

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.