

country as children, should be made law immediately. This would provide a path to citizenship for those who attend college or serve two years in the US Armed Forces, and would help the U.S. retain the most successful, productive young immigrants.

Large numbers of the brightest students from around the world come to earn degrees from U.S. universities. Many wish to remain in the U.S., but our broken immigration system makes it nearly impossible for them to do so. We should be encouraging these graduates to remain in the U.S. on completion of their studies.

#### MINIMUM WAGE

The third prong of ADA's program is increasing and indexing the minimum wage. It lags at a shameful \$7.25 per hour, while Republicans call for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. At its current level, the minimum wage barely provides an annual income above the individual poverty level, and many minimum wage earners are trying to raise families. It is unconscionable that anyone working full time in America should be mired in poverty, unable to meet basic needs of shelter, food, heat, and clothing.

The minimum wage should be increased, and should in future be indexed to the Consumer Price Index, to ensure that it keeps pace with the rising cost of living.

Opponents of raising the minimum wage will say that it increases unemployment. The evidence for this is extremely spotty. In some states that have increased their minimum wage, unemployment has declined relative to neighboring states that have maintained minimum wage at the federal level. In others, very small increases in unemployment were seen for the lowest-wage workers, and even those increases were temporary. Most of the economic research indicates that modest increases to the minimum wage have a negligible effect on employment, which is much more affected by other economic factors. The benefit of an increase to those workers at the minimum wage level outweighs the negligible effect on employment levels, and ADA strongly supports action on legislation to adjust the current minimum. ADA forged the coalition that led to the last increase in the minimum wage, and we can do so again.

All three prongs of ADA's program—JOBS, SOCIAL SECURITY, and MINIMUM WAGE—are of a piece, and are essential to restoring the American middle class. The Republicans are raring to enact slashing cuts that mirror those of the Tories of the UK, a formula for a double-dip recession or worse. We know better. Americans need jobs. Our country needs refurbishing. Workers need jobs that pay for housing, food, education, and a decent standard of living. Workers pay Social Security taxes, so the elderly, disabled, widows, and orphans can survive above poverty. And minimum wage workers must not be left behind. ADA stands ready to build the Liberal movement to carry out this agenda.

#### HONORING WAYMON SIMS

### HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 2, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the accomplishments of many start with the works and words of one; and

Whereas, Waymon Sims was born and raised in Athens, Georgia, where he began his athletic career as a teenager participating in football, track and basketball earning varsity letters while maintaining his membership in the National High School Honor Society at Athens High & Industrial School; and

Whereas, upon his graduation from Athens High & Industrial School in 1959, Waymon Sims entered Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia wherein he continued his athletic career in track and football while earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics; and

Whereas, Waymon Sims served our country honorably in the U.S. Navy during a time of war, he returned home to Georgia, entered John Marshall Law School, coached little league softball and baseball in DeKalb County, Georgia, won numerous championships for his girls and boys teams but most of all, he shared his time and talents for the betterment of his community and his nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that have and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Waymon Sims the Athlete, Coach, Attorney and Community Leader on his induction into the Athens Athletic Hall of Fame in his hometown of Athens, Georgia and to congratulate him as a constituent who now lives in our District;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim May 18, 2009 as Waymon Sims Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 18th day of May, 2009.

#### HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL EYE FOUNDATION MAY 2, 2011

### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 2, 2011*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding achievements of the International Eye Foundation as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. IEF, which I am proud to say is based in my congressional district, is dedicated to the prevention of blindness and restoration of sight worldwide. In 2010, together with its partner eye care providers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, IEF treated over 2 million people.

The history of IEF's work is fascinating. Dr. John Harry King, Jr., IEF's founder and a pioneer of corneal transplantation, sought to address the high rates of blindness in the developing world and established the International Eye Bank in 1961 under the auspices of CARE/Medico. American eye surgeons were posted to the St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem to perform corneal transplant operations and train local surgeons. Dr. King soon realized, however, that much of the blindness in the developing world was preventable and that care could be provided before people became blind. The name of the organization was changed in 1965 to the International Eye Foundation, which sharpened its focus on blindness prevention and primary eye care.

In order to remedy the dearth of eye specialists in developing countries, volunteer ophthalmologists were posted by IEF to countries throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America. Through IEF's Society of Eye Surgeons, Dr. King hosted a World Congress every four years, one of the earliest international eye meetings, bringing together distinguished leaders in ophthalmology and development specialists from around the world.

Throughout the 1970's, IEF facilitated many ophthalmic training and exchange programs in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. In 1972, U.S. eye surgeons were posted to Ethiopia and Kenya and, from 1976–1984, the USAID-supported "IEF Kenya Rural Blindness Prevention Project" became a model for East Africa. The training of ophthalmologists and Ophthalmic Clinical Officers was expanded while countless general physicians, nurses, and village health workers were trained in primary eye care. IEF facilitated an exchange program that exposed U.S. Navy residents to the challenges of providing eye care in Africa and the Middle East and brought doctors from Egypt and Ethiopia to the U.S. for fellowships. Ophthalmic and nurse training programs and vitamin A deficiency control programs were also conducted in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia. IEF started Malawi's Ophthalmic Medical Assistants training program in 1980. Importantly, the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre had no eye specialist, so IEF posted a series of American ophthalmologists there to provide care, surgery and training over 15 years.

IEF helped establish Eye Banks in Amman, Jordan in 1979 and in Cairo, Egypt in 1980. Throughout the following decade, U.S. ophthalmologists were posted to a number of Caribbean nations for one year at a time. In 1985, IEF became the first eye care development organization to be accepted into "official relations" with the World Health Organization. In 1986, USAID awarded child survival grants for programs in Africa and Latin America that focused on reducing blindness from vitamin A deficiency, the leading cause of blindness in children in developing countries at that time. The availability of Mectizan® (the anti-parasitic drug ivermectin) from Merck & Company in 1990 allowed IEF to pioneer the first community-based ivermectin distribution programs in Guatemala, in collaboration with Africare in Nigeria, and in 1992 in Cameroon and Malawi.

In the early 1990's, IEF was awarded a USAID grant for programs in Bulgaria and Albania. The grant enabled 18 U.S. ophthalmologists to provide training and technology for vitreo-retinal surgery and retinopathy of prematurity to save the sight of newborns. IEF also collaborated with the Dana Center for Preventive Ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins University to conduct the first random sample epidemiological blindness prevalence survey in Bulgaria.

In the mid-1990's, IEF recognized that eye hospitals in developing countries were still underperforming and lacked management capacity and revenue sources. The SightReach® Management program was then established, reorienting the organization's mission to sustainability planning for eye care institutions. This included developing a model that can be adopted by eye units in different regions of the world. In 1999, with seed money from USAID, IEF focused on reducing