

people, not just the laws. Sad and unfortunate as every abortion is, I am particularly grieved by each child that dies from a partial-birth abortion.

Should we not ban a procedure so violent and so repulsive that even many abortion doctors shun, that over 70% of Americans are against, and at least 27 States have already outlawed?

Mr. Speaker, this is a procedure that countless doctors and medical professionals have deemed unnecessary to preserve the health or life of the mother. Partial birth abortion is never medically necessary, yet we have been trying since 1995 to pass a ban on this procedure that a president with courage and wisdom will sign.

As the bill's language states and medical authorities have attested to, partial-birth abortion poses serious risks to the health of a woman undergoing the procedure and there is no credible medical evidence that partial-birth abortions are safe or safer than other abortion procedures.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine and originator of the Hippocratic Oath, charged to fellow physicians of his day: First of all, do no harm. Certainly all sane and rational people can agree that this procedure is anything but harmless, and I would venture to say quite ruthless to both the mother and child.

While there are various versions of the Hippocratic Oath in use today, all speak of the physician's obligation to improve the health of all patients regardless of station. At a moment in time like this when that solemn Oath is not being honored, it is up to Congress and the American people to step in and enforce it with decent and reasonable laws.

That is what the partial-birth abortion ban is: a decent and reasonable law in response to an indecent act.

I am pro-life. I believe in the sanctity of life and in my heart and mind believe that life begins at conception. I do not believe that protecting the lives of the unborn and the rights of women are mutually exclusive ideas.

But that is not what this legislation is about. This is not—and should not be—a debate of pro-life verses pro-choice. This is a prudent and reasonable bill that we should all be able to agree is necessary and important. While this legislation is now law, the fact remains that abortion is still legal in the United States. What this legislation does is ban the single most violent and gruesome abortion procedure: partial-birth abortion.

Because it is unnecessary, because it is harmful to all parties involved, and because it is immoral.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this vital legislation, and I am thankful to have witnessed the day—after so many years of trying—when this Congress, our President and the American people had the decency and resolve to see partial-birth abortion outlawed in this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CONSOLIDATED WOOD PRODUCTS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Consolidated Wood Products of Beverly, West Virginia for being awarded a 2003 Export Achievement Certificate in recognition of an increased focus on exporting.

The Export Achievement Certificate was created to recognize small- and medium-sized enterprises that have successfully entered the international marketplace for the first time or that have successfully entered a new market.

As our economy continues to become more global, it is important for industries of all types to develop relationships and ties in the international community. As the West Virginia economy diversifies, Consolidated Wood Products has taken major steps forward to promote the Mountain State and all it has to offer to the world economy.

By making strides to expand opportunities, Consolidated Wood Products has in turn brought benefits to the state that will be felt far beyond the business itself. I applaud Consolidated Wood Products for its efforts and look forward to seeing continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognition of Consolidated Wood Products, and I offer them as an example to small- and medium-sized enterprises everywhere.

HONORING THE WORDS OF DANIEL COLVIN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor the words of Daniel Colvin, a gifted poet from Youngstown, Ohio whom I am proud to claim as my constituent. Daniel is doing his part, by means of meter and rhyme, to advance the noblest goal for which we all strive—peace in our time.

Daniel is a freshman at Kent State University, majoring in architecture and plans to incorporate writing into his future—a future which is no doubt bright. His poem, *Armed with a Conscience*, was inspired by the attack on September 11, and the subsequent War on Terrorism. Mr. Colvin has expressed hope that his poem “will strike the consciences of all of mankind and help lead us to a world of peace.”

I am pleased and proud to share with my colleagues and the Nation, *Armed With a Conscience*, by Daniel Colvin:

I wake up in a pool of cold sweat
My heart drumming in my throat
My eyes were wide from the fear of a threat
Such fear that I cannot emote.

The dream that I had was unbearably sad
It hurts to even think about it
A nightmare so real, you could never have had

Well, you could have; but I doubt it.
I was in the army being all I could be

Being trained by the best in the field
They had taught me all that a soldier should be

How to kill without being killed.

I, the quick learner that I had always been
Had gone through the training with ease
I had always fit in with the strongest of men
But found nothing in common with these.

Some of them crazy, and some without care
Some who had dreamed to be soldiers
Some loyal to their country, and some of them scared

Some just had chips on their shoulders.

I was the strong silent type, I guess
I had always been social before
But trust me, you'll laugh and talk a lot less
When you're 18 and drafted to war.

I had been taught not to murder a soul
But in war, what else could I do?
I remembered how world peace had been my goal

But in battle, I would have to fight too.

So across the cold, muddy battlefield I crawled

Armed with my rifle in hand
I saw hatred and death and I was appalled
All this over money or land.

Dead bodies and body parts scattered on the ground

My gun still fully loaded
Explosions and shouting consumed sight and sound

Everything near me exploded.

I got up and ran to hide in the brush
But a foreign soldier was there
He had been hiding and trying to hush
So I caught him a bit unaware.

Still he had time to cock up his gun
I would have killed him, but couldn't
I had time to take off and run
I would have ran, but I wouldn't.

Instead, we stood aiming at each others' hearts

To me, it was nothing but nonsense
Staring in his eyes, I could tell he had smarts

But he also had a conscience.

In that moment, I knew that he was like me
He did not truly want to kill
Even the way he squeezed his gun tightly
Said that he was there against his own will.

So what do you do on the battle field
When you cross a man like yourself?
You don't want to kill, but you cannot yield
Nor ask anybody for help.

Shaking like crazy, we both started to sweat
My heart dropped; his skipped beats
Staring and letting our eyes make the threat
When inside we were fearing defeat.

I wanted to end the suspense and forget it
I started to pull the trigger
Then my conscience said, “You're gonna regret it

Your purpose in life is much bigger.”

I let go of my gun, but before it fell
I felt lead pierce through my chest
The other man's conscience hadn't worked so well

So he did what he thought was best.

I fell backward all the way to the ground
Smacking the back of my head
My fellow soldier came and shot the man down

And the last thing I saw was him dead.

So that's why I woke up in such a fright
Fearing the thought of war

I was thinking of the man in my dream last night

And grew sadder than ever before.

The sad part is not the fact that he shot me
That's not it, it really isn't
But since his conscience didn't teach him what mine taught me

I woke up and he didn't.