

the disability communities in Vietnam and in the United States. Some of Susan's genius must have rubbed off on us in the Foreign Operations Committee because we encouraged USAID to fund disability rights programs in Vietnam. I hope that we can help the program again this year.

I strongly believe that for all of America's economic and military might, our greatest strength will always be our democratic principles. Those principles have served as the foundation for aspiring democracies everywhere. As our own democracy matures, and the ADA is a testament to that, it is essential that we export the lessons we have learned.

I have seen personally how the ADA has fostered disability rights activism around the world and as the 10th Anniversary approaches I can think of no better person to honor than Susan Sygall. A civil rights law is only as great as the people who bring it to life every day. That's why when I hear about people like Susan, I know that the ADA's future is in good hands.●

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President. I rise today to pay tribute to the town of Seymour, nestled in the Lower Naugatuck Valley of Connecticut. Located in New Haven County with the Lower Housatonic River nearby, Seymour offers its residents a wide variety of recreational activities, history, industry, and a strong sense of community with an emphasis on education. Seymour was formally founded on June 24, 1850, when the town's council held its first meeting. I rise today to congratulate Seymour on its Sesquicentennial anniversary, 150 years as a town, and to reflect for just a few moments on the rich history of this town.

The Naugatuck Valley increased in importance during the early 1800s because of its valuable natural resources and industrial growth. Due to different manufacturing concerns and the desire to separate and become their own community, the town of Seymour, then called Humphreysville, petitioned the state legislature to become the town of "Richmond." Thomas H. Seymour, who was the Governor of the state of Connecticut, promised the people that if the town was named in his honor, the bill would be accepted immediately. Evidently, the good people of the town agreed, for shortly thereafter the town of Seymour was formally constituted.

Throughout the years, companies have prospered and grown in Seymour, paralleled by the development and expansion of the town itself. The H.P. & E. Day Company began in Seymour in 1865, and has developed into the Waterman Pen Company of France, producers of some of the world's finest

fountain pens. Telegraph cables that could be placed underwater were developed by Austin Goodyear Day in Seymour in the mid-nineteenth century, and continue to be produced by the Kerite Company, presently located on Day Street. With the vital shipping lanes of the Housatonic River, as well as the region's railroads and factories, Seymour flourished throughout the late nineteenth century, and within the town a broad range of products—from copper to paper to bottled spring water—was produced. Outside of the industrial diversity of Seymour, one is immediately aware of the natural beauty of the area. Not only is the Housatonic River one of New England's greatest assets, but it also provides recreational activities such as canoeing and fishing for local residents.

I have had the pleasure of visiting the town of Seymour on many occasions, and am always impressed with the natural beauty and spectacular resourcefulness of the residents. One thing that has lingered in my mind from past visits is the strong sense of community, and the emphasis on the importance of education. Seymour offers residents an abundance of entertainment and activities through the Seymour Recreation Commission, a strong police force led by Police Chief Michael E. Metzler, the Seymour Senior Center, cultural and performing arts events through the Seymour Culture and Arts Commission, and celebrations of important national holidays such as Memorial Day through local events and parades. In the realm of education, Superintendent Eugene A. Coppola has continued to uphold the fine reputation of local schools, which have seen recent increases in test scores, state-of-the-art expansion of Bungay Elementary School, the strengthening of the core curriculum, and a majority of students participating in extracurricular activities. One of the most important facets of the school system in Seymour is the DARE program, instilling in students the importance of remaining drug-free.

Seymour in the year 2000 is in many respects a great American town. It is a place where businesses can prosper, where families can thrive, and where a sense of community permeates everyday life. In recognizing this important anniversary in the life of the town, we pay homage to all those who have in the past contributed to making Seymour the outstanding place it is today. And we congratulate those current residents who pause on this occasion not only to remember the past, but who dedicate themselves to the future success and vitality of this remarkable town they call home.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4577. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-9218. A communication from the Executive Director of Government Affairs, Non Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of financial statements for calendar years 1998 and 1999; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9219. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on federal government energy management and conservation programs, fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-9220. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Deposition of Air Pollutants to the Great Waters"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-9221. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notice of establishing and adjusting schedules of compensation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9222. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the audited fiscal years 1998 and 1999 financial statements of the U.S. Mint; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9223. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Review of the Financial and Administrative Activities of the Taxicab Assessment Fund for Fiscal Years 1997, 1998, and 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9224. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Status of the Washington Convention Center Authority's Implementation of D.C. Auditor Recommendations"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-9225. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on birth defects and developmental disabilities programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-9226. A communication from the Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Programs That Work Producing People at Work"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-9227. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on improvements to claims processing under