

PREVENTING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS**Tuesday, April 7, 2009**

Steven R. Berg is the vice president for programs and policy at the National Alliance to End Homelessness. He specializes in the impact on homelessness of public policies regarding employment, human services, and housing. Berg came to the Alliance from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, where he worked on state-level welfare reform and employment. Before coming to Washington, he spent 14 years as a legal services attorney in California and Connecticut, working on housing, government benefits, employment, and family issues.

Patrick Campbell is the chief legislative counsel for Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America and a combat medic serving with the D.C. National Guard. He served with the 256th Infantry Brigade patrolling Baghdad and was awarded the Combat Medical Badge and the Meritorious Service Medal. Campbell has worked for Vice President Al Gore and Senators Dianne Feinstein, Patrick Leahy, and Barbara Boxer.

Mary Cunningham is a senior research associate at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on homelessness, housing, concentrated poverty, and efforts to improve economic well-being among low-income households. She was a researcher at the Institute from 1997 to 2005. Prior to her return in 2008, Cunningham launched and directed the Homelessness Research Institute, the research and education arm of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Her reports include “Vital Mission: Ending Homelessness among Veterans” and “Preventing and Ending Homelessness—Next Steps for Policymakers.”

Paul Smits is the associate chief consultant, homeless and residential rehabilitation and treatment programs, at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Throughout his 36 years with VA, Smits has been involved in the development of its homeless program. He manages the Veterans Health Administration’s homeless outreach services, the HUD-VA Supported Housing Program, and the Domiciliary Care Program for Homeless Veterans Program. In 2003, he was honored with the Olin Teague Award for achieving outstanding results in the rehabilitation of homeless veterans. He is a Vietnam veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star.

Christopher Swope (moderator) is the managing editor of *Governing* magazine. He reports on issues facing state and local governments, including housing, transportation, economic development, and urban planning, and writes the magazine’s “Urban Notebook” column. Swope has reported on how San Francisco is tackling the problem of chronic homelessness using the Housing First strategy, and profiled Philip Mangano, the homelessness czar under Barack Obama and George W. Bush.