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March 17, 2005

Contact: Cleve Mesidor  
(202) 223-7560

**Rayfield Wright, Mel Renfro, Abner Haynes, Sr. &  
Other Heroes of Football to Tackle Health Disparities**

***Foundation to Collaborate with Ex-Players to Bridge Health Gap***

**Washington, DC** (March 17, 2005) Prominent members of the Heroes of Football, a who's who of former players, today announced an alliance with National Minority Health Month Foundation to tackle the prevalence of chronic diseases among communities around the country.

"Our team of football players are very concerned about improving the health status of communities around the country and are very excited about this new playbook," said former Kansas City Chief and football hall of famer, Abner Haynes, Sr.

The line up of old school league of football greats includes former Washington Redskins Jean Fugett and Charlie Taylor; former Dallas Cowboys Rayfield Wright and Mel Renfro; former St. Louis Cardinal Hurles Scales; former Baltimore Colt James Mannes; former Atlanta Falcon Gary Burley; former Pittsburgh Steeler Roy Jefferson; and former New England Patriot Tony McGee.

"The Heroes of Football are truly an all-star league of players and the Foundation is delighted to have them on our team," said Dr. Gary Puckrein, Executive Director, NMHMF.

During April, a month designated as minority health month, the former football legends will join the Foundation during their 2nd Annual National Health Disparities Summit for a press conference on April 25, 2005 to unveil the game plan for the team of health advocates.

Haynes, Sr., Chairman and founder of the organization of former football players giving back to their community, is making outreach to their vast membership to travel the country with the Foundation to build awareness and disseminate information about the impact of chronic health disparities. They will collaborate with the Foundation to implement data-driven campaigns, including health screenings, evidence-based programs and health fairs, to address illnesses like diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, end stage renal disease and others.

To book interviews with the Heroes of Football or for more information on the campaign, please contact Cleve Mesidor at (202) 223-7560 or via email at

[cmesidor@americanvisions.com](mailto:cmesidor@americanvisions.com). Additional information about the summit is available at <http://web.archive.org/web/20060117121826/http://www.nmhmfsummit.org/>.

*National Minority Health Month Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that promotes the building of coalitions and evidence-based solutions towards the elimination of health disparities.*