

Unfortunately, the ability to predict disease through genetic testing and family history opens the door for discrimination, particularly the employment and the health insurance industry. Such a threat has deterred the public and scientists from taking full advantage of the important opportunities that genetic information provides. Without appropriate protections to encourage providers, the health care community and the public to embrace genetic testing, the health care arena will be incapable of taking full advantage of the important opportunities resulting from the advancement of genetic information and technology.

The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005 prohibits health insurers in both group and individual markets from: using genetic information to impose enrollment restrictions or to adjust premium or contribution amounts; requesting genetic testing or results except as necessary for treatment, payment, or health care operations; and requesting or requiring the use of genetic information for the purposes of underwriting.

With regards to employment, the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005 grants enforcement powers to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and: makes it an unlawful employment practice for an employer, employment agency, labor organization, or training program to discriminate against an individual or deprive an individual of employment opportunities because of genetic information; prohibits the collection of genetic information except where necessary to monitor the effects of toxic substances in the workplace, when authorized by the employee, or as required by law; safeguards the confidentiality of genetic information in the employment setting.

The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2005 brings public policy up-to-date with science and ensures that every American can benefit from our scientific progress without the worry of genetic discrimination.

I urge all my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
SAN ANTONIO COUNCILMAN  
ROGER O. FLORES

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of San Antonio City Councilman Roger Flores.

Roger Flores is a San Antonio native, from a small business family with a tradition of public service.

He graduated from Central Catholic High School, and received his Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University, where he was a member of the Fighting Aggie Band.

After college, Roger returned to San Antonio to join his family's restaurant business. He managed and operated two restaurants, and also found time to serve his community as the Vice President of the St. Anthony Elementary School Board, and as a member of the board of Positive Beginnings, Inc.

On May 27 of 2004, Roger was elected to the Council seat that his father had held four years before. Roger credits his family as an inspiration for his public service, and believes deeply in the role of the community in supporting and encouraging strong families.

Mr. Speaker, Roger Flores is the kind of citizen who holds our communities together: a successful small businessman, a dedicated father, and a selfless volunteer and public servant. I thank him for his commitment, and congratulate him on his election to the San Antonio City Council.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCILMAN  
CARROLL SCHUBERT

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Carroll Schubert for his outstanding work, both in the legal community and on behalf of the people of San Antonio.

Mr. Schubert is a graduate of Texas A&M University, and the University of Texas School of Law, and a specialist in both civil litigation and regulatory and public affairs. His long history of public service includes time as Commissioner for the Bexar County Civil Service Commission, on the Board of Directors of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, and as Chief Deputy District Attorney for Bexar County.

Mr. Schubert has given his time to a variety of organizations which work for the public good. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Wildlife Association, has been Chairman of the Board of Professional Contract Services, Inc., a state and federal government contractor which provides jobs for people with disabilities.

From 1975 through 1978, Carroll was Executive Assistant to United States Senator Lloyd Bentsen. He was first elected to the San Antonio City Council on May 5, 2001, and was re-elected in 2003. He has worked as city councilman to improve city planning and the city's quality of life, and was the council's liaison to many of the San Antonio region's military bases and units.

Mr. Speaker, his career as a lawyer and a public servant has done credit to the city of San Antonio, and I am proud to have the opportunity to congratulate him here.

A TRIBUTE TO MELADY JEAN-  
BAPTISTE

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 14, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Melady Jean-Baptiste, who came to this country without being able to speak English, and now, after earning multiple degrees in education, serves as a role model for all who know her.

Melady Jean-Baptiste is a native of the city of Cap-Haitien in Haiti. She was born one of two daughters and three sons to a very loving, close knit, strong and progressive family. Her father immigrated to America at the age of 65 and began immediately to help his family immigrate. With her father in America, Melady attended the prestigious and elite College Regina Assumpta then continued at the Wetsal Secretarial School in Port au Prince.

In 1979, a few short years after her father left, Melady immigrated to America. The family searched for a church home and while walking in their neighborhood, they came upon Holy Trinity Baptist Church. Melady and her family began to attend services regularly at the Church. They were the only non-English speaking people in the congregation. Melady not only learned to speak English by attending the Sunday School class but she learned the biggest lesson of her life; that religion and education go hand in hand. Melady remains a faithful, tithing member of Holy Trinity Baptist Church (the fourth oldest Black Church in Brooklyn) and serves on the Deaconess Board and as a former president of the Pastor's Aide Ministry and the Women's Missionary Union.

Melady completed her two year degree at New York City Technical College (1987) her bachelor's four-year degree in less than four years, earning her B.S.W. at York College (1988). Two years later, she completed her M.S.W. in 1990 at Columbia University. Melady has also earned her a C.S.W., a Mono and Bilingual License and Certifications in Education. She is a member of a school based support team and uses her own life story to encourage students to not give up. She inspires many students to overcome learning difficulties and treats each child not as a social work case but as an individual who has an opportunity to succeed. She has enabled hundreds of children and families to overcome adverse moments in their lives and move effectively toward realizing their goals.

Melady is the quintessential American immigrant success story. She not only has utilized education and her faith as tools for success but she has also served as a role model for others, including her family. Her sister Maryse has completed her professional nursing degree at Columbia University; her daughter Milady Jean-Baptiste Hartmann is a graduate of the Parsons School of Art & Design; and her second daughter, Tamar, stricken with a severe crippling form of rheumatoid arthritis as a child, completed her undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College and will begin her graduate studies next semester. Her mother, Melanie, at 83, continues to advance her education as well. Melady is the aunt of Melanie and Rogerst J-B. Charles; mother-in-law of Philippe Hartmann and grandmother of Caroline and Dahlia Hartmann. She is forever grateful for the possibilities America has given her through the wonderful, great natural resources of historical Black Churches, Black pastors and educational opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, Melady Jean-Baptiste serves as an inspiration to us all. Her dedication to education has improved not only her life but those she comes in contact with everyday. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

FEDERAL TRANSIT BENEFITS ACT

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Transit Benefit Act. This legislation codifies Executive Order #13150 that directed all executive branch agencies to provide their employees in the national capital region with the full tax-free transit benefit provided under current law.

Initially the benefit was set at \$65 per month, but increased to \$100 per month beginning in January 2002.

Give up your car and parking spot and you can receive a voucher to cover a portion of your transit or van pool cost commuting to work. The benefit has been a godsend to this region, helping to reduce traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and improve quality of life issues for Federal employees.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government estimates that this benefit has boosted ridership in transit services and van pools by more than 100,000 Federal employees and reduced vehicle miles traveled between 40 million and 54 million.

The legislation I am introducing today will extend this benefit to the other branches of the Federal Government, the legislative and judicial branches, all independent Federal agencies, postal workers and the Smithsonian that were not covered by the executive order.

I have long sought to maintain parity in salaries and benefits for all Federal workers. This legislation restores parity ensuring that those Federal agencies that don't currently provide this benefit for their employees will do so.

The legislation will also remove current law restrictions and enable Federal agencies to offer their employees shuttle services between their office and transit centers like Metro, MARC, and Virginia Railway Express. Under current law, Federal agencies are prohibited from providing shuttle services to their employees if it is not a part of official business.

The Federal Government is the region's largest employer. As such, it can and should do more to help its employees cope with some of the Nation's worst traffic congestion and in doing so help reduce harmful automobile emissions that have pushed this region into severe nonattainment.

This legislation was unanimously approved by the House Government Reform Committee last session. Its need is long overdue.

A TRIBUTE TO MISS SANDRA ODESSA THOMPSON

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Sandra Odessa Thompson in recognition of her service to New York City and her dedication to her community through her numerous civic commitments.

Sandra Odessa Thompson was born and raised in Brooklyn. Sandra is a permanent As-

sociate Staff Analyst employed by the City of New York managing a portfolio of more than \$100 million involving cultural institutions at the Department of Design & Construction (DDC). She earned a BS in Biology from Pennsylvania State University, a MA in Human Sexuality and Health Education, and a professional diploma in Human Resources Management from New York University. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of Origin, a new women's magazine, which is the premier magazine for women in the Delaware Valley.

Over the years, Sandra has been actively involved in civic, community and fundraising events including a fundraiser for Creative Outlet Dance Theatre of Brooklyn, Inc., featuring the Broadway diva, Ms. Jennifer Holliday. She is a member of the Executive Board for the Organization of Staff Analysts (OSA); a member of OSA's Black History Committee; a team negotiator in 2004 for the City's Analysts; as well as a co-founder of DDC's OSA Chapter, where she serves as Vice-Chair of Contracts & Negotiations. Sandra has also received numerous honors, community and civic awards including: the Precinct/Clergy Community Award for fostering police-community relations; the OSA's first Elaine Cherry Memorial Award for Union Activism; several City Council Citations; and the 98.7 KISS-FM Strong Achiever Award. She has also been recognized as one of The 2000 Most Notable American Women and for her work as a budget analyst for the City's portion [\$65 million] of MoMA's (Museum of Modern Art) move from Manhattan to Queens and for one of her gardens (The Cloisters) she funded in a national magazine.

Additionally, Sandra is creating a mentoring and scholarship foundation in her parents' memory. She mentors several young ladies; actively recruits and networks (in NYC) for prospective Penn State University (PSU) undergraduates as an alumni volunteer; and is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Previously, she was the past Recording Secretary and fundraiser for the 81st Precinct Community Council; a liaison between the 81st precinct community and youth councils; a strategic planning team member for the 2004 Youth Speak Outs & Borough Conference. Sandra also collaborated with the Kings County District Attorney's Office on the 2003 boroughwide Youth Speak Outs & Silence the Violence Youth Conference.

Mr. Speaker, Sandra Odessa Thompson has dedicated herself to her community through both her professional and numerous volunteer efforts. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues—Congressman TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Congressman WALTER

JONES of North Carolina, and Congressman STENY HOYER of Maryland—to introduce a truly bipartisan resolution expressing support for the members of our Armed Forces and their families. In particular, this resolution offers support for those service members wounded or severely injured in service to the Nation, as well as support for the newly established Military Severely Injured Joint Support Operations Center. With the 2-year anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom arriving on March 19, I can think of no better way to salute our disabled and severely disabled troops who have returned home than the quick and bipartisan support of this resolution.

This resolution recognizes many efforts made by our brave men and women in uniform. It reaffirms our support for all members of the Armed Forces and their families. It acknowledges that all returning troops—whether an active, National Guard or Reserve component—should be treated with the same degree of dignity and respect. It pledges our desire to help all injured, wounded, and severely disabled service members returning home by providing the assistance they require to navigate the complicated medical and bureaucratic processes to transition back to active duty or civilian life. Most important, this resolution specifically acknowledges the number of National Guard and Reserve components called for prolonged duty in today's military and pledges Congressional support to the Department of Defense Joint Support Center to ensure we take care of our own once we bring them home.

I applaud the action of the Department of Defense for establishing the Joint Support Center on February 1, 2005. I, along with Mr. JONES and Mr. HOYER, proposed the same concept in H.R. 5057 in the 108th Congress. That bill was eventually introduced in the Senate by Senator BOND and Senator KENNEDY. It received full endorsements from every major veterans' and military service organization. We are proud to see that effort taken up by the Pentagon and welcome the Joint Support Center. This resolution supports the Pentagon's initiative by expressing Congress's strong commitment to the center and our assistance in ensuring that the center receives the resources it needs to succeed in its mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this resolution quickly to send a clear message to our service men and women that the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 109th Congress are firmly behind them.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN ANTONIO CITY COUNCILMAN ART HALL

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize San Antonio City Councilman Art Hall for his service to the people of San Antonio District 8.

Mr. Hall was born in Hempstead, TX, and grew up in Lubbock. He attended Harvard University, and received a joint law degree/MBA