

## John Seymour

John became President and CEO of the Decatur- Morgan County Chamber of Commerce in 1991.

He managed seven staff members, about nine hundred members with an annual budget of more than \$1.2 million.

Under his leadership the Decatur- Morgan County Chamber of Commerce annual budget grew by 70% in the past twenty- eight years and income from dues investments grew by more than 60% in the same period.

The Chamber has been recognized on numerous occasions including an invitation from Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao to participate in *The Summit of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce*, and selection as a "Community of Excellence", a pilot program for community development by The Tennessee Valley Authority and the Alabama Economic Development Partnership.

John was invited to be in a National Think Tank of the Kettering Foundation for a published study on "Creating a Healthy Economy through Civic Involvement". He has been a presenting speaker at the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives annual meetings in Cleveland, Sacramento, Montreal and Milwaukee, and appeared with Dr. Stephen Covey as the convention opening program in Raleigh, N.C. As President and CEO at the Decatur- Morgan County Chamber he helped create *Youth Leadership Morgan County* and *The Leader in Me* program, a cooperative effort with Franklin Covey. He is a graduate of Leadership Mississippi and Leadership Alabama. He served as Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama and currently serves the Business Council of Alabama on the Board of Directors. He has served in the past on their Finance Committee and Executive Committee. In 2014 he was the recipient of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Thompsonian Award presented by the Business Council of Alabama. In 2016 the award was renamed the Thompson-Seymour Award. In 2017, at the Annual Martin Luther King Unity Breakfast, John received the Humanitarian Award presented by the Decatur Minority Development Association.

Prior to his current position John was President and CEO of the Natchez, Mississippi Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Association. While there he participated, with the Governor, on international economic development missions to Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Canada. He also was Chairman of the committee that led a successful bid campaign to host the Southern Governors Conference.

John is a graduate of the Basic Economic Development Course at Georgia Tech and the Economic Development Institute and advanced curriculum class on Far East Development at the University of Oklahoma.

He has received the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama's prestigious Jamie Wallace Award presented to the state's outstanding Executive and the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award presented by the National Conference for Community and Justice.

He and his wife Judy have three children and four grandchildren.