

# Resolution

HONORING JAMES JORKASKY, MBA, AS HE RETIRES AS EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR EYE AND VISION RESEARCH  
& THE ALLIANCE FOR EYE AND VISION RESEARCH

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky was appointed in 2003 as Executive Director of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR), an advocacy organization, and the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR), an educational foundation; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky conducted nearly 80 Congressional Briefings for the Alliance for Vision Research, educating our nation's policy makers on a wide variety of vision and eye health topics aimed at improving knowledge of the value and impact of vision research; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky led efforts to preserve the National Eye Institute (NEI), the nation's leader in vision research, as an independent institute, successfully opposing a House Energy & Commerce Committee National Institutes of Health reform proposal to move the NEI into an initiative which would have eliminated the NEI's budget authority and would have significantly jeopardized eye and vision research; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky led efforts to secure Department of Defense (DOD) funding for peer-reviewed vision research resulting in the creation of the Vision Research Program (VRP) within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP); and

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky launched the *Emerging Vision Scientists Day* (EVS) program to train young researchers on how to communicate their work and advocate for federal investment in vision research, supporting and encouraging over 150 emerging scientists for more than seven years; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky launched and developed programs for the *Decade of Vision 2010-2020 Initiative* to educate about the value and impact of vision research; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky developed a study with research partners to survey Americans about their attitudes on vision and vision loss, which was published in 2016 by *JAMA Ophthalmology*; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky launched and developed programs for the *Research Saving Sight, Restoring Vision Initiative* launched in 2021; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky advanced the knowledge base regarding the impact of COVID-19 on research progress, publishing findings in *JAMA Ophthalmology* from video interviews of Emerging Vision Scientists in 2021 and 2022; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Jorkasky steadfastly supported the optometric profession and optometric research over his long career, and continually advocated for inclusion of optometrists in briefings, emerging scientist activities, and as members of the NAEVR/AVER board; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and its members, earnestly thank Mr. Jorkasky for his nearly two decades of service and leadership as NAEVR/AEVR's Executive Director, and for his extraordinary contributions to advancements in vision and eye health and to the vision research community; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the ASCO family extends its absolute best wishes to Mr. Jorkasky upon his retirement with the sincere hope for much happiness in the many years ahead.