Casey had a reputation as a trusted and capable engineer, and he soon found himself in charge of regularly scheduled passenger trains.

On the night of April 29, 1900, Casey departed Memphis aboard Engine 382 with six passenger cars one hour and thirty-five minutes late. Protocol demanded that engineers make their arrival time regardless of the tardiness of their departure. Casey was renowned throughout the region for his ability to make time, and he was doing an excellent job until he arrived at Vaughn Station, only eleven miles from his final destination. While attempting to maintain his scheduled arrival, Casey missed a flag signal warning that a freight train was still on the tracks ahead of him. Casey's engine collided with the caboose, but instead of abandoning his engine as instructed, he stayed behind in the hope that the lives of his passengers could be saved. Due to Casey's heroic attempts to stop and slow the train, none of Casey's passengers were injured and he was the only one killed in the crash.

Throughout this year, Casey Jones' hometown of Jackson, Tennessee, will celebrate the centennial of his gallant ride and recognize his contributions to American history. The events will culminate on the anniversary of the crash with a celebration sponsored by the Casey Jones Village, the Casey Jones Home and Railroad Museum, and the City of Jackson. I encourage everyone to take part in these events and remember the legacy of Casey Jones—an American folk hero.●

ARIAIL PULITZER NOD

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to recognize one of South Carolina's most talented journalists, Robert Ariail, who was recently selected as one of the three finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in editorial cartooning. This is the second time he has made the Pulitzer shortlist, having also been a 1995 finalist. Since joining The State newspaper in Columbia, SC in 1984, Mr. Ariail has informed and charmed South Carolina readers with a collection of original, insightful and finely-crafted cartoons. Having been a subject of his satire, I can personally attest to his talent. His work has earned him numerous national and international awards including the Overseas Press Club's Thomas Nast Award, the National Headliner Award and the national Sigma Delta Chi Award. I have faith that three times will be the charm for Robert Ariail and the Pulitzer; this prestigious award could not go to a more deserving person.●

THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, which on May 1, 2000, will celebrate its 150th birthday. Residents of the city have been invited to commemorate the occasion with Mayor John Logie at the Grand Rapids Sesquicentennial Community Party, an event which will highlight the growth and development of a city that is still on the ascent.

When a group of fur trappers, explorers, loggers, and sod busters took a break from their daily activities on May 1, 1850, to make Grand Rapids an incorporated city, the estimated population was 2,686 persons. The number of square miles that the city encompassed stood at four, the estimated number of city officials was sixteen, there were thirty two miles of road within city limits, and there was neither a police force nor a fire department. To be sure, the first mayor of Grand Rapids, Mr. Henry R. Williams, had his work cut out for him.

Today, I think Mr. Williams would be extremely proud to see how far the city of Grand Rapids has come in its 150 years. Its population now stands at 192,000 persons, and, when surrounding metropolitan areas are added to this, the figure grows to 1,021,200. This makes Grand Rapids the second largest city in Michigan and the 58th largest city in the Nation. The city encompasses 45 square miles, employs over 2,000 city officials, has 562.81 miles of road within its limits, a police force of 379 officers and a fire department of 260 firefighters. Mr. President, I think it goes without saying that Mayor Logie also has a lot of work on his hands.

The City of Grand Rapids has planned many events to be included as part of its Sesquicentennial Celebration. All elementary schools, public, private, and charter, will be served birthday cake on May 1. The original city boundary will be marked with special historic 1850 signs. City officials have commissioned the designing of a parade float to participate in area parades, which depicts the Grand River and is fully equipped with jumping fish, fireworks, and depictions of historic buildings and neighborhoods. Free coloring books entitled ''The City of Grand Rapids: Then and Now,'' will be distributed on April 29, 2000.

In addition, officials from the four sister cities of Grand Rapids—Omihachiman, Japan; Bielsko-Biala, Poland; Perugia, Italy; and Ga District, Ghana—will join in the celebration. A time capsule, to be built into the new Archive Center, will receive its first items. One hundred and fifty trees will be planted throughout the community to commemorate the birthday celebration. A beginning list of 150 historical sites in Grand Rapids will be released on April 29, 2000, and will be completed throughout the year. And finally, the Grand Rapids Press will publish four essays, submitted by Grand Rapids residents, as a tribute to the birthday, with the topics of these essays ranging from diversity to the city's quality of life.

Mr. President, in one hundred and fifty years, residents of Grand Rapids have experienced their fair share of both prosperity and decline. At the end of World War II, the future of Grand Rapids looked bleak. Through the incredible efforts of thousands of individuals in the years since, though, the city has managed to turn the tables full tilt. As we enter the new millennium, Grand Rapids is enjoying the greatest economic boom in its history. With this economic prosperity has come a remarkable turn in the overall quality of life that residents enjoy. Also, it should be noted that Grand Rapids is one of Michigan's most diverse cities, diversity which increases everyday as more and more jobs are created within city limits. The turnaround of Grand Rapids serves as a model, and an inspiration, to other cities, not only in Michigan, but throughout the Nation.

Mr. President, I extend greetings to all those participating in the Grand Rapids Sesquicentennial Community Party, and the many other events that have been planned for the celebration of the anniversary. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I wish the City of Grand Rapids a happy 150th birthday.●

DIABETES RESEARCH

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as a member of the Senate Diabetes Caucus, I am concerned with the need for further research for a cure for diabetes. Recently, I had several meetings with constituents from Portland, Eugene, and Lake Oswego, Oregon concerning diabetes research funding. All of these constituents are young children or young adults living with this disease. One young woman told me that she has already lost three friends to this disease.

For fiscal year 2000, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) received a $13.3 million increase over last year's funding for diabetes. This increase brings the total amount for diabetes research to $462.3 million. For those who have to live every day with diabetes and for those who are the parents of a child living with disease, and who have to worry every day about the long-term toll diabetes disease takes on their child, this is not enough.

Diabetes can destroy nerves, harm eyesight, and cause a host of other deleterious effects on the body. While I am pleased that there was an increase in the funding of NIH for diabetes research last year, I believe we can and should do more to assure that we find a cure.

While funding has increased from $134 million in fiscal year 1980, this only represents approximately 2 percent growth per year when adjusted for inflation. Considering the widespread and devastating effects of this disease, we should continue to support the funding increases for NIH research of diabetes.

I know that many of my colleagues feel strongly about this issue as well. I