

subjected to torture, abuse, and discrimination, which is why I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution.

HONORING THE SAVANNAH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' GOLF TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate Coach Tammy Steinkamp and the Savannah High School girls' golf team on their victory in the Missouri class 1 state championship. After a long, hard season these young women showed their true character by bringing home the state title.

A championship is not only a reflection of the final tournament of the year but also the hard work and dedication required in getting to that point. These young women have worked tirelessly for years on sharpening the skills needed to achieve the success they most definitely deserve. I join the community of Savannah in expressing how proud we are of this team and their incredible accomplishments. I wish them the very best and look forward to more success in the future.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending the Savannah High School girls' golf team on their state championship.

MILITARY FAMILY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 861, which supports the goals and ideals of National Military Family Month. The fact that our star-spangled banner yet wave is a testament to the courage and honor of our military which is reason enough to thank the men and women of our military for the safety we have here in America; equally important are the loved ones they leave behind each tour, who support them and help keep them going day in and out.

In 1996, the Armed Services YMCA expanded Military Family Week, which usually occurred around Thanksgiving, into Military Family Month. Just like the week grew into a month long celebration in appreciation, so to have military families grown in number. "When I came in the service back in the Dark Ages, most of the troops were single. Everybody was single," said retired Navy Rear Adm. Frank Gallo, director of the Armed Services YMCA. Now, he added, 65 percent to 70 percent of service members are married, many with children. Families are a big part of the military, and the health of those families is also a big part of the readiness of the military, he said.

Military Family Month puts a little extra focus on supporting the families who support the men and women of our military. This has especially been true since the beginning of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq as more of our soldiers are deployed.

The men and women of our military, through trial and tribulation, carry on; which they do in the name of many things, namely freedom, justice, democracy as well as in the name of their family and loved ones. The support necessary to keep a person going in such an atrocious environment is unfathomable, yet their families too, carry on. In my home district, the 18th District of Texas, we currently have, according to the Department of Defense, approximately 400 men and women in the military. With President Obama's planned deployment of 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan, there is bound to be more families left without sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers here at home. National Military Family Month will help provide encouragement to military families who in turn support our military men and women.

Military families, through their sacrifices and their dedication to the United States and its values, represent the bedrock upon which the United States was founded and upon which the country continues to rely in these perilous and challenging times. The month of November, which includes the Veterans Day holiday, is an appropriate month to observe National Military Family Month, which recognizes the sacrifices and dedication of military families and their contributions to the United States. H. Res. 861 will also encourage the people of the United States to observe National Military Family Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

HONORING EDDIE ROBERT STEFFNE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Eddie Robert Steffne as he is honored by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan. A dinner will be held in his honor on Sunday, December 6th in Mt. Morris, Michigan.

A lifelong resident of Genesee County, Michigan, Eddie Steffne served in the U.S. military after attending Beecher High School. He received his honorable discharge in 1957 returning to the Flint area and attended Flint Community College. He became a master mechanic and worked for Sears and Roebuck, Midas Muffler, Draper Chevrolet, Summerfield Chevrolet, Hunter Engineering and Applegate Chevrolet.

Eddie joined the Montrose Masonic Lodge No. 428 in 1976. He served as Worshipful Master in 1982 and 2006. Also in 1982 he was appointed District Deputy Instructor then in 1992 he was appointed Regional Grand Lecturer. The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan elected him Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer.

Active in the community, Eddie has supported the Shriner's Children Hospitals, the Old Newsboys of Flint, the city of Flint Police Mounted Patrol and Canine Unit, and he is a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason and supports their charities. Eddie and his late wife, Ruth Ann, had 4 children: Eddie Ray, Gregory, Shannon and Todd. Eddie Ray passed away in 1978.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Eddie

Robert Steffne as he gathers with his family, Masons from throughout Michigan, friends, and his special friend Cynthia Allard, to celebrate his work and contributions to Masonry and the Flint area. I wish him the best for years to come.

HONORING THE MARYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate Coach Chris Holt and the Maryville High School football team for winning the Missouri Class 2 state championship. After a hard fought season, the Spoofhounds finished the year with an impressive 35-0 victory in the state final and a 14-1 record.

Not only should these young men be proud of the enormity of their accomplishment but also the manner in which it was achieved. Throughout the season the Maryville football team played with heart, class and great sportsmanship. I join the entire Maryville community in congratulating the players and coaches on their many successes throughout the season and look forward to the seasons to come.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending the Maryville Spoofhounds on their state championship.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRAL UNION MISSION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring the House's attention to an important milestone taking place in the District of Columbia. The Central Union Mission, the longest serving social service organization in the District, is celebrating its 125th anniversary of helping transform the lives of the least, the lost, and the last in Washington.

Beginning in 1884, the Central Union Mission, a highly effective faith-based nonprofit, has provided a compassionate helping hand to literally thousands of the District's homeless and addicted men, women and children. For some veterans of the Civil War who returned to Washington down and out, they turned to the Mission for assistance and the Mission faithfully provided it. During the Great Depression, the Mission was the nexus of the City for many who were jobless and penniless. Veterans of two world wars enlisted the Mission to help them fight battles of addiction and homelessness.

Just a short drive from this magnificent Capitol building, the Mission has been in operation continuously throughout 24 presidential administrations. The Mission has changed from what we would think of as a traditional homeless shelter providing food, clothing, and a safe place to sleep for the night, to a sophisticated transitional facility. The Mission provides emergency services to the homeless, life skills and job training, education and computer programs, group and individual therapy, clinical

services, community work and outreach, and physical, emotional and spiritual renewal. Through a variety of programs, the Mission provides services to not just the homeless, but to the addicted, at-risk youth, gang members, and criminal offenders. The Mission accomplishes this important work with the strong support of and partnerships with foundations, associations, businesses, churches, other social services, and local governments in the District, in Virginia and Maryland.

The Mission's work to the poor never seems to end. In fact, the problems of homelessness, addiction and other related problems continue to increase. The demand for programs offered by the Central Union Mission is more vital now than ever because of the severe economic crisis which hits hardest those who are most vulnerable.

Today, in Washington, D.C., there are more than 12,000 men, women, and children who are living in shelters, transitional housing, or on the streets.

Madam Speaker, the Central Union Mission is on the front lines working to meet the needs of those who are in need of its services. Last year alone, the Central Union Mission provided 152,275 meals to the hungry, more than 50,000 men with shelter through residential programs, and 4,408 individuals received counseling, medical, and legal assistance. Nearly 1,000 individuals were given the tools for a self-sufficient life through long-term addictions counseling and literacy programs.

The impact doesn't stop there. Families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. This past year, the Mission provided nearly 5,000 families with clothing, food, and household goods; more than 3,000 children were given backpacks, supplies for school, and gifts around Christmas time; and hundreds of impoverished urban children were treated to a real summer camp experience at the Mission's Camp Bennett location in Maryland.

The demand for services provided by the Central Union Mission continues to grow. The Central Union Mission is regularly forced to turn away people who are hungry, hurting, and in need of vital services because of regularly operating to capacity. As we enter the winter months, the Mission becomes an even more critical safety net for thousands of individuals and families who seek out the warmth and shelter it provides.

The assistance the Central Union Mission has provided since 1884 is best told through the stories those whose lives have been transformed. One such person, "Timothy," says about the Mission:

For nine years I had been struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. Going in and out of jails and institutions, wandering, hopelessly waiting for my life to end or a miracle to happen. At some point, I decided I didn't want to live anymore. My wife and children had been gone from my life, and my life was in shambles. I decided, during a deep depression, that I was going to take my own life. Then, the miracle happened.

I walked to the Central Union Mission, which was only 4 blocks away. When I arrived I was embraced by men who were concerned for me. I came into their STP program with barely any hope. But several days into it, I started to feel better. I realized that I have certain responsibilities, and that life is really what you make it. Somehow, I made it through the Mission's program and my life has really turned around.

Today, my wife and children know me, they're proud to say they have a changed husband and daddy. My relationship with my family has been restored, my sanity has been given back, and I look forward to a better future. All thanks to the Central Union Mission.

"Reginald" had a similar experience:

I entered Central Union Mission depressed, tired of life, and sick. I needed help.

I was at the Mission for almost two weeks, which allowed me time to recuperate, think, and spend time with other men who were just like me, when my mind began to clear. I started to focus on the important things in my life—my faith, family and getting better.

The Mission is just what it says it is—a mission, a place that's there for the people who are in need, and so they can get better. Just watching all these people bring in donated things to help people they don't even know amazed me. Watching men and women who have very little, like me, enjoy working on the food depot, seniors day, birthday celebrations, back to school, and things like that, makes it seem more like a family here. Basically, they really care. It helps me to realize how important I really am.

I thank God for David Treadwell and his staff. They are wonderful at what they do for people in need. The time they put into helping us is from the heart and that's what God wants from all of us—the best of what's in our hearts.

Madam Speaker, I hope the House will join me in congratulating the Central Union Mission and expressing our gratitude for the vital work the Mission is doing here in Washington, D.C. I encourage all Members to visit the Mission, which is just a short drive from this chamber to witness first-hand the power of compassionate service that has helped the Mission transform so many thousands of lives of the least, the last, and the lost for 125 years.

SATELLITE HOME VIEWER
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3570, the Satellite Home Viewer Update and Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill provides much-needed improvements to the current legal structure governing the transmission of satellite signals to American consumers. We've come a long way since the days where satellite companies were fledgling businesses with small customer bases and large backyard dishes. Now this industry is robust and competitive and holds its own in the world of multi-video providers.

With this increased popularity comes an increased responsibility to those who subscribe to satellite services. I sponsored an amendment to the bill that was adopted in the Energy and Commerce Committee which underscores the importance of the rights of satellite customers.

My language will finally end DISH Network's discrimination against noncommercial High Definition signals. Many of you know these noncommercial stations as educational and Public Broadcast Stations. DISH has roughly 14 million subscribers and they all deserve ac-

cess to Public Television's signals. DISH had been providing preferential treatment to high-paying networks for the transmission of programming, but denying equal carriage for a television service supported by tax dollars. DISH gets privileges under this bill and with those privileges comes the obligation to serve the public interest.

The premise of my language is simple.

It requires satellite carriers to provide their customers with local noncommercial HDTV transmissions when carrying other local broadcast HD signals.

It provides for carriage compliance for 50 percent of the stations by the end of 2010, with an extra year for the remainder, thus accelerating the FCC 2013 date.

It ensures that when new service is initiated, noncommercial stations get equal treatment.

And, it gives carriers one last opportunity to sign a carriage contract because anyone who has one, has a safe harbor from the language here.

Most importantly, this language locks the door and rips off the knob—it not only accelerates the carriage date, it precludes potential waivers of that date extending well into the future.

It's important to note that Direct TV offers HD channels of 106 local public television stations in their local markets. DISH is carrying HD in local commercial broadcasts in 152 markets covering 93 percent of U.S. households. But they only carry local public television HD broadcasts in Alaska and Hawaii—where they are legally obligated to do so.

Consumers in all states have the right to view publicly funded programming. My preference would have been that some time during the past three years of negotiations with PBS, DISH would have decided to serve the public interest and provide equal treatment for noncommercial stations. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. There's been adequate notice of a serious problem, but no action. I encourage DISH to continue negotiating with PBS to reach a viable compromise on this issue before this measure passes the Senate as well. Otherwise, there will be no additional flexibility—and DISH will be legally obligated to carry those HD signals.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I look forward to final passage of the Satellite bill, and especially the anti-discriminatory section which is part of it.

HONORING THE PENNEY HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY
TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to congratulate the Penney High School girls' cross country team for winning their sixth Missouri Class 1 state championship in a row. Runners Erin Esry, Makayla Moon, Lindsey Vollmer, Bethany Jakopic, Brooke Flook, Saige Dille, and Kathleen Clevenger along with managers Ashley Cramer, Olivia Allen and Coach Mark Vollmer all deserve many congratulations for their enormous success. Over the years, Coach Vollmer and his runners have displayed the hard work, determination, and class that is indicative of six-time champions.