

Church. They teach, direct, entertain, and lead us in both the Sunday School class and in the overall direction of our religious activities.

As we adjourn today—the last day of this century that the United States House of Representatives is in session—let us adjourn on this signal day in respect and admiration for Don Scoggins.

INTRODUCTION OF TWO BILLS TO
REDUCE TAXES ON SOCIAL SE-
CURITY BENEFITS

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with Representative NITA LOWEY to announce the introduction of two bills to reduce taxes on Social Security benefits. The first bill would repeal the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits. I have always opposed this provision, and I believe that it is now time to repeal this tax on our Nation's seniors.

The 1993 economic plan imposed additional taxation on the benefits of single social security recipients with incomes over \$34,000, and on married recipients with joint incomes over \$44,000 by including, in each case, 85 percent of Social Security benefits in taxable income. At the time, proponents of the tax increase said it was necessary to reduce the deficit. Remember the atrocious national debt had risen from \$800 billion in 1981 to more than \$4 trillion in 1993. The annual deficit, which was almost \$300 billion a year in 1992, was projected to increase to \$500 billion a year later in the decade. We passed a tough economic plan, the economy improved, and the deficit was eliminated.

I believed it was unfair to tax seniors on their social security benefits to reduce the deficit, and, therefore, I joined with Representative NITA LOWEY in offering a bill which would have repealed the provision immediately and taken other steps to reduce the deficit. We demonstrated that you could still reduce the deficit without increasing taxes on social security benefits. Now that 6 years have passed and the deficit has been transformed into a surplus, it is more important than ever that we abolish this unnecessary tax on seniors. So, again, I am joining with Representative NITA LOWEY to abolish this unfair tax on social security benefits. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and work toward its swift passage.

Mr. Speaker, if we are unable to implement this bill quickly, then the very least we should do is adjust the 1993 income threshold to take into account the rise in the cost of living. That is why I am also announcing the introduction of another tax relief bill for our seniors, which should be implemented immediately. Again, I am proud to work with Representative NITA LOWEY to advance this effort.

This bill would ensure that we do not inadvertently tax more and more seniors with relatively less income every year. Under current law, the income levels that were set in 1993 were not adjusted for cost of living increases. As a result, more and more people are having their social security benefits taxes. This is unfair and unnecessary. So, this second bill would require the 1993 level to be adjusted on an annual basis to take account for the rise in

the cost of living. I am hopeful that we can build strong bipartisan support for this legislation and work together to ease the tax burden on our Nation's seniors. I urge all of my colleagues to support these two tax cut measures.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE S.S.
"LEOPOLDVILLE"

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. 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.

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.

INTRODUCTION OF EXPEDITED
RESCISSIION LEGISLATION

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that will give the President an important tool to control spending by identifying low priority and wasteful spending that can be eliminated. 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.

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 proposing that the discretionary spending caps be reduced by the amount of the rescissions. Congress would be required to vote up or down on the package under an expedited procedure. Members could offer motions to remove individual items from the package by majority vote if their motion was supported by fifty members. The spending items would be eliminated or the tax item would be repealed if a majority of Congress approves the rescission package. If the rescission bill is defeated in either House the funds for any proposed rescission would be spent or the tax item would take effect.

This legislation embodies an idea which many Members, both Democrats and Republicans, have worked on for several years. Dan Quayle first introduced expedited rescission legislation in 1985. Tom Carper and Dick ARMEDY did yeomen's work in pushing this legislation for several years. On the Democratic side, TIM JOHNSON, Dan Glickman, Tim Penny and L.F. Payne were particularly effective advocates of this legislation for years. Numerous Republicans, including Lynn Martin, Bill Frenzel, Gerald Solomon, Harris Fawell and others made meaningful contributions to expedited rescission legislation as it has developed.

Thanks to the efforts of these and other members, the House overwhelmingly passed expedited rescission legislation in the 102nd Congress. In the 103rd Congress, JOHN SPRATT and Butler Derrick worked with me to refine the legislation. This revised legislation was passed by the House in 1993. In 1994, Representatives JOHN KASICH and Tim Penny joined the effort and helped pass a strengthened version of this legislation. Since then, Representatives BOB WISE, ROB ANDREWS and others have advocated this approach. Today, I am joined by DAVID MINGE, ROB ANDREWS, COLLIN PETERSON, MARION BERRY, MAX SANDLIN, RALPH HALL and ALLEN BOYD in introducing this legislation.

We have heard a lot of talk about eliminating waste and pork barrel spending, but little serious action to actually eliminate pork barrel spending. In fact, the appropriations bills passed by the House includes hundreds of earmarks for spending items that were not requested by the administration and have not been subject to hearings or review. Senator JOHN MCCAIN has identified more than \$14 billion of spending items buried in appropriations

VETERANS DAY

(By Katie Wiencek, Kinzie Elementary School)

Veterans Day is a very important day. It is the day when we remember the American soldiers who have lost their lives in the many wars. More than 58,000 soldiers died during the Vietnam War. It has been called one of the most painful periods in our history. But, America still had it good, after all, we had ceased fighting and were trying to rebuild South Vietnam by sending money. America has been the "good guy" in almost every war. This stereotype goes for not just the government, but the people and soldiers as well. I think they have a right to be remembered. It is our debt to them to have this memorial for four of the many soldiers who fought so hard for us. They need to be noticed. This memorial is a "good thing," as Martha Stewart would say. I would say, it is a very good thing.

VETERANS DAY

(By Rich Pala, Byrne Elementary School)

Veterans Day is a day all proud Americans honor the men and women who served the American Army. Some people fought and died for what they believed was right. Some went to war and many died for our country. These are the true heroes of America, and deserve all the respect of billions of American people. Without these brave men and women, America would not be what it is today. We owe everything to these men and women, because they put the pride and honor in America. They fought for everything America stands for.

VETERANS DAY

(By Shaun Caulfield, Byrne Elementary School)

Bring to mind images of brave soldiers fighting for our country in war time, working in peace time, and trying to keep our country free. Great soldiers come in mind: General Washington, George Patton, Audie Murphy, the less famous but not less important vet. John Joseph Kunkes, my grandfather, fought in Korea. He was missing from action from his platoon for one month. He was on his own staying alive on skills taught to him by the U.S. Army.

Thinking about my grandfather's adventures makes me remember every veteran has their tale to tell. It would be to our best interest to seek out his story and appreciate his commitments to his country and his branch of service.

To some, Veterans Day is a day off of school or work. But World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam fighters make me shiver. They fought in those wars and risked their lives that makes them so great.

On Veterans Day, remember and pray for courageous vets and honor them with the respect and dignity they deserve. To all past, present, and future veterans, remember we are all behind you.

VETERANS DAY

(By Julian Olry, Nathan Hale Middle School)

Many brave men and women have given their lives in wartime for our country. One that was not so far in the past was the Vietnam War. The veterans of this war must be especially honored for their valor and loyalty at the most crucial time in American History.

This war was difficult for Americans because many of them disagreed with the war. In 1973, the United States government had agreed to stop fighting in Vietnam. When

bills that have not been subjected to the proper review. Other private organizations have identified even more earmarked spending in the appropriations bills passed by Congress which they believe can be eliminated. Instead of subjecting these spending items buried in the appropriations bills to scrutiny, the Majority has proposed an across the board spending that would cut good programs just as much as we cut low priority and wasteful programs.

Forcing votes on individual items in tax and spending bills will bring a little more accountability to the budget process. I hope that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who are serious about controlling spending and eliminating wasteful spending and special interest tax breaks that cannot withstand public scrutiny, will join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

SUMMARY OF EXPEDITED RESCISSION LEGISLATION

The legislation would amend the Budget Control and Impoundment Act of 1974 to require Congress to consider Presidential rescissions of appropriations or tax items by a majority vote.

The President could propose to cut or eliminate individual spending items in appropriations bills or to repeal targeted tax breaks (tax breaks which benefit a particular taxpayer or class of taxpayers, except benefits based on demographic conditions).

The President would be required to submit proposed rescissions of tax items within ten days of signing the tax bill. Proposed rescissions of spending items could be submitted at any time during the fiscal year.

The President could propose that the discretionary spending limits be reduced by the amount of the rescissions, but would not be required to do so.

Within ten legislative days after the President sends a rescission package to Congress, a vote shall be taken on the rescission bill in the House. The bill may not be amended on the floor, except that 50 House members can request a vote on a motion to strike an individual rescission from the package.

If the President's rescission package is approved by a simple majority of the House, the bill would be sent to the Senate for consideration under the same expedited procedure. Fifteen Senators may request a separate vote on an individual item.

If a simple majority in either the House or Senate defeats a rescission proposal, the funds for programs covered by the proposal would be released for obligation in accordance with the previously enacted appropriation, or the tax provision would take effect.

If a bill rescinding spending or eliminating tax benefits is approved by the House and Senate, it would be sent to the President for his signature. Upon Presidential signature, the spending items in the rescission package are reduced or eliminated, or the tax items in the rescission package are repealed.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES L. MURPHY II

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frances L. Murphy II, publisher emeritus of the Washington AFRO-American Newspaper, and a great lady who has had major responsibility for this great asset to the city of Washington and the communities surrounding

it. Her hard-hitting editorials and well written stories provide the local African American community with news and information that cannot be obtained elsewhere. She has trained and nurtured many young journalistic talents, who have taken what they learned at the AFRO to institutions as diverse as the NAACP, the Washington Post, and African Americans on Wheels magazine.

Ms. Murphy's grandfather, John H. Murphy, Sr., founded the AFRO in 1892. Her father, Dr. Carl Murphy, was editor and publisher of the AFRO-American Newspapers from 1918 until his death in 1967. But, Ms. Murphy did not start at the top. She learned her business inside out, starting as a library assistant, and moved up the ladder to reporter, then editor, magazine editor, and managing editor before becoming publisher.

In addition to her work as publisher of the AFRO, Ms. Murphy has spent much of her time as an educator. She started in the Baltimore schools in 1958, where she stayed until 1964, when she took her first position in higher education at Morgan State College. Until she retired from teaching in 1991, she held various teaching positions at University of Maryland Baltimore County, Buffalo State College, and Howard University. Her students rated her a top professor, and said, as others have said about her journalism, "She is tough but fair."

Ms. Murphy is well known for her contributions to her community, having served as a member of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP and of the Board of Trustees of both the State Colleges of Maryland and the University of the District of Columbia. She is on the board and serves as treasurer of the African American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation. She also is an active member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where she is a member of the flower guild, a lector, a member of the Search Committee and president of the Episcopal Church Women. All this from a woman who has been a distinguished journalist and publisher and managed, as well, to raise three children, and now to be grandmother to fourteen grandchildren, and great-grandmother to two.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Murphy and her accomplished family are a quintessential family of service and a source of great and enduring pride to the entire Washington region. Like thousands of Washingtonians, I count Frances Murphy as a friend whom I greatly admire. I ask my colleagues to join me in a well deserved honor for the model life and career of Frances L. Murphy II.

OUTSTANDING VETERANS DAY ESSAYS FROM DISTRICT STUDENTS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues, seven outstanding Veterans Day essays by young individuals from the 3rd Congressional District of Illinois. For my annual Veterans Day Ceremony in Chicago, the following students wrote about what Veterans Day means to them. I hope you will also enjoy these essays: