

support Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) and Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRTs). The Office of the Victim Advocate would improve access to services for victims and survivors.

Under this legislation, services and treatment for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking will be enhanced and made more widely available. Such services would be expanded within the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans' Affairs to include health care response teams, community health centers, additional sexual trauma counseling centers to furnish both inpatient and outpatient services, and services for reservists victimized by sexual assault or domestic violence. The proposal would also entitle a servicemember to extended emergency leave in order to seek medical treatment, obtain psychological counseling or victim services, and participate in safety planning as a result of sexual or domestic violence.

My bill will also enhance the rights of victims to safety and justice. It will better protect a victim's privacy, including communication between a victim and her advocate. It will also provide restitution to victims.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I have been helping to lead the charge to end sexual assault in the military. For example, last March, I chaired a hearing at which Jennifer Machmer, an Army captain from Buffalo who was assaulted in Kuwait, testified before Women's Caucus members. I also offered a successful amendment to the FY 05 National Defense Authorization bill that codifies many of the recommendations made the Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault.

This bill encompasses a comprehensive framework to deal with all aspects of violence against women in the military. It represents the continuation of an ongoing dialogue between legislators, the Pentagon, victims and the advocacy community to address these issues.

On Veteran's Day last week, we honored and commemorated all of the brave women and men who have so valiantly served our Nation within our U.S. Armed Forces—both in the past, as well as those who continue to serve our country today. We must do everything that we can to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our U.S. servicemembers. I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative.

IN MEMORY OF JANE EVELYN
MITCHELL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Jane Evelyn Mitchell, who passed away on Saturday, November 13, 2004, at her home in Wilmington, Delaware.

Jane Mitchell led an exemplary life, which she devoted to her husband, her family, and our community. Jane was a trailblazer in the health care industry in Delaware, breaking through the racial barriers that permeated many industries throughout her lifetime. Earning her nursing degree from the University of Delaware, Jane became the first African-

American registered nurse in our State. In 1969, Jane also became the first African-American to be named Delaware's nursing director. She served as president of the state Board of Nursing and as vice president of the Delaware Nurses Association. Jane's dedication to providing her patients with compassionate service and her refusal to be stifled by the day's racial prejudices, enabled her to forge a new path for minority women. Jane opened the door for thousands of young African American women, many of whom provide an immeasurable benefit to our State through their service in the health care industry today.

Jane's service to her fellow citizens knew no limitations. She was a dedicated partner to her husband of 61 years, Littleton "Lit" Mitchell, in the fight to provide equality for every individual. She was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, but if you were to ask her, I am sure she would say that the true measure of her success can not be found on plaques, certificates, or even building facades, but on the face of the people whose lives she has touched in some way.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I have the opportunity to honor the life of a true humanitarian and force for social change. Jane Evelyn Mitchell's devotion to her fellow citizens was truly amazing, and she deserves our utmost respect, and appreciation.

CONROE, TEXAS CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the city and people of Conroe, Texas, as they celebrate their centennial anniversary. Home to more than 43,000 Texans, Conroe is a vibrant city that embodies the rich heritage familiar to so many pioneer Texas towns.

From Isaac Conroe's first view of the acres of lush forests that berthed a thriving sawmill and train stop to the discovery of oil by George Strake that increased the population of the city five times over in just five weeks, every generation has faced its joys and challenges. The fortitude of Conroe's citizens and their leaders has always proven up to the task.

This fortitude is perfectly illustrated in the city's response after fires ravaged the fledgling downtown. A fire in 1901 badly burned the business district of the city. The community immediately rebuilt. Another fire in 1911 leveled the same district. This time—as if to dare the fire to try one more time—the people of Conroe rebuilt with brick.

The citizens of this community have also proven their willingness to help a neighbor or stranger. During the oil strike of the early 1930's, thousands of able bodied men descended on Conroe looking for work and a way to escape the Great Depression. Lifetime Conroe resident Edith Clanton remembers her mother renting out every room in their home to strangers desperate for a place to live.

Today, another generation of business owners, school teachers, community leaders and families are making their home in Conroe. Today, as this city surveys the last hundred

years with well deserved pride it will also consider what the future has in store.

Mayor J.F. Collier, the first Mayor of Conroe, saw electricity come to Conroe. Today's Mayor Tommy Metcalf is witnessing the spread of another type of current running through this city. New technology, thriving new businesses, residential developments that are the envy of the nation, academically outstanding schools, and a deep respect for the diversity and needs of the entire community are all a part of this new current. They all play a key part in keeping Conroe healthy and strong for the future.

Many more bright years are ahead for Conroe. The history of this city reminds us that great things—great cities—start with every day people who live their lives one day at a time, determined to leave things better than how they found them.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's hometowns like Conroe, Texas, are what make America strong. It is an honor to represent this community in the U.S. House of Representatives and I urge you to join me in congratulating the City of Conroe, Texas, on their 100th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF HARRIS LEVY
FINE LINENS ON THE OCCASION
OF ITS 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Harris Levy Fine Linens, a business in the Lower East Side neighborhood of Manhattan. Harris Levy has flourished since its modest beginnings 110 years ago. At a time when many small businesses struggle to compete with franchises and larger companies, Harris Levy has thrived by inspiring the trust of its customers.

Harris Levy Fine Linens began in 1894 when Harris and Ester Levy started selling tapestries and yard goods from a rented pushcart. Five years later, they were able to move their business to a nearby basement and in 1930, they finally purchased a lot at 278 Grand Street, where their store is presently located.

Early in its history, Harris Levy established itself as a pioneer—at a time when most stores relied on importers or wholesale suppliers, it chose to import its own goods. In those days, Harris Levy would sell its imported bed, bath and table linens at cost and derive its profits from the sale of the wooden crate in which the fabrics were shipped.

Today, Harris Levy's fourth-generation owners continue to adhere to the core values with which Harris Levy started his business more than a century ago. The company insists on setting reasonable prices for its goods, striving not only to make a profit, but to maintain its customer base and supplier networks, as well. Harris Levy's owners also take great pride in the dedication of their employees, all of whom have been with the company for more than fifteen years.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to this outstanding family-run business, which has established itself as an integral part of the Lower East Side neighborhood. I wish