

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

Harris Levy's owners and longtime employees many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY HUEBNER
OF RHODES COLLEGE 2004 TEN-
NESSEE PROFESSOR OF THE
YEAR

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Timothy Huebner of Memphis as he is named 2004 Tennessee Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

A hands-on historian with varied experiences and an abiding devotion to his profession, Professor Huebner has rendered distinguished service as a book review editor for the American Journal of Legal History, an advisory board member for Tennessee's history online discussion list, and as a Co-editor for Studies in the Legal History of the South Series; however, Huebner's tenure as a Professor of History at Rhodes College (a position he has held since 1995) is his defining position.

With an intellectual curiosity fed by research and a passion for helping students make complex issues clear, Professor Huebner has worked to find a balance between teaching and research. During his tenure at Rhodes College, Mr. Huebner has found that balance by devoting time to helping students write substantive research papers, supervising honors research papers, and more recently, serving as Founder and Director of the Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies. The Rhodes Institute is an innovative, interdisciplinary summer program that engages top undergraduates in research in the Memphis and Mississippi Delta region.

The Rhodes Institute brings a select group of students and faculty together for eight weeks: two weeks in a faculty-designed seminar on regional studies; five weeks engaged in independent research, interspersed with weekly individual and group meetings; one final week presenting their work. Under the supervision of a faculty mentor, each student produces an 8,000–10,000 word research paper that is published and distributed to the local community. This Institute and Professor Huebner's efforts have put Rhodes College on the map as a research institution and connected students to the Memphis community.

Huebner's selection as Tennessee Professor of the Year further highlights a career of service to his students, Rhodes College, and the Memphis community. Professor Huebner's more noteworthy accomplishments include his initiation into Omicron Delta Kappa in 2004, the recognition of the Rhodes Institute's website by the Council of Independent Colleges in 2003, his initiation into Phi Beta Kappa in 1988, his publication of eight articles and book chapters in scholarly publications, his fifty-five essays in encyclopedias and reference volumes, his twenty-five book reviews, and ten scholarly paper presentations at invited academic lectures.

For the good work he has had in the lives of countless youth, Mr. Speaker, I would ask

that you join me in honoring my friend and a friend to higher education, Mr. Timothy Huebner.

ON THE HORIZON: WORKERS'
BENEFITS BEING ROBBED

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that, in America, hard work leads to reward. I grew up in a family that inspired me by example to work hard, to be fair, and to be loyal. They are values worth instilling in future generations. They are concepts that, I believe, set our Nation apart and above the rest of the world.

Increasingly, however, these American ideals are being swept aside in the corporate chase for the almighty dollar, and it does not bode well for the future of our country.

In recent months, the media in my State have been running stories about a series of court cases concerning Horizon Natural Resources—the Nation's fourth largest coal company. The once robust company was ailing financially and it was seeking protection through the bankruptcy codes. It is the kind of story that might normally engender sympathy. But how this company went about trying to protect itself wipes away any semblance of pity.

Horizon went after its employees, current and past. It went after their benefits, including their health care. In a cold and callous act, Horizon Natural Resources went to court and asked a judge to allow it to abandon its obligations to those men and women who had labored long and hard in the mines and coal-processing facilities to earn an honest living for themselves and the boys in suits.

In a final, appalling decision in September, a federal judge gave the "all clear" to Horizon to use bankruptcy loopholes to turn its back on its workers. Armed with that decision, Horizon took years of the hard work and the loyalty of thousands of employees and their families and heartlessly tossed it all out the courtroom window.

As a result, Horizon's mines and coal-processing facilities are enabled to continue to operate under new names, but its employees and retirees have suffered egregious losses, including, for some, the loss of their promised health care.

Such court decisions, to my mind, do not even vaguely resemble justice. They make a mockery of the word. Moreover, they thwart the intent of Congress when enacting the Coal Act which was supposed to guarantee those health care benefits.

As a result of its courtroom victories, Horizon is not only permitted to chuck its obligations to ensure certain benefits for its own employees, it is able to dump its liabilities on already financially strained benefit plans that provide for thousands of other retirees and their beneficiaries. Benefit plans, I might add, that are largely being financed by other coal companies.

As such, the Horizon "bankruptcy" decision resulted in several bad decisions that may have long-term, far-reaching implications for benefits and employer obligations under the

Coal Act, including the level of benefits that are required to be provided. In handing down such a poorly considered decision, one federal judge set off a domino effect that will also cost numerous companies that are playing by the rules.

This is exactly the type of egregious corporate behavior the Coal Act sought to address. It is wrong. It goes against the American grain. It turns on its head the ideals of hard work and loyalty and fairness.

This series of court decisions cannot be allowed to stand. In response, today I, along with West Virginia Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, are introducing legislation to seek a remedy to this situation. Our bill will make clear that the benefits and obligations mandated by the Coal Act cannot be modified by the bankruptcy courts. It will prevent other companies from attempting to skirt the Coal Act through bankruptcy, and help to provide more stability to already over-burdened benefit plans and those families who depend on them.

Moreover, our bill will send a message that financial bankruptcy is not an excuse for moral bankruptcy, and that loyalty and hard work are worthy ideals still valued in America today.

RECOGNIZING CITIZENS OF OTIS,
KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless efforts of the citizens of Otis, Kansas in their work to keep ambulance service available to their community.

A little more than two months ago, this community's emergency medical service was in danger of closing due to a lack of emergency medical technicians. After more than 30 years, Otis and the surrounding area was looking at the unfortunate reality of having no local ambulance service. This loss could have been devastating to this community of 325 people. The response time for an ambulance run in Otis is five to eight minutes. Ambulance response time from the next closest community, which is 15 miles away, would have been a minimum of 20 minutes. In rural America, having access to local ambulance service can mean the difference between life and death.

Fortunately, six individuals saw the effect this would have on their community and stepped forward to help. These individuals are taking EMT training and will volunteer their time to keep the Otis EMS alive. After seeing the outpouring of support, two other former volunteers also agreed to return to the service. In addition, two new volunteers—a registered nurse and an EMT—have made themselves available to go on ambulance runs when needed.

Because of the following individuals, the Otis EMS will remain open: Bruce Adamson; Mary Adamson; Jerry Dirks; Marsha Hinds; Mike Sharkey; Tara Stieben; Mike Bahr; Teri Bahr; Mark Brack; Candace Demory; Margaret Gary; Shane Konzem; Shayla Koochel; Virginia Landers; Karen Maier; Roger Mohr; Robert Newton; Eric Royer; Everett Royer; Ellen Schriener; Kent Schriener; James Sheldon; Bruce Swob; Mandy Urban; Don Weide.