution to commemorate the 19th Annual Tejano Music Awards and the spirit and history behind the music that will be celebrated and honored this week in San Antonio.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ARTHUR BOWERS, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Arthur Bowers, Jr. In his hometown of Florence, SC, he is very active in community affairs and has made many kind and generous contributions to the local community. He continually offers support to his neighbors, friends, and family.

Mr. Bowers was born on December 2, 1918, in Ellenton, SC. He is the son of the late Arthur Bowers, Sr., and Mrs. Eldora Bowers Phinizy. He has two siblings: the late Estella Gantt and Isaiah Phinizy. On February 4, 1939, Mr. Bowers married the late Mary Cross Bowers. They had six children: Gladys, Dillie, Arthur, Jr., Loretta, Gloria, and Michael. In addition, Mr. Bowers has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In 1979, Mr. Bowers retired after working for the railroad for over 37 years. He has been a member of the New Ebenezer Baptist Church for over 50 years where he still serves as chairman of the Deacon Board. Mr. Bowers is a member of various community organizations. In particular, he is associated with the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the United Transportation Union, Hiram Masonic Lodge #13, and the Seaboard Fellowship Club. He also serves as organizer and chairman of the Carver and Cannon Streets Crime Watch, and chairman of the Scouting Committee at New Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Mr. Bowers is a remarkable citizen and a wonderful asset to the State of South Carolina. He follows a motto that provides insight into his good character, "If I can help somebody as I travel along life's highway, then my living shall not be in vain."