

that I have been such a strong supporter of microbicides research.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has not spared the world's children. Last year there were 3.4 million children across the globe living with HIV, and the disease has left more than 16.6 million AIDS orphans, most of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa, in its wake.

Despite the many advances of the last thirty years, as the pandemic has grown, so have the challenges. Despite the significant expansion of treatment programs, only 47% of the 14.2 million people who were eligible for treatment were receiving it by the end of last year. Despite the 21% drop in deaths from AIDS since 2005, last year 1.8 million people died of AIDS. HIV remains a leading cause of death worldwide and the number one cause of death in Africa.

The United States has a responsibility to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS by containing the spread of the virus, helping to provide treatment, and investing in a cure. It is critical that we continue to meet this responsibility, especially after last week's announcement by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria that they cannot fund any new grants for at least two years because of the global financial crisis.

To ensure that the millions of people battling HIV/AIDS do not become collateral damage of the economic downturn, and to uphold our responsibility as a global leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS, I will do whatever I can to

ensure that we maintain commitment to domestic and global AIDS programs. That includes funding for PEPFAR and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, as well as vital funding for domestic programs like the Ryan White CARE Act, and the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Program, and especially, the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, given that some states are changing the income eligibility criteria for that program, while others are seeing waiting lists.

While we have come far in the fight, we so have a long way to go, and we cannot afford to become complacent.

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HONORING LIZZIE ALEXANDER

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

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

Whereas, reaching the age of 75 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Lizzie Alexander was born on October 25, 1936 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Alexander has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Ms. Alexander is celebrating her 75th Birthday with her family members, church

members and friends here in DeKalb County, Georgia on October 22, 2011; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 75th birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Lizzie Alexander for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 22nd & October 25th, 2011 as Ms. Lizzie Alexander Days in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 22nd day of October, 2011.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TODD ROKITA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 1, 2011*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 860, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."