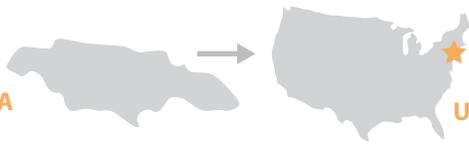




# Howard Dean Bailey



JAMAICA



UNITED STATES

In 1989, Howard came to the U.S. at age 17 as a lawful permanent resident with his U.S. citizen mother. After graduating high school, he joined the **Navy** and was deployed to the Persian Gulf where he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal.



In 1995, soon after returning home, acquaintances sent Howard a package containing marijuana. Federal agents had been tracking the package. Howard had no previous interaction with the **criminal justice system**. His lawyer recommended that he take the **plea** and serve 15 months.



Howard worked hard to rebuild his life for his family. He started 2 small businesses, employing 7 people. He became a mentor for returning veterans.



In 2005, Howard applied for citizenship. He disclosed his conviction. After 5 years of delays, his application was denied.

Immigration officers knocked on his door at 6am, handcuffed him in front of his wife and children. Howard spent 2 years in **immigration jails** far from home while he fought his case to remain in the U.S.

The judge was required to deport Howard and was not allowed to consider his **individual circumstances**: an armed service veteran who defended the U.S., a lawful permanent resident and business owner whose wife and children were dependent on him.



Howard was deported in May 2012 and is now in Jamaica, a country he hasn't seen in 24 years. He can no longer support his family and lives in constant fear for his own life, as deportees are stigmatized in Jamaica and targets of violence.

Meanwhile, his family in the U.S. is **deteriorating**. His 16 year-old daughter has gone from the honor roll to barely passing and is struggling emotionally. His 18 year-old son is starting to get into trouble. His home is in foreclosure, and his business has shut down.

**None of the current immigration bills allow Howard to pursue the path to citizenship. Congress should create a fair and inclusive path that allows immigrants like Howard to maintain and pursue legal status rather than expand the number of reasons to deport them.**

## FACT

Approximately 70,000 lawfully present immigrants served in the U.S. military between 1999 and 2008. [1] The number of deported veterans is not currently documented, however, estimates suggest that between 3,000 and 4,000 veterans are deported each year.

## FACT

Two-thirds of those incarcerated in state prisons for drug offenses are black or Latino even though studies show that blacks, Latinos and whites' drug use is similar to their relative proportion to the national population. [2]

## FACT

97% of federal convictions and 94% of state convictions are the result of guilty pleas. All too often, immigrants only have a few minutes to consult with their criminal defender and are not aware of the harsh immigration consequences of pleading guilty to criminal charges. [3]

## FACT

Congress mandates that DHS keep 34,000 immigration detention beds filled everyday, costing about \$2 billion per year. This does not take into account the human, social, and fiscal costs of removing mainly fathers and breadwinners from their families and forcing them to fight their cases from faraway jails even if they pose no safety or flight risk.

## FACT

Howard's nearly 20 year-old conviction, for which he already served time, constitutes a so-called "aggravated felony" offense under immigration law for which judges are not allowed to consider individual circumstances. Howard was automatically subject to mandatory detention and deportation.

## FACT

In the first six months of 2011, the federal government removed more than 46,000 mothers and fathers of U.S.-citizen children. Over 200,000 parents of U.S. citizen children have been deported since 2010. [4]