

# SEEKING FULL PARTICIPATION

We watch the City fall down  
But we pick it up  
The Cost of Freedom  
We pick it up

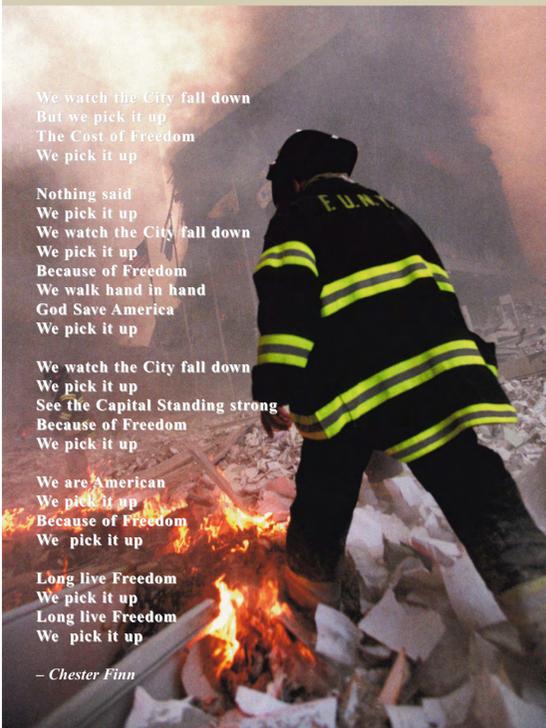
Nothing said  
We pick it up  
We watch the City fall down  
We pick it up  
Because of Freedom  
We walk hand in hand  
God Save America  
We pick it up

We watch the City fall down  
We pick it up  
See the Capital Standing strong  
Because of Freedom  
We pick it up

We are American  
We pick it up  
Because of Freedom  
We pick it up

Long live Freedom  
We pick it up  
Long live Freedom  
We pick it up

— Chester Finn



September 11, 2001 began as a beautiful day. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks nearly 3,000 people were killed, thousands more injured. Remarkably, all New Yorkers who received supports through the developmental disabilities service system survived. Self-advocate and New Yorker Tony Philips spoke for many when he said, "We are here to pick the city back up."



Chester Finn



Our voices and our votes count.



Approximately 874,000 full-time equivalent direct support professionals (DSPs) across the United States provide guidance and support to people who need help becoming self-sufficient. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that by 2020, the number of full-time DSPs must grow to 1.2 million to support the 1.4-million individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with needed residential, vocational, and other supports.



## REALIZING THE PROMISE OF INTEGRATION, PRODUCTIVITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND QUALITY OF LIFE CHOICES.

People with disabilities assert their rights to freedom of religious and spiritual expression.



In September 2003, over 200 ADAPT members and supporters marched and rolled from the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia to Washington, DC, building support for MiCASSA, the Medicaid Community-based Attendant Services and Support Act.



Terri Shiavo collapsed in 1990 from cardiac arrest, resulting in severe brain damage. Within three years, doctors said she was in a "persistent vegetative state" with little chance of recovery. Terri's husband fought to have her feeding tube removed, honoring her wishes not to be "kept on a machine" with no hope of recovery. Terri's family and many supporters from the disability community challenged this petition and fought for years to keep Terri alive. After fourteen court appeals and many motions, petitions, and court hearings, her feeding tube was removed in March 2005. She died thirteen days later.



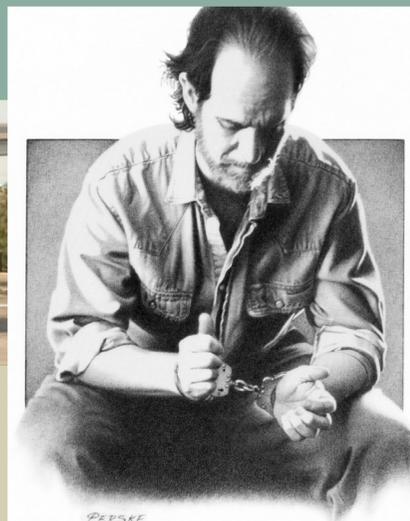
This online newsletter, written and published by self-advocates, reaches thousands of people through the Internet. Self-advocacy has entered the digital age.



Hurricane Katrina hits the Gulf coast in late August 2005, causing thousands of deaths and destruction across coastal regions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Federal relief efforts are slow and poorly organized. The Center for Independent Living in Biloxi, MS is totally destroyed.

In June 2002, the Supreme Court reversed an earlier ruling and held that the death penalty constituted "cruel and unusual punishment" to persons with intellectual disabilities. Still, people with intellectual disabilities are at a higher risk of wrongful convictions and death sentences, often because they want to please the authorities by confessing falsely or, because of stigma, they do not want to disclose their disability.

In the case of Johnny Lee Wilson, Johnny was trying to please the police officers by telling them what he thought they wanted to hear. That is, he confessed. I think that it is important to remember that in trying to please the police officers you should not say something that is not true, or incriminate yourself. Incriminate means saying something that would make you guilty of a crime. — Missouri People First



"The powerful play goes on – and you may contribute a verse. What will your verse be?"  
— author unknown

### 2001

In *Alabama v. Garrett* the Supreme Court rules that state employees can no longer sue their employers for money damages under the ADA. This decision weakens federal civil rights protections.

As the Senate is divided 50-50, Senator Jim Jeffords leaves the Republican party and becomes an Independent. Members of SABE meet with Senator Jeffords this same day.

Hijacked airplanes on September 11th kill nearly 3,000 in New York City after the World Trade Centers towers collapsed. Another airplane crashes into the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

Gunnar Dybwad, a founding father of Inclusion International and lifelong supporter of self-advocacy, dies at age 92.

SABE, ADAPT, & NCIL sign a statement of solidarity.

### 2002

The National Organization on Disability establishes the Emergency Preparedness Initiative to address the special needs of people with disabilities in emergency situations.

Paul Wellstone, U.S. Senator from Minnesota and strong supporter of disability rights, dies tragically in a plane crash with his wife Sheila and several close friends.

Justin Dart, a prominent leader in the international disability rights movement, dies at age 71.

### 2003

ADAPT members and allies march from Philadelphia to Washington, DC in support of MiCASSA.

Self-advocates demand language change. By executive order, the President's Committee on Mental Retardation changed its name to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

### 2004

SABE and Project Vote produce resources highlighting voting issues faced by people with developmental disabilities.

### 2005

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Alabama hosts an exhibit on disability history, featuring the struggles and accomplishments of people with developmental disabilities.

SABE stirs debate when it protests the Alliance for Full Participation summit planned for September 2005, asserting that the voices of self-advocates are not being heard. After much discussion, SABE and other sponsoring organizations come together and host the conference. Over 2,500 people attend.

Terri Shiavo dies on March 31 after her feeding tube is removed.

Hurricane Katrina hits the Gulf coast in late August, causing thousands of deaths and destruction across coastal regions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

**ACT**  
Advocating Change Together