

base criteria for all State-funded housing.

Maine requires similar criteria for all housing built with public dollars in that State.

Cities from coast to coast, such as Cleveland, Ohio, and Boston, Massachusetts, and Portland, Oregon, have already built Hope VI projects complying with the green community criteria. An assessment of the added costs for construction using such criteria and for some 20 already completed projects shows an average of 2.4 percent increase in construction costs.

But we build housing to last for 50 to 100 years. Such projects exceed savings in energy costs that are greater than the construction costs that is slightly higher within about 5 years, and those savings accrue to the low-income families using that housing over the 50- to 100-year lifetime of the housing.

The benefits go to the low-income families directly if the families pay their utility bills directly or those benefits go to the public housing authorities if the authority itself pays the utility bill for the housing unit. And those benefits are then passed on to the tenants, and they require less of an appropriation in operating costs by our government to the public housing authorities in the various cities around the country that use this housing.

We should not lose this opportunity to meet the spirit of the energy bill, the new energy law, that landmark legislation which we have all touted and so strongly supported. We should use the best green criteria available to promote healthier homes for low-income families and save all of that energy over the long haul.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BILLY MACLEOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Private First Class Billy MacLeod.

Private First Class Billy MacLeod of Cheboygan, Michigan, was a brave 19-year-old who answered the call to duty and served our Nation during the Korean War.

Billy was among the thousands of U.S. and other United Nations servicemen pitted against the North Koreans and Chinese in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. These men were outnumbered by the Chinese and faced bitter cold winter temperatures.

It was in this battle on November 28, 1950, that Billy lost his life fighting for his country.

The Army first declared Billy missing in action, but soon after informed his family that Billy was, in fact, killed in action. Unfortunately, Billy's body was not recovered, and Billy's family was never able to welcome him home.

After 58 years, and through the use of modern technology, the Army positively identified Billy's remains. Billy's body, along with five of his comrades, was discovered in 2002 by accident when a road was being built near the trench where he was buried.

Army officials recovered about 90 percent of Billy's remains and were successful in matching his DNA with that of his half-brother, Burnie Potter. Burnie Potter had given the Army a DNA sample years ago on the chance that Billy's remains might one day be recovered.

On October 31 of just last year, Burnie Potter and the rest of Billy's extended family finally received their answers. Billy had been found and was coming home.

Since October, the family and the community has been busy planning for his return. Originally, Billy was to be reunited with his family at the Pellston Regional Airport, just a short 20 miles from his hometown of Cheboygan, Michigan, on January 15.

However, just a few days short before Billy's expected arrival, his family was informed that they'd have to pick up his remains in Traverse City, Michigan. Traverse City is 100 miles away from his home. This is easily a 2-hour drive, if not more, during the winter months.

Upon learning this news from a friend, I offered my assistance and immediately contacted the Army. After numerous phone calls, I learned that repatriated soldiers like Billy are treated differently than soldiers who are killed in active military theaters like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Under current regulations, the Department of Defense does not use military aircraft to transport repatriated soldiers to their final resting place and instead use only commercial aviation. I was told that the Pellston Airport was too small to accommodate a commercial plane that could transport Billy's remains. I don't buy it. The Pellston Regional Airport is a rather large airport. It is not a small airport.

Furthermore, I was told by the Department of Defense that it does not provide an honor guard at the airport when a repatriated soldier returns home. Both policies differ for current theater deaths. For soldiers who are killed in active theater, the military uses both military and civilian aircraft to reach a family's desired resting place and provide a military honor guard at the airport upon the body's arrival.

Why does the Department of Defense not treat our soldiers the same way? Why does it matter, or does it really matter, if a soldier was killed yesterday or 50 years ago defending our coun-

try? A man died fighting for our country and we should honor him to the fullest possible extent. This means bringing his remains to the airport closest to his final resting place and providing full military honors upon the plane's arrival as well as at the funeral.

It was only through pressure from my office that the military provided a nine-member contingent of the Michigan State Funeral Honors Team at the Traverse City Airport. To honor Billy's memory, and to ensure that this does not happen again to another family member, I will work to change the current Department of Defense policy on repatriated soldiers. In my short time in Congress, this has been the third repatriated soldier. Whether it was from Vietnam or World War II or now the Korean War, each and every soldier should be treated the same and should be given full military honors when they return home after sacrificing their life for their country. Every soldier should be treated the same, with the same honors and respect upon their homecoming.

The Korean War, Mr. Speaker, is often referenced as the United States' forgotten war, but Billy MacLeod will not be forgotten. I know all of Cheboygan County and northern Michigan residents are proud of Billy and are pleased that this brave soldier will be coming home to his northern Michigan home.

On behalf of a grateful nation, we say thank you and may God bless you, Billy MacLeod. You were never forgotten.

□ 1730

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIREN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REVISIONS TO ALLOCATIONS FOR HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, under section 302 of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for fiscal year 2008, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a revision to the budget allocations and aggregates for certain House committees for fiscal year 2008 and the period of 2008 through 2012. This revision represents an adjustment to certain House committee budget allocation and aggregates for the purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended, and in response to the consideration of H.R. 4986 (National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008). Corresponding tables are attached.

Under section 211 of S. Con. Res. 21, this adjustment to the budget allocations and aggregates applies while the measure is under consideration. The adjustments will take effect upon enactment of the measure. For purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended, a revised allocation made under section 211 of S. Con. Res. 21 is to be considered as an allocation included in the resolution.

BUDGET AGGREGATES
(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2008 ¹	Fiscal Years 2008–2012 ²
Current Aggregates: ³			
Budget Authority	2,250,680	2,354,727	n.a.
Outlays	2,263,759	2,358,862	n.a.
Revenues	1,900,340	2,016,859	11,141,734
Change in the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4986):			
Budget Authority	0	–6	n.a.
Outlays	0	–31	n.a.
Revenues	0	2	–13
Revised Aggregates:			
Budget Authority	2,250,680	2,354,721	n.a.
Outlays	2,263,759	2,358,831	n.a.

BUDGET AGGREGATES—Continued
(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2008 ¹	Fiscal Years 2008–2012 ²
Revenues	1,900,340	2,016,859	11,141,734

¹Current aggregates do not include spending covered by section 207(d)(1)(E) (overseas deployments and related activities). The section has not been triggered to date in Appropriations action.

²Change in revenue aggregate required for the Tax Increase Prevention Act, P.L. 110–166, has been readjusted pursuant to section 321 of S. Con. Res. 21.

³Excludes emergency amounts exempt from enforcement in the budget resolution.

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2009 through 2012 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES
(Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars)

House Committee	2007		2008		2008–2012 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Current allocation: Armed Services	0	0	–50	–50	–410	–410
Change in the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4986):						
Armed Services	0	0	–6	–31	271	–17
Revised allocation: Armed Services	0	0	–56	–81	–139	–427

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is an honor to be here on the floor.

As you know, in the 30-Something Working Group, we come to the floor to share information not only with the Members, but also with the American people. And I think it's very, very important, now that we are in our second day of reconvening after the new year, to wish everyone a happy new year, and hopefully we will be very productive on behalf of this great country of ours.

A lot has happened, Mr. Speaker, since my last time on the floor. The 30-Something Working Group had the opportunity to adjourn the House for the year 2007. One of the Members of your class actually had the opportunity to hit the gavel, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE.

We left, and a lot took place. There are a lot of Presidential politics that have taken place since then on both sides of the aisle, Republican and Democrat. There has been a lot said. There has been a lot of media coverage on different issues. But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, the issue of the economy and the issue of the war in Iraq continues to bubble up to the top. The issue of health care continues to bubble to the top.

And also, as we reflect on what took place last year, the closing part of last year, it was very frustrating for many Americans because one may think that we would have accomplished, when I say "we," those of us here in Washington, D.C., I'm including the President of the United States and the Congress, to achieve some sort of sensible plan as it relates to Iraq, and that was not achieved. More accountability, because we have control of the Congress, and I say "we," Democrats have con-

trol of the Congress, small majority, but control. I had a chance to put some accountability measures in an Armed Services mark and the Foreign Affairs legislation. We were able to do that, but very limited because the President continues to hold on to the 40 Republicans solid that he needs to withstand a congressional override when he vetoes legislation that the American people would like to see enacted.

Even though it had bipartisan support, many pieces of legislation dealing with Iraq, also dealing with a number of other issues that are important to the American people, the President was able to use his veto pen for the first time, many times, and not for the very first time, but for the first time that he has been consistent in doing so. Sometimes it actually has sent the country backwards when we start dealing with issues that we're facing right now.

I come to the floor with a new spirit and hopefully a new outlook in the year 2008 that we will have a better way of working in a bipartisan way here in this House and in the Senate and working with the President. We can't say that there has not been reaching out, especially on behalf of Democrats to Republicans, here in the Congress. I can tell you that we have had an opportunity to work with President Bush and also congressional Republicans in talking about various issues that are facing our economy. We came in and had discussions with Secretary Paulson, who is the Secretary of the Treasury, about the economy. You will be hearing a lot more from him, Mr. Speaker and Members, as we start to approach the date that the President is going to release his budget, which will be in the early part of next month. I believe it will be the 4th. On February 4 he will be releasing his budget, as the date stands now. Well, between now and then there's a lot that has to happen. And we're just 12 short days, I must add, Mr. Speaker, from the President giving the count-

down to the State of the Union. Those are the days remaining, the 12 days.

I can tell you, also, Mr. Speaker and Members, that it's important what the President says at the podium just below where you are, Mr. Speaker; what he says is going to be very, very important. Not only will the United States and the people that work every day, those that defend our country that are abroad, but other world leaders will be paying attention to what the President has to say. And I'm pretty sure he is going to have to say a lot.

In past State of the Unions, and this will be my sixth opportunity to be a part of this Congress and to witness a State of the Union in this Chamber, there have been some highlights and there have been a lot of disappointments. And I think that we have to plow through that now, Mr. Speaker, in a bipartisan way in making sure we do what we must do on behalf of the country.

I say that in the spirit that House Democrats in December had an economic forum, talking about the economy, talking about what we need to stimulate this economy. You've heard a lot of proposals on the campaign trail from Republicans and Democrats and Democrats and Republicans. And everyone has a great plan. But I think that it's important that those of us that are elected now to govern, that we govern, because I don't think the American people can wait until 2009 to get accountability and to get relief from this government.

Saying that, I want to commend the administration, the Bush administration, that they released \$450 million from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. And I can tell you that it's very, very important to be able to assist some of our seniors and many of our low-income. But this money was made available because the Congress put \$2.6 billion into that particular program and funding it in an