

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 Associate 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 from Texas Tech Law and Business Schools. He is an expert in finance and corporate law, and received the Pforzheimer Foundation Scholar Award at Harvard and the Clifford Chance Business Law Prize from the University of Wales.

Art Hall is a central part of the Texas legal community. He has been published in several law and international finance journals, including *St. Mary's University Law Review* on Minority Issues and the *Journal of International Financial Markets*. In 1998, he was hired to serve as the director of the Academic Excellence Program as an Adjunct Professor at St. Mary's Law School. He was also general counsel for the investment banking firm Southwestern Capital Markets, the nation's oldest Hispanic-owned investment banking firm. Today, Councilman Hall is an owner and the President of Presidio Asset Management.

Art Hall was elected to San Antonio's City Council in 2003. He is the youngest person ever to represent his district, and has the distinction of being the first African American elected outside of the city's East side. He has been named one of the city's "Top 40 Under 40" rising stars by the San Antonio Business Journal.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Art Hall has an extraordinarily bright future ahead of him, and I am happy to have the chance to recognize him.

A TRIBUTE TO JEANETTE LUGO
SOSA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Jeanette Lugo Sosa in recognition of her strong commitment to strengthening the education of our children.

Jeanette has been the principal of PS 151K since 1999. She has come full circle in the Bushwick community. As a child, she studied at PS 274K and IS 111, before earning a Bachelor's Degree in Educational Administration and a Professional Diploma in Psychology from New York University. Her administrative career began as Interim Acting Assistant Principal at PS 343, then as Assistant Principal at