

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.

Winning a state championship is not only a reflection of the results of a race but also the character of it competitors. Every member of this team can walk with her head held high knowing that she has achieved what very few could. I join the entire community of Hamilton in congratulating these young women and their coach on their achievements and look forward to more success to come.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending the Penney High School girls' cross country team on their sixth straight state championship.

TEMPORARY FORBEARANCE FOR
FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CON-
TAMINATED DRYWALL

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 before you today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 197, "Encouraging banks and mortgage servicers to work with families affected by contaminated drywall to allow temporary forbearance without penalty on payments on their home mortgages". I would like to thank my colleague, Rep. GLENN NYE, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the co-sponsors.

Contaminated drywall affects thousands of Americans—since January 2009, over 1,300 cases of this structural condition have been reported from 26 States and the District of Columbia. When in 2006, more than 495 million pounds of drywall was imported into the United States from China, my home city of Houston was one of the major recipients.

Earlier this year, America's Watchdog, a national advocacy group for consumer protection, confirmed defective drywall in homes in Michigan, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Maryland, North and South Carolina, New York and New Jersey, with an estimated 10,000 homes in Florida and more than 100,000 nationwide affected. At least a dozen companies manufactured defective drywall in China and about 100 builders in Florida used the product, dating back to 2004.

Noxious gases released from contaminated drywall can cause serious health effects involving the upper respiratory tract, such as bloody noses, rashes, sore throats, and burning eyes; and toxins released from contaminated drywall can corrode metals inside the home, such as air conditioning coils and electrical wiring.

The dangers and health risks posed by contaminated drywall have forced thousands of families out of their homes and into temporary living situations, and many such families are unable to afford an additional financial burden. Because of this, some Americans who pay their mortgages on time are now suffering from both financial problems and health complications through no fault of their own.

Banks and mortgage servicers can help families affected by this scourge by providing temporary forbearance with respect to their

mortgage payments to help such families afford the costs of an additional residence while they are removed from their primary homes. That is why I join this body in encouraging banks and mortgage servicers to work with families affected by contaminated drywall to allow temporary forbearance without penalty on payments on their home mortgages.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT O. HUBER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Robert O. "Bob" Huber, who was recently awarded the Ben E. Nordman 2009 Public Services Award by the Ventura County Bar Association in recognition of his many years of community service.

This award recognizes outstanding community contributions by a Ventura County, California, attorney through charitable and public services activities. One would be hard-pressed to find someone more deserving of the award than Bob.

I have known, and been friends with, Bob for more than 30 years. We served together on the Simi Valley City Council in the early 1980s and he was one of my first and most fervent supporters when I decided to run for Congress.

Bob became an attorney after 13 years as a mortician. He runs his own law office in partnership with Russ Takasugi and has served as a Judge Pro Tem since 1981. In 2004, he returned to elective office as a Ventura County Community College District trustee. He currently serves as board president.

As examples of his leadership, Bob initiated the first Affordable Housing Committee in the state of California while serving on the Simi Valley City Council. As a College District trustee, he prompted the board to launch an emergency response system to protect students at the district's three campuses after the Virginia Tech massacre. The district was the first college or university system in California to launch an emergency program and earned the district a special commendation from the State Chancellor's office.

Throughout the years, Bob has also served on a number of governmental boards and commissions. He also became active in the private sector starting at an early age. For instance, he was 27 years old the first time he served as president of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he has also headed his Rotary Club, the Simi Valley Boy Scout District, the Southeast Ventura County YMCA and the Administrative board of the United Methodist Church of Simi Valley. He was a founding steering committee board member for Leadership Simi Valley, the Simi Valley Education Foundation and the Simi Valley Community Foundation.

He has also provided pro bono legal work for the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Rotary Club, the Boys & Girls Club, the Free Clinic of Simi Valley, the Simi Valley Community Foundation and the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Foundation.

There is more but, in short, Bob Huber is very deserving of this honor.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Robert O. "Bob" Huber for earning the Ben E. Nordman 2009 Public Services Award and in thanking him for his many decades of service to his community.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE L.
CATRAMBONE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George L. Catrambone and his decades of service to the children of the Long Branch Public Schools. Mr. Catrambone is known as an innovator in the field of education and he has tirelessly worked to improve the quality of instruction for thousands of students. He recently announced his retirement after over 37 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Catrambone began his career at the Elberon Elementary School where he first worked as a teacher for the handicapped. He became the school's senior special education teacher before rising to the position of Coordinator of Special Education for the entire Long Branch School District. Mr. Catrambone rose to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools in 2002. In this position, Mr. Catrambone was a key force behind the implementation of the education policies of New Jersey's Governor and Commissioner of Education.

Mr. Catrambone has played a vital role in the implementation of the Whole School Reform initiative. He has helped to implement the initiative's curriculum advancements, including the provision of a full school day for preschool age children. He was also instrumental in the design and construction of new schools, athletic facilities, and playgrounds for use by the children of the Long Branch Public Schools.

As a member of several professional organizations, Mr. Catrambone has contributed a great deal to New Jersey's community of educators. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, the New Jersey Education Association, and the Principal and Supervisors Association are included among the many different organizations of which Mr. Catrambone is a valued member.

Mr. Catrambone has been the recipient of several honors during his distinguished career. He has been awarded the Rotary Club of Long Branch's prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award and he has been presented with the Long Branch Board of Education's Achievement resolution for his work with handicapped youth. Mr. Catrambone has also been honored for the work he has done on behalf of the Special Olympics.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating Mr. Catrambone's remarkable career. His impressive record of resilient achievement serves as a model for educators across the State of New Jersey.