

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2660, DEPARTMENTS OF
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is an outright attack on organized labor. Ever since George Bush and his administration were put in the White House by the Supreme Court, they have done nothing but cut taxes for the rich and destroy our country's labor movement.

The regulations put forth by the administration in March to change the Fair Labor Standards Act that would deny overtime pay to over 8 million employees is shameful. These regulations would be bad for many, many people: including first responders like nurses, police and firefighters, and also journalists, accountants, grocery clerks, and others. Millions more, who have long depended upon overtime work to help make ends meet, will face pay cuts, and at the same time, opportunities to work overtime are being done away with.

I urge my colleagues to vote to instruct conferees and to block the Bush administration from going on with this terrible change which would take overtime pay away from our country's hard-working people.

ST. CLARE'S HARVEST FESTIVAL

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2003

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tradition that for 30 years has brought together the families of some of the most vibrant communities in my Congressional District. The people of Denville, New Jersey and its surrounding municipalities in Morris County, and all of Northern New Jersey have gathered each year to enjoy the St. Clare's Harvest Festival, a day of family fun and frolic, all for a good cause, to benefit St. Clare's Hospital which also celebrates a milestone this year by providing 50 years of loving care and service to the people of Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties in northwestern New Jersey.

The hospital was initially created to care for the nuns and guests at St. Francis Health Resort, but the Sisters saw the need for a community hospital to assist the ever increasing population of Denville. We are all glad for their vision as St. Clare's has grown into an institution that delivers the highest quality health care, teaming up to provide the best medical care for New Jerseyans with the likes of the distinguished Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Indeed, it wouldn't be Fall in Morris County without the St. Clare's Harvest Festival, but sadly, all of us who have treasured our time at the Festival know that this year it will end. On Saturday, October 4, thirty years of hard work, tireless volunteerism and good old-fashioned fun will culminate in the last Festival.

A wonderful fundraiser for the Hospital, the Harvest Festival was jointly established by the Sorrowful Mother, a Catholic order and Sister Mary Urban Harter, who incidentally is celebrating her 90th year and remains thrilled that her efforts have come this far. Each year the Festival offers delicious homemade foods, the talents of local artisans and crafts men and women, and carnival rides and petting zoos for the area's children. A day at the Festival is a day filled with memories.

These memories and the 30 years of success would not be possible without legions of incredible volunteers who have dedicated so much of their time, energy and spirit to the Festival year after year. The cooperation and teamwork between community members and St. Clare's staff—the fantastic doctors, nurses and other health care professionals—is legendary. I especially want to recognize these individuals who deserve our praise and thanks for their commitment to serving their community and helping others. So many of my constituents will warmly recall the St. Clare's Harvest Festival and those who made it possible.

Though the Harvest Festival will no longer be a "fall fixture" on the calendars of thousands of citizens in New Jersey, St. Clare's Hospital will continue to serve our communities with the same loving care and compassion it has brought to the field of health care for the last 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you join me and my colleagues in congratulating all of those associated with the St. Clare's Harvest Festival on 30 years of success and in wishing the St. Clare's Hospital family another 50 years of outstanding community service.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOSEPH F.
ALASKEY, JR.

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2003

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Joseph F. Alaskey, Jr. On October 21st, 2003, Mr. Alaskey will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Capital District Senior Issues Forum in Albany, New York. He is being honored for his heroics and bravery during his service to this great nation in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of December 8, 1944, the 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1276th Engineer Combat Battalion, with whom Mr. Alaskey was a Utility Repairman, attempted a patrol crossing of the Roer River in Flossdorf, Germany. While they were crossing, the enemies opened nearby dams, causing the river to flood.

Mr. Speaker, with a current rushing at 9 feet per second, Mr. Alaskey's assault boat capsized, slammed into a nearby bridge, and began to sink. As many of the men in Mr. Alaskey's battalion were drowning due to the weight of ammunition strapped to their backs, Mr. Alaskey was able to hold onto a beam and pull his battalion-mate J.C. Dyer from the raging river to safety.

Mr. Speaker, such an act of valor cannot go overlooked. Risking one's life for the sake of another is the greatest gift anyone can possibly give. I am proud to rise today in honor of Mr. Alaskey and his courage. I also extend congratulations to him for this truly distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 3,
PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support a woman's right to make choices on her own behalf. Abortion should be a private decision made by the woman, with the aid of her family and her doctor. The government should stay out of private medical decisions.

Many, including myself, oppose the ban on partial-birth abortion because it may restrict the choices of a woman and her doctors in the second trimester. It is normally during this time that amniocentesis tests are given and therefore the time when fatal birth defects are usually found. We need to leave choice in the hands of the woman, especially when we are dealing with issues like fetal birth defects.

We all know that "Partial-birth" is a political term, not a medical term. This name is designed to throw fuel on the already heated abortion debate through graphic rhetoric and misinformation.

In describing what is banned, this bill does not reference a recognized, established medical procedure. In fact, the bill's language is deliberately vague—banning safe and common procedures. For example, this bill does not mention fetal viability, so it has the potential to restrict abortions throughout pregnancy. The Supreme Court has already ruled that we cannot do that. In *Roe v. Wade* and its companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, the Supreme Court held that a woman has the right to choose legal abortion until viability. The Court said that states may ban abortion after that time, as long as exceptions are made to protect a woman's life or her health. Congress simply should not be legislating on this issue. This is one issue that Congress should leave to the states.

When President Bush signs this measure, he will become the first President since *Roe v. Wade* to recriminalize safe abortion procedures. Congressional leaders are moving toward the goal of ending legal abortion. This

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

legislation is just one piece of the overall strategy. With anti-choice leaders now controlling both the House and Senate, banning abortion is once again becoming a top legislative priority.

Why when there are so many other pressing issues in this Nation, would Congressional leaders choose to introduce legislation that has already been held unconstitutional? In 2000, the Supreme Court found Nebraska's so-called "partial-birth" abortion ban unconstitutional. The Court found that the law was an unconstitutional burden on a woman's right to choose. The Nebraska law banned safe abortion procedures and lacked the constitutionally required exception to protect a woman's health. These same issues are present in the bill now before Congress.

I urge Congress to reject this ban on partial-birth abortion. I support a woman's right to make choices on her own behalf. The government should stay out of important health decisions, and leave those important health decisions to the woman, her family and her doctor.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRAMENTO
RIVER CATS FOR WINNING THE
2003 PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the 2003 Sacramento River Cats, the deserving winners of the 2003 Pacific Coast League Championship. The 2003 River Cats triumphantly completed the season by winning all its postseason games, including a three-game sweep of the Nashville Sounds. The 2003 River Cats demonstrated remarkable courage,

determination, and teamwork that have made them a great source of civic pride and a local attraction. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the remarkable 2003 Sacramento River Cats.

Throughout the course of the season, the Sacramento River Cats never left any doubt that they were top of the class of the Pacific Coast League. The River Cats displayed tremendous consistency and excellence as they finished with a league best record of 92 wins and 52 losses, a remarkable 18 games better than the closest competitor. The River Cats truly dominated the competition as 51 of the River Cats' victories were decided by more than 3 runs. Backed by a spirited and loyal fan base, the River Cats won a league-leading 50 games at home during the regular season. The River Cats also won the franchise's third division championship since relocating to Sacramento in 2000. By combining a high-octane offense; a tenacious pitching staff, and a steady defense, this year's River Cats posted the best overall record and road record in franchise history. It is clear that the 2003 Sacramento River Cats are one of the most dominant teams in the illustrious 100-year history of the Pacific Coast League.

The 2003 Sacramento River Cats are comprised of an outstanding blend of seasoned veterans with major league experience and exciting young players who are destined to be the superstars of tomorrow. This River Cats team is spearheaded by the all around excellence of Pacific Coast League's Rookie of the Year Bobby Crosby, Pitcher of the Year Justin Duchscherer and Most Valuable Player Graham Koonce. The 2003 River Cats became the first team to claim the three major individual awards in the history of the Pacific Coast League. This dazzling array of players, combined with a selfless commitment to team play, are major reasons why the River Cats

enjoyed such unparalleled success during the 2003 season.

In addition to a wonderful roster, the 2003 River Cats also benefited greatly from the tutelage of one of the best coaching staffs and the leadership of one of the most progressive front offices in all of professional baseball. On the bench, the River Cats were lead by the 2003 Sporting News Minor League Manager of the Year Tony DeFrancesco. Mr. DeFrancesco and his able assistants were able to harness one of the greatest collections of gifted players in the Pacific Coast League into a balanced team that is epitomized by fair play and an unyielding commitment to teamwork. In the front office, the River Cats are led by the visionary leadership of President and CEO Art Savage and the astute management of Executive Vice Presidents Warren Smith and Robert Hemond. Under this leadership team, the River Cats have taken great steps to forge one of the strongest and most unique relationships in all of sports with their team supporters. Given the River Cats front office's commitment to the city of Sacramento, it is no wonder why the River Cats have led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance during each of their four years in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, as the Sacramento River Cats conclude their greatest season in franchise history and prepare to achieve greater triumphs in the future, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard working men and women of the River Cats organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of Capitol Region and River Cats fans everywhere. Their successes are considerable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to their accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Sacramento River Cats on a wonderful season and wishing them greater success in future seasons.