

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LIONS NEWS BRIEFS

LIONS JOIN WITH GATES TO PREVENT MEASLES

Lions are partnering with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to protect 41 million African children from measles. The goal of the Lions-Measles Initiative is to vaccinate at least 95 percent of children aged 9 months to 47 months old in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali and Nigeria. LCIF and the Gates Foundation are jointly funding the \$750,000 program. Vaccinations began in October. Lions in Africa are publicizing the measles campaign, mobilizing people for vaccinations and working closely with government health officials. Measles is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable death in children. It also can cause blindness. UNICEF estimates 1.7 million children could die from the disease in the next three years if vaccination efforts subside. The Lions' effort is part of the Measles Initiative, which has led to more than 700 million children being vaccinated since 2001. The Measles Initiative is supported by UNICEF, WHO, U.S. Centers for Disease Control, American Red Cross and the United Nations Foundation.



A child in Madagascar is vaccinated against measles thanks to the Lions-Measles Initiative.

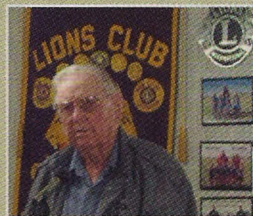


PAST PRESIDENT DIES AT AGE 95

Newly elected to serve as the 50th president of Lions Clubs International in 1966, Edward M. Lindsey, of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, was very aware of the responsibility. Standing onstage at Madison Square Garden in New York City, he said, "Forty-nine men have preceded me to this podium; 49 men of vision, courage and humility." Lindsey, who died in January, spent his 65 years as a Lion always mindful of what he regarded as the privilege to serve others, first as a member of the Lawrenceburg Lions Club and then as international director (1960-62) and ultimately as president. Well-suited for leadership, he also was a former mayor of Lawrenceburg. Lindsey was especially active in work for the blind. He was president of Ed Lindsey Industries of the Blind and president of the Lawrence County Lions Nursing Home and the Lawrenceburg Lions Home. He said his forthrightness came from being the son of a father who was a defense attorney and a prosecutor. He was legendary in his determination—long remembered at his high school for being the only football player confined to his bed with an injury who demanded homework instead of trying to be excused from studying.

A LION FOR 77 YEARS

He is one in a million. More precisely, Glenn Ratliff of the Monahans Lions Club in Texas is one in 1,342,901. With 77 years of service, he is the Lion with the longest tenure. Ratliff joined on Aug. 1, 1933, in Eldorado, Texas, where he helped his father with his dry goods store. He transferred to the Monahans club in 1940. Until recently, Ratliff, 100, attended every weekly club meeting. He still drives himself to church on Sunday and until last year played nine holes of golf every morning—walking, not with a golf cart. Ratliff and his late wife, Ophelia, raised four sons, all of whom are Baylor University graduates. He sold brooms and roses for the Lions, worked the golf tourney and in 1935 attended the international convention in Mexico City, where Lions slept in Pullman train cars. When his club honored him for 75 years of service, he told his colleagues he was "overwhelmed."



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