

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 servicemembers 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. SIRES). 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.