

## ***RICHARD WALDEN***

**Richard M. Walden** is President, CEO and Founder of **Operation USA**, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit international relief and development organization helping communities alleviate the effects of disasters, disease and endemic poverty by providing privately funded relief, reconstruction and development aid throughout the world. Walden is also an active California-licensed attorney specializing in international law, civil rights and health care issues.

Walden is an elected member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, and previously served on the boards of InterAction, a consortium of 195 international nongovernmental organizations, which he co-founded in 1984, and of the Institute for International Mediation & Conflict Resolution (IIMCR) in Washington, D.C. He has also taught conflict resolution at IIMCR seminars in The Hague and in Prague, and has served on the Advisory Board of The Asia Society.

Prior to founding Operation USA, Walden was Commissioner of Hospitals for California during Jerry Brown's administration. He also taught undergraduate law at the University of California at San Diego, and set up the Legal Aid Society of San Diego (CA) County's Health Law Center. Earlier in his career, he served as Deputy General Counsel of New York City Health Services Administration under Mayor John Lindsay. Walden has also been a private consultant on health care and international development issues.

Walden has maintained membership in the State Bars of California, since 1975, and Pennsylvania, since 1972. He earned his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1972, and previously earned a B.A. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania's College of Arts & Sciences in 1968 while attending the Wharton School of Finance from 1964-66. Walden has also studied history, economics, psychology and African Studies at the University of California at Berkeley and at Los Angeles.

## ***OPERATION USA***

Exclusively privately funded, Operation USA has worked in 100 countries since 1979, and has provided over \$400 million in aid and development assistance.

Operation USA has implemented long-term development projects in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Haiti, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, China and Ethiopia. Operation USA has also been active in Chile, Iraq, Iran, the Balkans, Turkey, Georgia, Japan, Rwanda, Taiwan, North Korea, Somalia, Kenya and East Timor.

Walden led Operation USA's involvement in recovery programs following several major disasters, including the Asian tsunami (2004), Hurricane Katrina (2005), the South Asia earthquake (2006), the Sichuan earthquake (2008), the Haiti and Chile earthquakes (2010), and the Japan earthquake and tsunami (2011). Walden supervised relief and recovery programs involving airlifts and sea shipments of \$11.5 million in supplies, and expenditures of \$4 million for the 2004 tsunami-affected region of Southeast Asia. Following Katrina, he coordinated over \$2.2 million in cash grants to 50 health clinics and \$14 million in emergency supplies to the affected US Gulf Coast states, and following the 2006 earthquake in Pakistan, supervised over \$700,000 in emergency and longer term assistance to three million victims. In China, Walden, in partnership with Honeywell Hometown Solutions, orchestrated the construction of two schools and five clinics following the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. In Japan, Walden spearheaded the distribution of immediate relief supplies and played a key role in the construction of the Honeywell Ibasho House, a community center for the Elders of Ofunato, which opened in 2013. In 2014, Walden lead a major effort to aid Ebola-affected communities of West Africa with the shipment of medical and cleaning supplies to partners in Liberia.

Operation USA also serves over 200 California nonprofit community clinics with medical supplies and

disaster preparedness training, and maintains ongoing partnerships with many local community organizations.

In 2014, Walden was awarded the Honeywell “Hometown Heroes Award,” an award given to individuals who improve the lives of others and make their hometowns better places to live and work through long-term dedication, compassion, and the desire to do the right work, right now.

In 2008, Worth Magazine named Operation USA one of “America’s Best 100 Charities,” and Charity Navigator named Operation USA as the #1 rated “Exclusively Privately Funded Charity in America.”

In 1997, Operation USA shared the Nobel Peace Prize as member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Walden was responsible for coordinating Operation USA’s work with UNESCO, NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories to find new and quicker solutions to the landmine problem, which also led to technology aiding the search for new water sources in countries suffering the effects of drought. The use of “EarthRadar” to locate underground water sources, a use which Walden advocated throughout the world, has been termed “unparalleled” by UNESCO’s Chief of Water Resources.

Operation USA was awarded the President's Volunteer Action Award by the White House in 1983 for work as the first U.S. NGO to provide relief to Cambodia and Vietnam after the end of the Vietnam War in 1979. Under Walden’s leadership, Operation USA has scored a number of “firsts” among US NGOs involved in international relief—flying in aid to Cambodia, Vietnam, Poland, Bosnia, Lebanon, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Turkey, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sudan, Congo/Zaire, North Korea, Sri Lanka and The Philippines during or immediately after disasters and/or conflicts have occurred.

Walden founded Operation USA in 1979 alongside founding board members Julie Andrews and the late Blake Edwards. Operation USA’s first relief flight utilized a grounded fleet of DC-10 planes to deliver supplies to Vietnamese boat refugees in Malaysia.