Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today, known as modified line item veto or expedited rescission legislation, would strengthen the ability of Presidents to identify and eliminate low-priority budget items with the support of a majority in Congress. Under this legislation the President would be able to single out individual items in tax or spending legislation and send a rescission package to Congress. The President would have the option of earmarking savings from proposed rescissions to deficit reduction by Congress. The legislation I am introducing today, known as modified line item veto or expedited rescission legislation, would strengthen the ability of Presidents to identify and eliminate low-priority budget items with the support of a majority in Congress.

As we adjourn today, the last day of this Congress, we honor the memory of those who gave their lives. I salute the survivors of the S.S. Leopoldville, who gave their lives.

The S.S. Leopoldville, was sunk by a Belgian troop transport, the S.S. Leopoldville, was part of a crossing of the English Channel for the Battle of the Bulge. 2,235 American Soldiers were being carried to this historic battle.

The Leopoldville was torpedoed and sunk 5½ miles from Cherbourg, France. The result was a horrific loss of lives—almost one-third of the 66th Infantry Division was killed. 493 bodies were never recovered from the cold and murky waters of the English Channel. Most of the soldiers who died were young Americans, from 18 to 20 years old, barely out of High School. These young men came from 46 out of the 48 states that were part of the Union at that time.

Sadly, this tragic story has been a mere footnote in the history books of World War II. Their efforts to preserve and sustain Democracy must be remembered. Their lives must not be vainly forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in remembering and honoring those who gave their lives that we might be free today. The young men aboard the S.S. Leopoldville, those who perished and those who survived, were part of an American force that advanced Democracy and forever changed the world. They went because their country called. They sacrificed because their way of life was threatened. They rose to incredible heights of courage because their faith and resolve mandated no less.

My friend and fellow-Mississippian, Sid Spiro, was on the S.S. Leopoldville. Mr. Spiro, after the direct torpedo hit, lowered himself in the freezing water by a rope. And for three hours he floated and waited for help. The water was freezing and he nearly died. He was 19 years old then. Today, he and other survivors often gather to remember and commemorate their fellow Americans who died. I am in awe of these men. And I want Sid and all of them to know of my admiration and respect.

These young men, forever part of our national memory, must be honored. We must never forget. I salute the survivors of the S.S. Leopoldville and I honor the memory of those who gave their lives.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take a minute to tell my colleagues and the American People about a pitch-black night on Christmas Eve in 1944 during one of the darkest hours of World War II. A Belgian troop transport, the S.S. Leopoldville, was sunk by a German U-Boat, taking the lives of 802 American soldiers. The Leopoldville was part of a crossing of the English Channel for the Battle of the Bulge. 2,235 American Soldiers were being carried to this historic battle.

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