

## Hurricane Ike Batters Gulf Coast IAM Members



*Eric Broussard, President of Local 823 in Port Arthur, TX, reviews IAM members' water-damaged homes in Bridge City, TX, with Southern Territory General Vice President Bob Martinez, right.*

Machinists moved quickly to help fellow members across Texas and the Gulf Coast who were battered by Hurricane Ike. With more than 8,000 members in the path of the Category 2 storm, the impact

was greater than Hurricane Katrina and Rita in 2005.

A special taskforce headed by Transportation GVP Robert Roach, Jr., and Southern Territory GVP Robert Martinez, Jr., assembled truckloads of

food, water and clothing for hurricane victims while IAM representatives on the ground worked to locate displaced members.

A special appeal for financial contributions was also sent to every IAM local lodge in the U.S. and Canada. "The generosity of our members never fails to come through in times of crisis and hardship," said Community Services Director Maria Cordone.

## Raytheon Retirees Battle Benefit Cuts



*Bill Burke, Page One Photography*

*Local 933 retiree David E. Lillie of Tucson, AZ, left, testified about Raytheon Missile Systems' unjust termination of retiree health care benefits before the U.S. House of Representatives Labor and Education Committee.*

The IAM is waging a battle on behalf of Local 933 retirees of Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, AZ to restore health care coverage that Raytheon unilaterally terminated. In August, U.S. District Court Judge David Bury ruled in favor of retirees in a class-action lawsuit, and ordered Raytheon to restore coverage.

Bury ruled that the collective bargaining agreements between 1990 and 1999 "unambiguously provide vested medical benefits for retirees until age 65 at no cost."

"This just decision could

be worth as much as \$12 million, and should have been a happy ending for the retirees who have suffered for years without the promised health care coverage," Local 933 retiree David E. Lillie told a U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee hearing on Safeguarding Retiree Health Benefits.

"But, in a cold and calculated response, Raytheon has appealed Judge Bury's clear-cut decision. Raytheon should stand by its promises. If not, then Congress must take action to protect retiree health benefits," said Lillie.



Champion bicycle racer George Hincapie, right, is the son of retired New York Local 1322 member Ricardo Hincapie, left.

12, it was obvious he had exceptional talent,” said Ricardo, a racer himself on days off when he worked as a United Airlines Ramp Serviceman at Kennedy and LaGuardia airports.

Now 35, with 15 professional seasons, 13 Tour de France races and the recent Beijing Olympics under his belt, George Hincapie continues to build on a remarkable career; winning races, setting records, and making one particular IAM retiree very, very proud.

## Like Father, Like Son

Every sports legend gets their start somewhere, on the sandlot, in the schoolyard or at the local gym, but for five-time Olympic bicycle racer George

Hincapie, it was following in the footsteps of his father, retired New York Local 1322 member Ricardo Hincapie.

“By the time George was

## IAM Hosts First ITF Women’s School

Forty-two women from 26 countries, including Mongolia, Kenya and India, gathered at the IAM’s William W. Winpisinger Education Center in Placid Harbor, MD for the first-ever International Federation of Transport Workers (ITF) Women’s Summer School. The ITF is a global federation representing 4.5 million union members in 148 countries.

Participants shared experiences about the transnational companies that regularly pit workers against each other in their quest for the lowest wages and environmental standards.

“Millions of women work in the transport industry and have first-hand knowledge of the negative impact of deregulation, privatization and globalization,” said Transportation GLR Carla Winkler, who chairs the ITF Civil Aviation Committee Sector. “This school is also an opportunity for these women to share their extraordinary experiences in organizing, bargaining and problem solving under pressure.”

A major function of the



Building strong ties of global solidarity, women from 26 countries participated in the first International Federation of Transport Workers Women’s Summer School hosted by the IAM’s Winpisinger Education and Technology Center.

ITF is informing and advising unions about developments in the transport industry around the world. The ITF also organizes support efforts when transport unions in one country need assistance from unions in other countries.