

With proven and lasting results, Head Start is a wise investment in our future. I applaud the good work of the HELP Committee, and thank Senators KENNEDY, ENZI, DODD, and ALEXANDER for their efforts on behalf of low-income children across the Nation.

**TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD**

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to join Senator REID, and all of my colleagues, in congratulating Senator ROBERT BYRD on reaching yet another historic milestone in his lifetime of public service.

To have the privilege of casting even one vote in the U.S. Senate is an honor. To cast 18,000 votes in this Senate is a legend.

It is a feat that has never been achieved before, and very likely never will be again.

His 18,000 votes in this Senate are more than a singular statistic. They are yet another measure of ROBERT C. BYRD's lifetime of devotion to his state, our Nation, this institution, and to the U.S. Constitution.

Senator BYRD is, of course, a great student of history—and the author of the definitive work on the history of the U.S. Senate. In fact, one could say that ROBERT C. BYRD is Senate history.

Think about this: In addition to being the only Senator ever to cast 18,000 votes, Senator BYRD is also the first U.S. Senator ever to cast 15,000 votes.

Senator BYRD has served with—not under, with—11 Presidents.

He has served as majority leader and held more leadership positions than any Senator in history.

To help put the length of his service in perspective, consider a few facts: When Senator BYRD cast his first vote in the Senate—on January 8, 1959 his colleagues included Senators John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. Vice President Richard Nixon was the presiding officer. Hawaii was not yet a state. And a state-of-the-art computer would have taken up half of the space of this Chamber and had roughly the same amount of computing power as a Palm Pilot.

Today, Senator BYRD is a hero among bloggers and so many others because of his unyielding dedication to our Constitution and his obvious love of our Nation and the principles for which it stands.

He is the unrivaled expert on Senate rules.

He has been a candidate for election 12 times—9 times as a candidate for the U.S. Senate and 3 times as a candidate for the U.S. House. He won every time.

And he has become perhaps the most popular political figure in West Virginia history. He was named West Virginian of the Century by the residents of his home State.

It is an honor to serve with this giant of Senate history, and to share with him this milestone. Again, I commend him and congratulate him.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President. I stand today to honor my dear friend and colleague, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD.

Few of us can truly hold claim to the title of living legend—but ROBERT C. BYRD can. This afternoon he cast his 18,000th vote. A remarkable record that reflects his years of dedicated, passionate and heartfelt service to the people of West Virginia and the Republic he so loves.

Eighteen thousand is an impressive number. But what is more impressive is the change that those votes had on America. He voted to strengthen Social Security for all Americans. He voted to turn the dream of college education into a reality for all students. He voted to ensure that those who put in an honest day's work receive an honest day's wage. He voted to protect the health and safety of coal miners. And, he voted to ensure that those who serve in uniform would get the benefits they deserve. Quite frankly, his voting record, and its impact on the fabric of our country, is immeasurable.

Along the way, his votes and his voice became the conscience of the Senate. Reminding us all that change is never easy, and that following the rules matters. That we can disagree with each other, even an administration, but we can ill afford to be disagreeable with each other.

It is impossible to picture the history of the last 50 years without thinking of ROBERT C. BYRD's impact and influence on all of our lives. I am incredibly honored to serve every day with my dear friend and colleague—he is an inspiration to us all.

**S. CON. RES. 21 CHANGES**

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 309 of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 Budget Resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits for legislation that reauthorizes the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, makes changes to the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act of 1976, or both, so long as that legislation does not worsen the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 or fiscal years 2007 through 2017.

I find that Senate amendment No. 1704 offered by Senator BAUCUS to Senate amendment No. 1502 satisfies the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for county payments legislation. Therefore, pursuant to section 309, I am adjusting the aggregates in the 2008 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 309 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR COUNTY PAYMENTS LEGISLATION**

(In billions of dollars)

Section 101:	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007 .....	1,901.520

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(In billions of dollars)

FY 2008 .....	2,018.073
FY 2009 .....	2,114.167
FY 2010 .....	2,169.484
FY 2011 .....	2,350.294
FY 2012 .....	2,489.580
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007 .....	— 3.186
FY 2008 .....	— 32.723
FY 2009 .....	7.241
FY 2010 .....	5.763
FY 2011 .....	— 44.256
FY 2012 .....	— 107.516
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2007 .....	2,376.348
FY 2008 .....	2,496.522
FY 2009 .....	2,517.896
FY 2010 .....	2,570.370
FY 2011 .....	2,685.483
FY 2012 .....	2,719.714
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2007 .....	2,299.749
FY 2008 .....	2,468.780
FY 2009 .....	2,566.479
FY 2010 .....	2,600.013
FY 2011 .....	2,692.447
FY 2012 .....	2,703.920

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(In billions of dollars)

Current Allocation to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority .....	5,016
FY 2007 Outlays .....	5,484
FY 2008 Budget Authority .....	5,071
FY 2008 Outlays .....	4,757
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority .....	25,838
FY 2008–2012 Outlays .....	24,730
Adjustments:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority .....	0
FY 2007 Outlays .....	0
FY 2008 Budget Authority .....	565
FY 2008 Outlays .....	565
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority .....	3,745
FY 2008–2012 Outlays .....	3,745
Revised Allocation to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority .....	5,016
FY 2007 Outlays .....	5,484
FY 2008 Budget Authority .....	5,636
FY 2008 Outlays .....	5,322
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority .....	29,583
FY 2008–2012 Outlays .....	28,475

**TRAGEDY IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise briefly to speak for a few moments about the horrible tragedy we witnessed Tuesday morning in Charleston, SC: the death of nine firefighters: Captain William "Billy" Hutchinson, Captain Mike Benke, Captain Louis Mulkey, Engineer Mark Kelsey, Engineer Bradford "Billy" Baity, Assistant Engineer Michael French, Firefighter James "Earl" Drayton, Firefighter Brendon Thompson, and Firefighter Melvin Champaign.

Clearly, this loss is one of profound sadness for the Charleston community and, indeed, for the entire Nation. My thoughts and prayers go out to these firefighters' loved ones, families, friends, and colleagues.

These nine brave men died while fighting a horrific multialarm fire in which two people were ultimately