



AUGUST 1997

DENVER, CO

**THE 1997 MS. WHEELCHAIR
AMERICA PROGRAM**



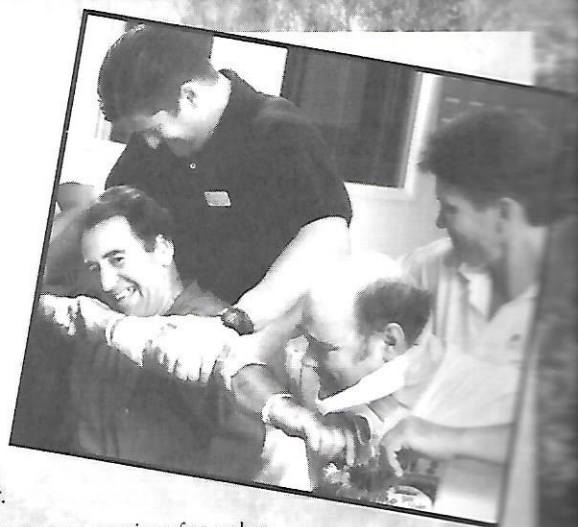
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Wellington E. Webb
MAYOR

City and County of Denver

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AREA CODE 303 640-2721
640-2720 (V/TDD)



August 12, 1997

Greetings!

On behalf of the citizens of the City and County of Denver, I would like to congratulate all involved in the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Ms. Wheelchair America Program. It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all participants, families and friends.

This event is a very important event for our community, and I know that all of you will be impressed with our friendly people, and our Colorado spirit and pride. We look forward to sharing our hospitality with you.

Again, congratulations and best wishes of success in your competition.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Wellington E. Webb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wellington E. Webb
Mayor



11701 Community Center Drive
Northglenn, Colorado 80233-1099
Phone (303) 451-8326
FAX (303) 450-8708
TDD (303) 450-8805

August, 1997

Dear Participants in the Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant:

It is a pleasure for me to welcome all participants, families, and spectators to the City of Northglenn. We are honored to be the host City for this special 25th Anniversary pageant. It is important to have an organization that recognizes women who use wheelchairs. It is a time to reflect back on all the accomplishments realized the last quarter of this century. It is equally exciting to look forward to a bright and challenging future.

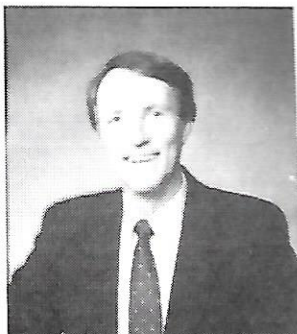
On behalf of the City Council of Northglenn, I am honored to extend our sincere congratulations to *each* participant for your personal dedication and accomplishments. Each of you is a winner in our eyes!

The City Council and I hope you will find Northglenn a warm, friendly, and lovely place to visit. Northglenn has much to offer including convenient shopping, beautiful parks, lakes, open spaces, and indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. The community is connected by a Greenway Trail Network with more than 27 miles of off-street paths.

Best of luck to you all whatever your role may be in this exciting pageant. We are happy to have you here and hope you enjoy your stay.

Sincerely,

Don Parsons
Mayor



CITY OF NORTHGLENN



DAN SCHAEFER
SIXTH DISTRICT
COLORADO



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

August 12, 1997

Dear Friends:

It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome all the participants to the "25th Anniversary Celebration" of the "Ms. Wheelchair America Program" being held this year in Colorado.

Each contestant, along with friends and family, must be extremely proud of the wonderful accomplishments that have been achieved by everyone participating in the pageant this year. The determination and strength of spirit shown by each of you is most admirable and you have certainly set a positive example to which other women can aspire. Your personal goals are a testimony to overcoming adversity and such a positive endeavor certainly has increased the awareness of the community to its wheelchair citizens.

I wish each of you all the best as you compete this week but I am confident that every contestant here already wears the crown.

Very best regards.

Sincerely,

DAN SCHAEFER
Member of Congress

August 12, 1997

Dear Friends:

Thank you for joining us for the 1998 Ms. Wheelchair America Program here in beautiful, exciting Colorado! Barb Cramer, your host state coordinator, has worked very hard during the past year to insure that everyone attending will have a wonderful time. Thanks, Barb!

As you all know, this is our 25th anniversary and it really is going to be a special time for all of us as we remember previous years and our former titleholders.

This past year has been an exciting one for me personally and for the entire Board as we worked with this year's independent delegates from new states coming on board and gave assistance when needed to independent delegates from last year in planning their very first state programs. One, Judy Hoit of Iowa, even held her program during a snow storm!

Elaine Stefanowicz, Ms. Wheelchair America '97, has done an excellent job in fulfilling her role. She has travelled to Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington, D. C., where she had her picture made in the White House with President Clinton - and even held the Presidential cat! She also visited many other great places to advocate for persons with disabilities. She has been a wonderful spokesperson for our Program. Thank you so much, Elaine.

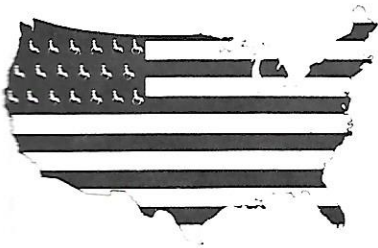
It has, indeed, been a busy year! The Board of MWA has made much progress during the past 12 months, with plans for even more good things to come this next year. Thank you to Tom O'Bryant for his strong leadership and expertise in the business world and his loyalty to the Program. Thanks also to Amy Baxter Ley who, despite being a newlywed, has managed to do some really great things for MWA. We have all worked very hard for the program and know that you have too. A special thanks to those state coordinators who have been faithful in sending delegates to Ms. Wheelchair America for years. You have worked diligently to have the stable programs that you have in place and we appreciate your efforts. Thank you for keeping us up to date on the happenings in your state and for allowing us the opportunity to be a part of your plans. We are always honored when you ask for our advice or assistance.

It is my sincere belief that, working together, we can make next year even better than this year.

Yours very truly,



Gail McKoon
Executive Director



Ms. Wheelchair America Inc.

TOM O'BRYANT
PRESIDENT

August 12, 1997

TO: Contestants, Companions, Family Members, Sponsors, and Friends
of Ms. Wheelchair America

FROM: Tom O'Bryant, President

This year is a very special year! We are here to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Ms. Wheelchair America. In 1972, Dr. Philip K. Wood, a Columbus, Ohio psychiatrist, established Ms. Wheelchair America as a forum to publicize the accomplishments of disabled women in wheelchairs. Since its inception, Ms. Wheelchair America titleholders have dedicated their reigns to raising the awareness levels of the public to the accomplishments and abilities of people with disabilities, using their personal achievements as examples. Through their efforts, many of the stereotypes and attitudinal barriers have been changed for the better.

In recent years, Ms. Wheelchair America titleholders have traveled extensively throughout our nation to share their message. We find evidence of this in print, radio, and television; visits with local, state, and national elected officials; and, for the past few years, each titleholder has had the opportunity to visit the White House and meet with the President. We are proud of their accomplishments and feel their efforts have made a difference for persons with disabilities.

During the past year, the current Ms. Wheelchair America, Elaine Stefanowicz, had the opportunity to travel to Alaska and Hawaii. She has been a superb Ms. Wheelchair America. We are truly proud of her accomplishments during her reign and wish her well in her future endeavors.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Ms. Wheelchair America, I am pleased to welcome each of you to Colorado. We know you will enjoy the experience and hope you will use this opportunity to learn more about the Ms. Wheelchair America Program. We urge each of you, especially the contestants, to stay involved and support your state programs. Your involvement will ensure the continued success of your state program and will provide the means for other talented women in wheelchairs to participate in this incredible experience.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the efforts of Barb Cramer and her volunteers for all the hard work and many hours spent in planning, coordinating, and hosting this annual event. Also, thanks to Barb and her volunteers for making everyone feel so welcome. I again welcome each of you and ask that you join us in celebrating the twenty-fifth birthday of Ms. Wheelchair America and the accomplishments of our contestants.

A Message from the Host State Director . . .



In 1972, an educational process was begun for an unaware and discriminating public . . . an organization was established that would highlight the fact that the only difference between a person utilizing a wheelchair for mobility and an able-bodied person WAS the wheelchair!

This week, twenty-five years later, accomplished women using a mobility device will compete in the 25th - Silver Anniversary Celebration of the Ms. Wheelchair America Program. As Host State Director, I, along with the entire Ms. Wheelchair Colorado Board welcome you to Denver, the city which is a Mile High, and the beautiful state of Colorado.

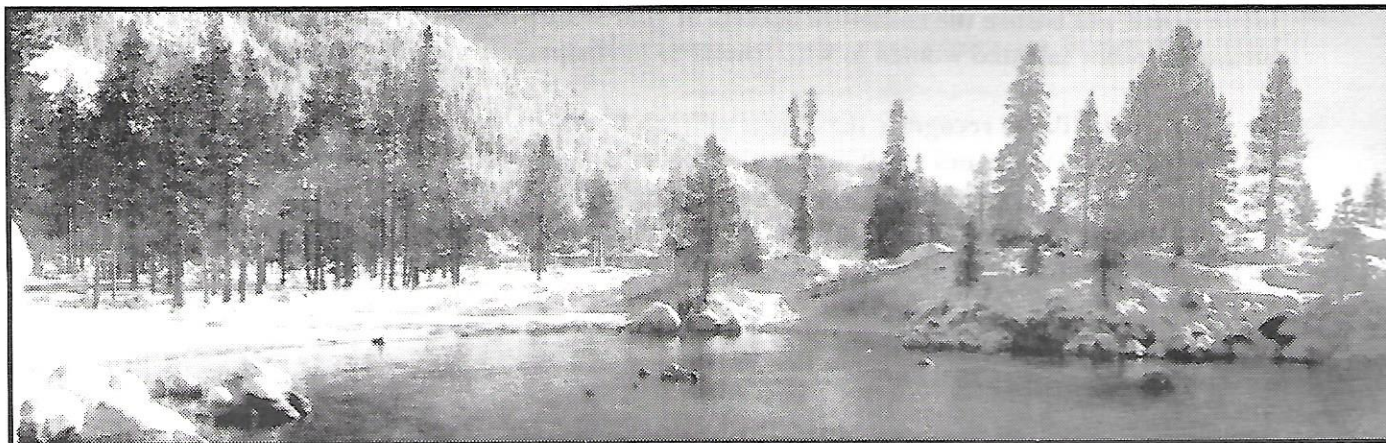
Over the past twenty-five years, titleholders have been chosen from across America with as many as 36 states being represented, and as few as 9. This year, all of you competing have the distinct privilege of competing in a Silver Anniversary Year, an event that only comes once in a lifetime, and one that you should remember, always.

We welcome all of you who are involved with this year's program; contestants, families, friends and sponsors alike, and we thank you for your commitment to this program. Each year unforgettable memories are made and new friendships blossom. We hope that all of you involved with this program this week, will go forward and share your experiences with others so that one day all 50 states will send a representative to the Ms. Wheelchair America Program.

On Saturday evening only one woman will be crowned Ms. Wheelchair America. However, all of us will share in her excitement, and in the exciting accomplishments of previous titleholders. She will go forward, as did those before her, to inform the general public of the achievements and accomplishments of people with disabilities across our nation, and do it with dignity.

Helen Keller once said, "I am only one, but still I am one! I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

Barb Cramer



Purpose And Goals Of The Ms. Wheelchair America Program

The Ms. Wheelchair America Program is in no way a beauty contest. It is, instead, a competition to select the most accomplished and articulate spokesperson for other persons with disabilities in the United States. The selected representative must be able to communicate both the needs and the accomplishments of her constituency to the general public, the business community and the lawmakers. She is charged with a continuing effort to educate the public regarding the dignity, productiveness and basic value of disabled people. She assumes the responsibility for the ongoing effort to eliminate the architectural and attitudinal barriers that prevent people with disabilities from assuming their rightful place in society.

As Ms. Wheelchair America, her duties are numerous. Each year she has the opportunity to travel, visiting advocacy groups, making public appearances and conducting television, radio and print interviews in the fulfillment of her major responsibilities. These include promoting awareness of the needs of disabled persons, creating an awareness for the need to eliminate architectural and attitudinal barriers and informing the able-bodied public of the achievements of physically disabled people across the nation.

We plan and conduct a four-day event to select our new Ms. Wheelchair America. The Program is more than just the judging panel and one 'winner' is named. We schedule workshop sessions where we offer interesting topics of personal enhancement for the women, whether about grooming, communication and interpersonal skill development, networking with community programs and other educational topics. We offer 'free time' to allow for information exchanges between contestants to take place. Many new friendships are started from the Program, as women validate the fact they are not the only one to use a wheelchair and experience some of the things they share with each other. The Program offers an opportunity to enjoy five days at a luxurious hotel setting - here the contestants are really treated as special guests. The Program is much more than just a healthy competition . . . it's an opportunity to see the potential within and to challenge personal growth.

The Planning Board for Ms. Wheelchair America is made up of volunteers from many different community organizations, businesses, private citizens, and previous title holders. There are few administrative costs to the Program. All expenses for hosting the Program, travel for Ms. Wheelchair America and expenses associated with the national Ms. Wheelchair America Program must be secured through various fund-raising efforts, donations, etc. We welcome your assistance.

State Coordinators

Maria Crowley

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Homewood, Alabama 35219
1-800-671-6837

Donna Powers

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Debbie Thompson

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Mary Lynn Van Hulten

2144 Sorrento Drive
Woods Cross, Utah 84087

Elaine Stefanowicz

821 S. Jackson Avenue
Tacoma, Washington 98465
206-565-2791

A Fond Farewell From Elaine Stefanowicz 1997 Ms. Wheelchair America

During my reign as Ms. Wheelchair America '97, I have had the wonderful opportunity of receiving many treasured gifts. The gift of love, friendship and support. The gift of travel and adventure. The gift of teaching and learning. The gift of discovering more about myself and what I am capable of. And, most importantly, the gift of knowing part of my destiny and why I was meant to be in a wheelchair . . .

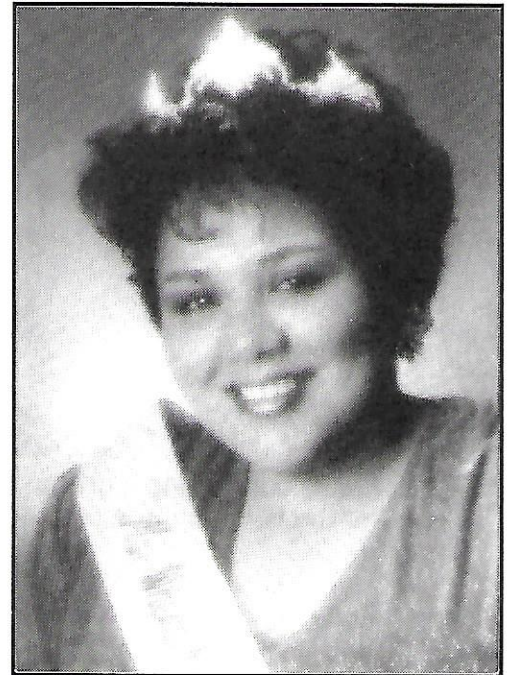
Fifteen years ago, I was in a car accident that injured my spinal cord and left me with a lot of questions: "Why did this happen to me?" I thought as I made my way through rehabilitation and the start of my new life in a chair. Soon after, I noticed an awakening in me. An awakening of strength that I never knew I had. With the love and encouragement of my parents, a love that has never since wavered, I began to thrive. On September 7, 1996, I was crowned Ms. Wheelchair America '97 and, next to my wedding day, it was the happiest and proudest day of my life.

We all have a destiny. One person's destiny tonight will be to win the title of Ms. Wheelchair America '98. For the rest of the contestants, you will go home knowing that you tried your best, had the incredible opportunity of representing your **whole** state, and made a bunch of new friends. I'd say that's pretty darn impressive! I want to wish each of you the very best of luck and please try not to focus on "winning or losing." Losers would never have made it this far—losers are the ones who don't even try!

I would like to take this time to thank my husband, Steve, whose love and support has made me complete. The motto at our wedding was "He pushes and she steers." Since that time, we have applied that motto to our life together and have had a lot of fun. Thank you Steve, for sharing your love, your name (even though most people can't say it . . .) and your wonderful family with me. You are my "*True Companion*." Thank you to my parents, Bob and Nancy Courtney, and brother Don. Whatever I am today is because of you. And thank you to my best friend and life-long shopping partner, Melissa Espinosa. I never understood what the term "kindred spirit" meant until I met you - thanks for being the sister that I always wanted. My military escort for the pageant is Sgt. Joe Todd from Falcon Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. Joe and I met and became instant friends during driver's ed. training in high school. Joe never ceases to make me laugh and I am so proud to have him here with me. As with any life-altering experience (such as a car accident), you find out who your true friends are, and that's exactly what Joe is.

A special thank you to all of my friends in Tacoma and the State of Washington, who believed in me and supported my efforts right from the start. Representing your state as an Independent Delegate is a very big task and my community encouraged me every step of the way. A big thank you to American Airlines for being my sponsor and making this exciting year of travel possible. Amy Baxter Ley, Ms. Wheelchair America '96, is personally responsible for this sponsorship, and I hope she knows how much I care for and admire her—she's been a true friend! And, thank you to Gail McKoon, my chocolate compadre! Gail, your warmth, selflessness and loving spirit continues to inspire me.

Finally, thank you to everyone for being here and sharing in this event. You will meet some incredibly dynamic women, learn of their lives, and watch them as they unfold their destinies . . .



Elaine's Year



Elaine addressing a group
at the Veterans Hospital.



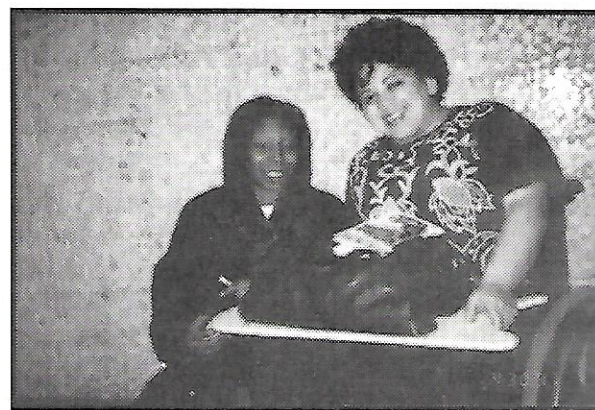
President, Mrs. Clinton and Elaine.



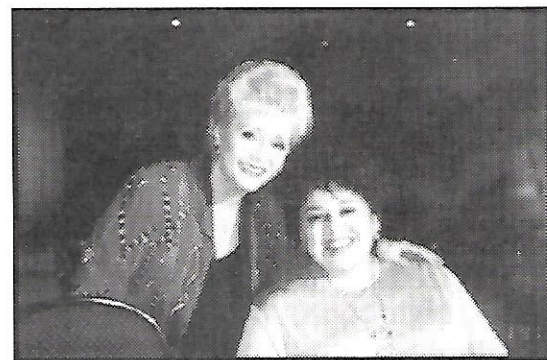
With Larry King.



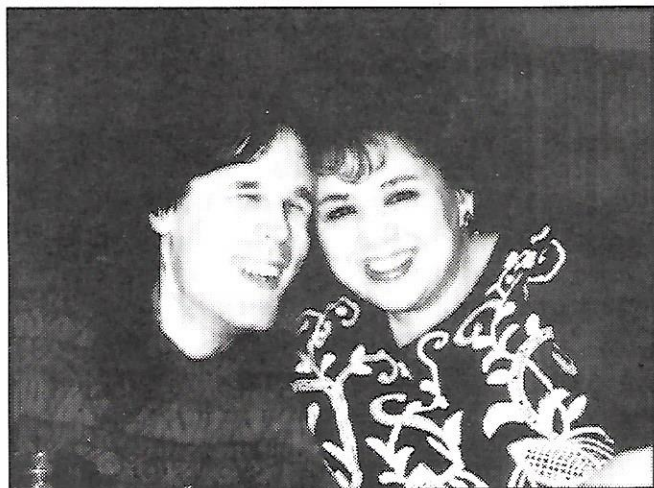
With Socks
the cat



With Whoopie Goldberg.



With Debbie Reynolds.



Elaine and husband Steve Stefanowicz.



Visiting
Anchorage
Alaska.

Judging Criteria

The Ms. Wheelchair America judging is based upon criteria established by the national committee of the Ms. Wheelchair America Program. The following excerpts were taken from official guidelines:

A. Accomplishments (40%)

1. Personal achievements/accomplishments since onset of disability only in the following areas:
 - a. *Academic
 - b. *Vocational
 - c. *Personal
2. Adjustment to disability.

B. Community Skills (40%)

1. Ability to deal with media, peers, civic groups, etc.
2. Public Relations skills.
3. Advocacy for persons with disabilities.
4. Self-confidence/motivation/initiative/creativity.

C. Self Perception/Projection (20%)

1. Poise, demeanor.
2. Appropriate attire, personal presentation.

* Ms. Wheelchair America is not a beauty contest and this category is not taken as a license to choose the most attractive entrant. Instead, the items in this category are simply to express a desire to have a pleasing appearance capable of obtaining favorable responses from any audience before which Ms. Wheelchair America would appear.

Ms. Congeniality is chosen by the contestants for this year's pageant for her friendly and cheerful personality and her helpfulness to them during the program weekend.

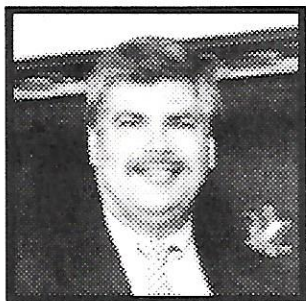
Judges



Dawn Blodgett - Judge Coordinator

Dawn Blodgett, a former Ms. Wheelchair America (1994), currently lives in Costa Mesa, California. Dawn travels as a motivational speaker around the United States, challenging her audiences to "Face their fears and follow their passions." She is a full-time student with a major in Psychology and a minor in speech.

Currently, Dawn is a volunteer for the Aids Response Program, involved in providing client-centered counseling to individuals receiving their HIV/AIDS test results.



Jerry Mazurkiewicz - Head Judge

In 1975, Jerry accepted a position as a Manager Trainee with Days Inns of America. Today, over twenty years later, the hospitality industry is still where you can find him - as the General Manager of the Holiday Inn North, Columbus, Georgia.

Jerry fully realized the need for awareness for persons with disabilities when his mother needed a wheelchair while battling cancer. His hotel has proudly hosted four (4) Ms. Wheelchair Georgia Pageants, one Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant and has been recognized and accredited as a friendly barrier free lodging establishment by the state of Georgia for persons traveling with disabilities.

Along with being a judge in the 1995 Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant, he has also served on a committee for travelers with disabilities trying to bring a greater awareness to the hotel industry regarding the needs for persons traveling with disabilities.

Jerry's motto is simply "Use common sense and do the right thing."

Jerry is very honored and humbled to be a part of this year's Celebration of Achievement.

Judges Continued



Debbie David - Judge

Debbie David is a Senior Analyst at American Airlines Corporate Headquarters Airport Services, overseeing airport operations issues for customers with disabilities. She assumed that post in 1994 after serving in a variety of airport and management positions with the airline since 1987. Ms. David's duties include the development of airport passenger service policies, procedures and training related to American Airlines services for customers with disabilities. Ms. David is administrator of the *American Airlines Advisory Committee on Serving Customers with Disabilities* with 13 national disability organizations actively participating. Ms. David, who is married and has one child, resides in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas.



Trish Farmer - Judge

Trish was appointed Executive Director of the Governor's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities in 1988. Prior to her appointment, she was the Assistant Vice President of Finance and Audit for a health care corporation specializing in the treatment of head injuries and general rehabilitation. Her prior experience includes serving as Chief Financial Officer for a retail, wholesale corporation which consisted of seven corporations; Senior Accountant with an international "Big 8 Accounting firm"—Touche Ross and Senior Auditor for the Comptroller's Office of the State of Tennessee. She actively works and supports disability organizations in her spare time and is currently on the Board of Directors of the Volunteer State Rehabilitation Association and Executive Committee and Treasurer for the National Association of Governors' Committees.



Armando E. Rodriguez - Judge

Armando is the Director, Office of Diversity, Employment Service, U.S. Post Office of Personnel Management. As Director, Mr. Rodriguez provides leadership and guidance on diversity policy for the federal civilian work force. The Office of Diversity is responsible for the Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program (FEORP) and the Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Program (DVAAP). The Office of Diversity conducts statistical studies to determine the impact of employment programs and practices throughout the federal government and assists agencies develop strategic affirmative recruitment plans.

Mr. Rodriguez has vast experience in the private sector, where he has owned and operated his own business. He served clients in both the private and public sectors, in the areas of automated information systems, human resource planning and analyses, economic development and organizational development. His public sector experience covers a range of managerial positions in various federal departments and agencies.

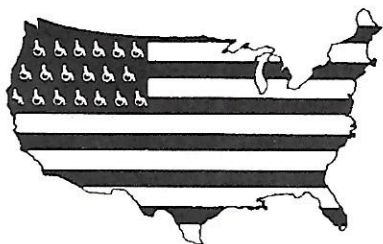
Mr. Rodriguez received an A.S. degree in criminal justice from Central Texas College, B.S. degree in sociology from West Texas State University, and M.A. degree in management and administration from Central Michigan University.



Dr. Sylvia Walker - Judge

Dr. Walker is a professor of Special Education in the School of Education and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Howard University. She is Director of the Center for Disability and Socioeconomic Policy Studies and the Howard University Research and Training Center. Dr. Walker is a former Chairman of the Department of Psychoeducational Studies at Howard University. She received her Ed.D in Special Education/Administration and International Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. In addition to serving as a classroom teacher, administrator, teacher trainer, Dr. Walker has conducted research and training projects in the Caribbean, South America and Africa. Dr. Walker has taught at Hunter College, New York and the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa.

Dr. Walker has been appointed by President Clinton to serve as a Vice Chair of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. She is the founder of the Walker-Thomas Fund for Social Advancement.



Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc.

Ms. Wheelchair Creed

- As Ms. Wheelchair America, I promise to do my utmost
- To promote public awareness of people with disabilities . . .
- To give unstintingly of my time and effort to this purpose . . .
 - To strive to achieve the best that is within me . . .
 - To offer my hand in friendship to everyone I meet . . .
 - To be cheerful, honest and loving . . .
 - To give hope to the less fortunate . . .
 - To set an example by my attitude . . .
- And to do all this with grace, warmth and dignity.

Alabama - Contestant #1

Debbie Lee Kornegay



Debbie lives in Centreville, Alabama, with her parents. She uses a wheelchair due to Muscular Dystrophy, which was diagnosed when she was 16 months old. She currently attends the University of Alabama. Her goal is to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Commerce and Business Administration with a major in Accounting. Debbie has been involved with numerous MDA telethons and volunteers much of her time for the MDA Association. She received ABC's Alabama's Best Citizen Award and attended a seminar by Mr. Justin Dart. Debbie has spoken to Kiwanis Clubs, Easter Seals, Alabama's Rehabilitation Associations Annual Convention, and many more. She has been involved in numerous parades, luncheons, judged the Little Miss contest, and is a Daisy Girl Scout Leader. Debbie considers herself modest, helpful and organized.

California - Contestant #2

Patty Kolb



Patty lives in Carlsbad, California with her husband Gary and two sons. She uses a wheelchair due to bilateral above-the-knee amputation because of a bacterial infection. She has a degree in mathematics from the University of Redlands, and is now a stay-at-home mom and a professional volunteer. Patty is a Team Parent for numerous youth sports teams, and a reading tutor coordinator for 50 volunteer tutors at her sons's school. Her goal is to work diligently to change attitudinal barriers surrounding the disabled community, and to inspire others to overcome their diversities. She consistently works at making areas accessible in her community. Patty was an honored speaker at the Tri-City Rehabilitation Luncheon and received the Outstanding Team Parent Award and the Key Volunteer Award for California Distinguished Schools. She considers herself passionate, respected and trustworthy.

Colorado - Contestant #3

Robin Ryerson



Robin lives in Lafayette, Colorado, with her husband Quentin. She uses a wheelchair due to Multiple Sclerosis and is currently attending The Naropa Institute in Boulder. Robin graduated from high school in Norwalk, Iowa, and obtained a MA in Chinese Civilization from the University of Iowa, a MS in Sociology and a BS in Family Services from Iowa State University. She also attended the Middlebury Chinese Language School in Middlebury, Vermont. Robin has interned at the Center for People with Disabilities in Boulder and was a co-therapist in group therapy for women with MS. She has been a teaching assistant and a research assistant, including teaching English to university teachers preparing to study abroad. She is involved with the Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center, and was involved with a University of Colorado Class-Disabilities In America. Robin's goal is to finish her degree and become a psychotherapist and she describes herself as honest and witty.

Florida - Contestant #4

Ileana M. Cruz



Ileana lives in Miami, Florida with her parents. She uses a wheelchair due to Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which she has had since birth. She has a Master of Professional Accounting Degree from the University of Miami and a Bachelor of business Administration Degree from Florida International University. She is a Certified Public Accountant. Ileana feels she is capable of breaking through the barriers of age and certain minority groups due to the fact that she has been disabled her entire life, and speaks two languages fluently. She has been involved with MDA telethons since 1985 and has had numerous newspaper articles printed dealing with disability issues. She has received the Florida State Personal Achievement Award, the Florida State Victory Award, the Emerging Leader Award, Women of Influence, plus many more. Ileana is involved with the Florida Rehabilitation Advisory Council, American Society of Women Accountants, Local Task Force on Public Awareness, and more. She considers herself intelligent, friendly and witty.

Georgia - Contestant #5

Sandy Price



Sandy comes from Rome, Georgia, and uses a wheelchair due to a spinal cord injury in 1990. She is currently studying at the University of Georgia, pursuing a BA degree in Speech Communications (Broadcasting). She is currently interning for Channel 10, the local television station, to learn all aspects of a communications career. Her goal is to become an anchorperson with the news, and also to win the title of MWA. She enjoys speaking with and educating children about persons with disabilities. Sandy had also served on a debate team, a mock trial, in oratorical contests (including a 1st place award), and served as a caseworker for a local congressman. She made the Dean's List, received a full scholarship to Floyd College, has been a Student of the Year, received Governor's honors in history and algebra, and wheeled with the Paralympic Torch. She considers herself aggressive, intelligent and skillful.

Iowa - Contestant #6

(Helen) Penny Vandewater



Penny lives in North Liberty, Iowa, with her dog Toby, in a home she designed and had built in 1980. She uses a wheelchair due to a form of Muscular Dystrophy since birth, called Charcot Marie Tooth Disease. She has a BA in Sociology and has her Iowa Teachers Certificate. She is employed by Kirkwood Community College as an instructor at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center, where she teaches classes to incarcerated men and women, ages 15-80. Penny has been actively involved in the prison facilities Affirmative Action Committee making suggestions in architectural changes for inmates with disabilities. Her goal is to complete her Masters Degree and work constantly at becoming a better teacher. She has numerous speaking engagements to her credit, and is currently a member of the Training and Curriculum Development Committees at the University of Iowa Hospital School. She has received awards from the Iowa Rehabilitation Association and was the 1986 Iowa State Handicapped Employee of the Year. She feels that she promotes awareness everyday in the routine of her daily life. She considers herself patient, caring and determined.

Kentucky - Contestant #7

Terri Cecil-Ramsey



Terri lives in Louisville, Kentucky with her husband Forest and "the kids," (1 dog and 3 cats). She uses a wheelchair due to an automobile accident rendering her a T4-5 paraplegic. She graduated from the University of Louisville in 1995. She is currently the Assistant Manager of Carriage House Mobility Center. Her goal is to return to college and graduate school, and perhaps open her own business one day. Terri does extensive public speaking and is an On-Air personality for the area's third largest radio-station. She teaches fencing at the Louisville Fencing Center, and was a member of the 1996 Paralympic Fencing Team.

She received the Athlete of the Year for Fencing in 1996, from Wheelchair Sports USA. She is on the Board for the Center for Independent Living, and volunteers on the "Feisty Females" program. She claims to be a people fanatic and considers herself to be enthusiastic, supportive and empathetic.

Maryland - Contestant #8

Julie Hope Dennis



Julie lives in Glen Burnie, Maryland. She uses a wheelchair due to a beating in May, 1984. She has a BA in English/Politics, and is attending Anne Arundel Community College taking Communications/Journalism and Paralegal for her AA degree. She is currently seeking employment in the field of law. Her goals are to pass the State Bar Exam, have a flourishing law practice, get married, and save enough money so her father can retire and then build two houses. She loves to take the time to speak with children who want to know about her disability, and other organizations and groups who request her to speak. She was selected the Most

Outstanding Student in 91-92 and made the Honors List. Julie was also a Chapbook Finalist in 1995, received the Presidential Award from Iliad Press in 1996 and has had 10 literary works published in the past two years. She was accepted to work for the FBI in her senior year, but the day the call came she was dying from shock trauma. She survived a violent crime and has gone on to finish a double major and double minor plus a pre-law certification in just three years, while maintaining a B average. She describes herself as honest, persuasive and determined.

Michigan - Contestant #9

Zettie McCants



Zettie lives in Detroit, Michigan and uses a wheelchair due to a motor vehicle accident in 1983. She has a Business Degree from the Market Training Institute, and an Occupational Therapy Degree from the University of Detroit. She also received her Pastoral Counselor M.A. in 1995 from Ashland Theological Seminary. While at the University of Detroit she made the Dean's List. She is currently the Director of Counseling at Detroit Unity Temple. Her goal is to continue being an advocate for persons with disabilities, complete her Dell.D program, and open a healing center. She works with churches and hospitals

on accessibility issues, and works with individuals on specific concerns surrounding their disabilities, and has numerous awards to her credit including Who's Who of Women Executives and Star's Edge International Avatar Master. She considers herself dedicated, assertive and compassionate.

Mississippi - Contestant #10

Sonya Tharp



Sonya lives in Maben, Mississippi, and uses a wheelchair due to an accidental gunshot wound at the age of two years. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Mississippi State University, and is completing a BA in Social Work at this time. Chosen by the Dole Foundation, she is currently working for the University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Low Vision and Blindness. Her goal is to earn her Masters Degree, and compete in the 2000 Paralympic Games in Australia. She has volunteered more than 500 hours at a local emergency shelter for abused and neglected children, and at a personal care home for elderly disabled people. She was the Director of Disabled Student Affairs at MSU, and is involved with the Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities in Jackson, MS. Sonya loves playing the piano and is an avid athlete, having won several road races and was recently named top female road racing athlete in Mississippi. She describes herself as diligent, optimistic and independent.

North Carolina - Contestant #11

Susan Cloninger



Susan lives in Belmont, North Carolina with her husband and daughter. She uses a wheelchair due to Muscular Dystrophy Spinal Muscular Atrophy which she has had since birth. She attended Gaston College and also graduated from Sacred Heart College with an associates degree in Secretarial Science. She is currently the office manager for a residential custom home building service. Her goal is to semi-retire in a few years and open her own business, hopefully in an antique/decorating shop. She participates in an annual airshow to raise funds for those needing emergency transport medical services as well as an air show to raise funds for the Ms. North Carolina Wheelchair Program. She has been named Gaston County Handicapped Employee of the Year, and was selected by the MD Research Program as a research candidate. One of her greatest challenges and accomplishments has been the adoption of her daughter Sara. She describes herself as caring, positive and loyal.

New Jersey - Contestant #12

Maureen Holler



Maureen lives in North Arlington, New Jersey and uses a wheelchair due to Spina Bifida since birth. She has a BA in Early Childhood Education from Kean College of New Jersey, and is a full-time Pre-Kindergarten teacher and a teacher for After School school-age child care programs. She also is a summer camp art director/teacher. Her goal is to be owner/operator of her own nursery school. She has been very instrumental in making her school accessible, and has been interviewed by several newspapers because of her position. She received the Outstanding Teacher Award at Sacred Heart School in 1994, was listed in Who's Who Amongst Teachers, and was involved in the 4th of July celebration of No. Arlington's Centennial Keys to the City. Maureen feels that she is an effective role model for the children she has taught over the past 20 years and has made a difference in their outlook concerning their lives and the lives of those who they view as "different." She describes herself as energetic, organized and dependable.



New York - Contestant #13

Elysse Power

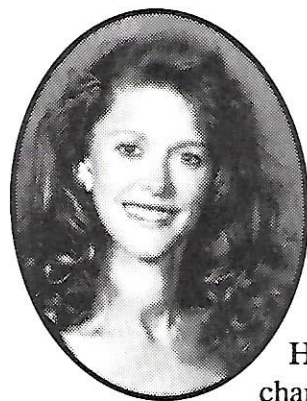
Elysse lives in Rockville Centre, NY. She uses a wheelchair due to Spina Bifida since birth. She received her BA in English at Hofstra University and is working towards a Masters Degree in Special Education. She is involved with a Deaf Studies Program and loves signing. She is currently a Park Aide for the New York State Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of the Games for the Physically Challenged. She has also worked as a graduate assistant in counseling and research for the Rehabilitation Department at Hofstra University. Elysse is a member of Sundance New York, a nontraditional dance company for persons with disabilities, and is a member of the Spina Bifida Association and the National Association for the Deaf. Her goal is to help young people with and without disabilities realize their potential. She has done several radio interviews, spoken at several on-campus events, promotes the Games for the Physically Challenged, and works with people to obtain better apartment access. She serves as Spirit Chair for the Booster Club, and much more. Elysse describes herself as vivacious, outgoing and ambitious.



Ohio - Contestant #14

Deborah E. (Liz) McCreath

Liz lives in Parma, Ohio with her two children. She uses a wheelchair due to an auto accident in 1990. Liz is currently a student at Cleveland State University, working towards her BA in Modern Languages. She has a Liberal Arts Degree from Christopher Newport University, and had two years of training in Intensive Secretarial Training. She is currently involved in Telemarketing doing surveys across America and is a professional model for three different agencies. Her goal is to put on a successful Ms. Wheelchair Ohio Stage Program and secure a position with the Governor's Council on Persons with Disabilities. She also wishes to complete her degree and pursue her modeling career. Liz received a Resolution from the Parma City Council, plus received an award for attending a Managed Care Workshop, and was on the Honor Roll for 4 quarters while at Cleveland State University. She considers herself as caring, assertive and persistent.



South Dakota - Contestant #15

Kari Krumwiede

Kari resides in Watertown, South Dakota with her husband and four sons. While on a Memorial Day campout, a tree fell on her, rendering her a T-10 paraplegic. She attended North Dakota State College of Science, and also has an Associated Degree in Word Processing and General Office. She also has her CPR Certification. Kari is a mother, homemaker, volunteer and motivational speaker. She is also an identical twin, and has taken part in a study involving identical twins and spinal cord injuries. Her goal is to show people that "Life Rolls On," and that having a disability does not change the person inside. She has spoken at various schools, churches and businesses, and hopes to make her community more accessible, as well as change attitudes of the general population towards the disabled. Prior to her injury she was very athletic, and continues to play sports competitively. She played on a Women's City League Volley Ball team, and was the only team member using a wheelchair (she also plays co-ed volley ball with her husband). Kari considers herself optimistic, persevering and charismatic.

Tennessee - Contestant #16

Carrie Padgett



Carrie lives in Old Hickory, Tennessee in her newly purchased home. She suffered a spinal cord injury in a car accident in 1990. She received her BS degree in Education in 1992, and is currently a kindergarten teacher. She is also a Girl Scout Camp Director and an Easter Seal Peer Counselor. Her goal is to learn handgliding, and become the best teacher that she can be. She is involved in the Center for Independent Living, Think First Programs and Special Packages, as well as awareness programs for school age children. She received the Mayors' Award for Enhancing the Environment for persons with disabilities, and was recognized as an Outstanding Woman by the Girl Scouts Council. She has also taught a GED preparation class for adults with disabilities. Carrie enjoys playing tennis, scuba diving, and singing at weddings. She describes herself as honest, outgoing and creative.

Texas - Contestant #17

Jane Vela Jones



Jane lives in Denton, Texas with her children. She uses a wheelchair due to Cerebella Ataxia, a reaction to anesthesia. Jane starts graduate school this year, after receiving a BS in Rehabilitation Studies. She is currently an Employment Specialist, helping people over 40, with disabilities, look for permanent employment. Her goal is to graduate with a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation, and to become the next MWA, bringing the title to the great state of Texas! She has been involved in various speaking engagements around her state, and has numerous awards to her credit. She made the Presidents List, the Deans List, and was the Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Rehab Studies. She has received several scholarships, plus the Role Model Award for the Hispanic community. Jane was the first family member to graduate from college and always wished to become a Navy WAVE. She considers herself positive, friendly and hard working.

Washington - Contestant #18

Louisa Coughlan



Louisa lives in Seattle, Washington and uses a wheelchair due to an accident in 1989. She has an Associates of Arts Degree from North Seattle Community College and attended the University of Washington from 1992 to 1994 in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in political science. She is currently a computer consultant and her goal is to experience different people, places and cultures. She has been a radio and television announcer for the Spinal Cord Forum, and speaks with those new to the disabled world as well as making the media aware of disabled issues. She was the first model for Lamonte and Nordstroms and worked as a volunteer for the 1997 Special Olympics. Louisa describes herself as a go-getter, articulate and ambitious.



Wyoming - Contestant #19

Kim Ireland

Kim lives in Newcastle, Wyoming with her husband and daughter. She is a T-12/L-1 paraplegic. She holds a Masters Bachelor's license from the Utah Barber College and owned and operated her own barber shop for 14 years. She has also studied Sign Language and taken classes in Child Development and Physiology. She is currently employed as Office Manager in their family owned business. Her goal is to stay busy and she would like to improve the communication relaying information between the vendor's adaptive aid equipment to the public. She is a speaker for women's groups, radio, churches, and reads poetry for Manor residents. She has worked to make the courthouse accessible and to improve the accessibility of the post office in her city. She has won awards for her crafts and sewing projects, and was recognized by the Chamber of Commerce for help in awareness/accessibility. Kim describes herself as pleasant, caring and enthusiastic.

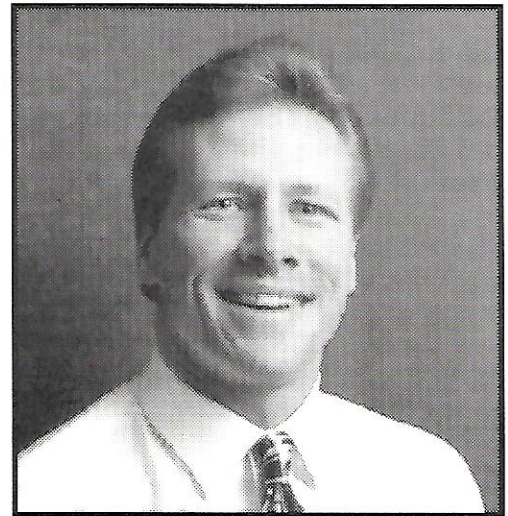
Henry Berman, Commissioner of the San Francisco Airport, and Sally Berman

Wish all the contestants of
Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant
the best of luck, and want them all to
know that they ALL are winners!

Master/Mistresses of Ceremonies

Master of Ceremonies - Friday Night

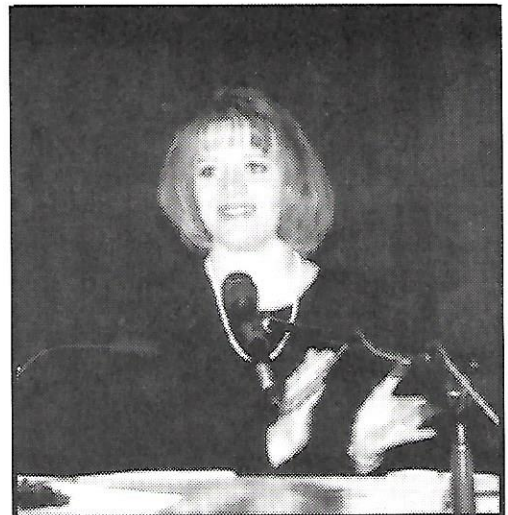
Mark Shepherd: is the current manager for the Disabled Sports Services for the United States Olympic Committee, based in Colorado Springs. He was a member of the 1996 United States Paralympic Team, and in 1996 was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame as Amateur of the Year for the state of Colorado. Mark has been and continues to be involved in athletics, having played on the 1996 USA Paralympic Basketball Team, and is a member of the Denver Rolling Nuggets. He holds numerous awards in basketball, tennis and racquetball, as well as other accomplishments. Mark suffered a spinal cord injury while serving as a Police Officer in the state of California.



Mark Shepherd

Mistress of Ceremonies - Friday Night

Pam Daale: Meteorologist Pam Daale joined KMGH-TV Colorado's 7 in May of 1993. She forecasts the weather on the 5 and 10pm weekend newscasts, as well as other special assignments. Commitment to her community is important in Pam's life. Pam is a past member of the Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries - her work for other non-profit agencies has included participation in D.A.R.E., Graduations, Easter Seal Society, Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Junior Wheelchair Sports Association. Of course Pam's newest accomplishment is the birth of her daughter. Pam has been in a wheelchair since a 1980 horseback riding accident.

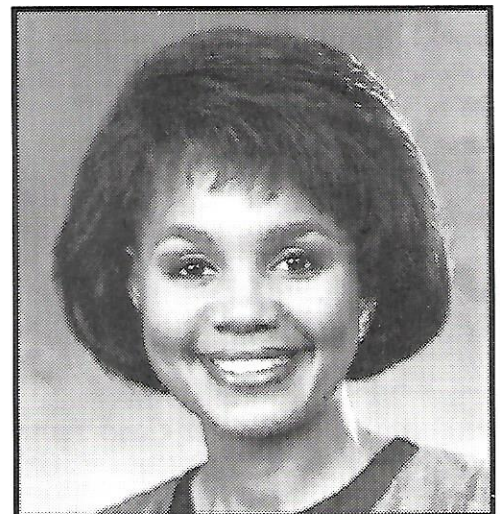


Pam Daale

Mistress of Ceremonies - Saturday Night

Stephanie King: is from San Antonio, Texas and has a multi-talented background in media, including both on and off camera in video and also in audio presentation. She is a skilled news gatherer, able to gather news as a reporter or feature writer - either writing for others to broadcast or present personally in live on-camera standup on location. She is an engaging and entertaining public speaker, reflecting a favorable image when making personal appearances.

Stephanie is currently the news/anchor/freelance producer for Kaleidoscope Television in San Antonio, Texas. She received her BA in Print/Broadcast Journalism in 1983 from Trinity University in San Antonio, and has been an On-Air Radio Personality for KLTR-FM (CBS) in Houston, Texas, for KMMX-FM in San Antonio as well as News Anchor for WDSU-TV (NBC) in New Orleans, Louisiana, and for KSAT-TV (ABC) in San Antonio. Stephanie also served as the Promotions/Public Affairs Director for KMMS-FM/KCHL-AM, and as Executive Producer/Host for Rogers Cablesystem - both located in San Antonio, Texas.



Stephanie King

Entertainers

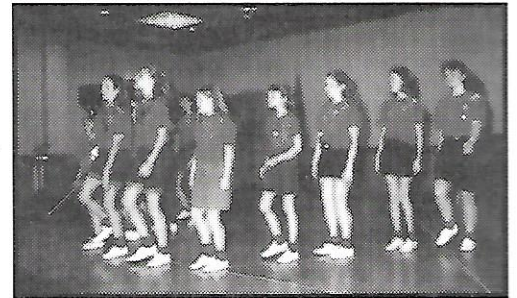
Gary Alan Priest: released his first album "Movin' Ahead" in 1995. Gary was in an airplane crash which resulted in the loss of 112 lives. Soon after that Gary became the head DJ at the Cactus Moon - then Colorado's largest C&W nightclub. Gary then began working on "Movin' Ahead.". He was the opening act for David Allan Coe and also George Jones at the Cactus Moon. In 1996 he was the opening act for Woody Lee at Denver's Paramount Theater.

Steve Stefanowicz: Steve's blindness was caused by Retinopathy of Prematurity. He attended Central Washington University in 1985 and continued his guitar playing throughout his college years. Before pursuing his music career full-time, Steve worked as an Independent Living Specialist for Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities. Steve's musical styles have encompassed blues, jazz, acoustic folk, and rock. He has been the "front man" for such bands as Blind Ambition, Rockslide, Smilin' Jack and Big Love and has recorded three CDs: *Vortex Bluz*; *Lies My Sister Told You*; and *On The Feast Of Steven*.



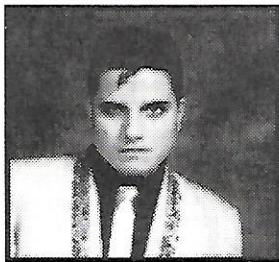
Melissa Lujan: Mel, as she is known by her family and friends, is a twelve-year-old singing sensation, who lives in Brighton, Colorado. Surrounded by a large family who supports her endeavors, she began singing at age six, and wishes to make singing a career. We are pleased to have Mel entertaining for us at the 25th MWA Pageant, which is only one of many events where she has been requested to perform.

The Music Factory: is a musical performing troupe of individuals, ages seven through adult. There are approximately 18-20 members who perform for community organizations and events. They performed for the Berthoud area in a variety show entitled, "Celebrate America," Craig Hospital, area nursing homes and for area professionals. Formed in 1994, the philosophy of The Music Factory is to allow anyone to participate who is interested. No auditions are ever held.



Lida Shoemaker: is a retired public school teacher, living in Longmont, Colorado. She is involved with her church choir and hand-bell choir. Lida was Ms. Handicapped America in 1965 and has performed for the Ms. Wheelchair Colorado Pageant numerous times.

David Karchmer: of BOSS Entertainment has provided Karioke for previous Ms. Wheelchair Colorado and America pageants. He offers over 20,000 songs for your "sing-a-long" entertainment and is a positive addition to the MWA Pageant.



Lori Muha: of Aurora is the female John Travolta Impersonator, and is a unique and talented entertainer. Lori dresses and dances the roles of Elvis and John Travolta so accurately that she was actually judged the winner of the 1995 Elvis competition in Central City, Colorado. She cleverly hides her long hair behind the collar of the shirts she wears. No one can believe she's a woman when they see her perform. This is one act you surely don't want to miss!

BluJazz: Jazz, Blues & Good Times! Dave Marshall - Leader, Banjos; Dan Becker - Electric Bass; Lance Christensen - Trumpet, Percussion; Greg Lagerberg - Clarinet, Synthesizer; Ken Lagerberg - Bass Trumpet.

Denver Outlaws

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Speakers

John Roberts: is an information specialist for the Rocky Mountain Region VIII - ADA Technical Assistance Center and a Board Member on the Governor's Advisory Council on Employment of People with Disabilities in association with the President's Council on Employment of People with Disabilities. He has worked in Rehabilitation Counseling and Vocational Evaluation and was assigned duties associated with ADA compliance for the state Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in Colorado. He has also worked in support services for people with disabilities of all kinds for over 22 years.

Kim Erickson: has a Masters of Science in Vocational Rehabilitation, concentration in Work Adjustment, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation, with concentration on recreation for persons with disabilities. She is currently the Coordinator at the Legal Center for Persons with Disabilities for the Client Assistance Program in Denver.

Theresa Chase: was educated at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado; the University of Denver; and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Teri has her Masters in Sports Sciences, her Bachelors in Physical Education/Sociology and an ND in Nursing. She is an exercise technologist and a registered nurse besides being a licensed tennis instructor through the US Professional Tennis Registry. She has had numerous articles published, and is an accomplished speaker. Teri is currently employed by Craig Hospital.

Laura Adams: is a Foothills Fitness and Wellness Center Specialist. Laura holds her Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from the University of Colorado in Boulder, is a Certified Fitness Instructor through American Council on Exercise (ACE), a Certified Instructor for Community CPR and First Aid and Safety through American Red Cross, and is currently working on her Biofeedback Certification through Biofeedback Certification Institute Association (BCIA).

"My World Has Access Now."

An autobiography by 1996 Ms. Wheelchair Iowa, Judy Hoit.

Send \$10.00 plus \$1.50 shipping to:

Judy Hoit, 121 Grand Avenue Court, Iowa City, Iowa 52246

**... A book on determination and self motivation.
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Hostesses



Jordan James: is a sixth grader at Turner Middle School in Berthoud, Colorado. She lives in the country with her mother and sister, where they raise miniature horses and a variety of other animals. Jordan is a member of the performing group, the Music Factory, and has appeared in a number of community and dinner theater productions. Her favorite role has been that of an orphan in Annie. Jordan will be competing in November in the 1997 Pre Teen program in Denver. She is pleased to be able to be a hostess for the Ms. Wheelchair America program.

Chelsea Sleeth, Pre-Teen Colorado, Jr.: has been a student of dance for 7 years. She is on a competitive dance team performing jazz, tap and ballet routines. Chelsea was selected for and danced in the Nutcracker at the Temple Buell Theater, besides being a student of gymnastics for 2 years, ice skating for 3 years, and snow skiing for 6 years. She has performed for both the school and church choirs, including school plays and church programs and has been a student of acting and vocal performance skills for 1 year. As the youngest City of Thornton volunteer, Chelsea is highlighted in an interview with the Public Information Officer and the city volunteer coordinator that is currently showing on a local TCI Cable channel.



Jenna James: is a freshman at Berthoud High School and is the daughter of Joanne James, the 1996 Ms. Wheelchair Colorado. She enjoys many activities including basketball, softball, track, performing and community service. She is a member of the Bridge Between Show Choir at Berthoud High as well as a continuing member of the Music Factory, a musical revue performing troupe. Jenna has performed in a number of plays at school, church and for community and dinner theaters. She is a member of her church youth group and an active participant in Youth Naturally, an outdoor leadership program centered in Loveland, Colorado.

Her selection as a City Queen for the Miss Junior America program was based on her status as an honor student, her extracurricular activities and her community service. The Miss Junior America program provides an opportunity for approximately 15 girls from each state to compete for a regional title of Miss Junior America.

Jennifer Johnson: is 18 years old and since birth has had Spina Bifida besides being deaf. Jennifer is recovering from open heart surgery and will be a senior in high school in the fall. Jennifer is in the process of applying for a Service Dog to help her with her independence.

Her goals are to graduate from high school and college and go on a mission for her church. She would also like to have a career in accounting. She has been involved in school basketball as a manager for the last three years, has lettered in all three years, won awards, in Junior Wheelchair Games and one in Colorado Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp, plus numerous other awards. The Colorado State Legislators said that her testimony was instrumental in helping to pass the Deaf Child's Bill of Rights.



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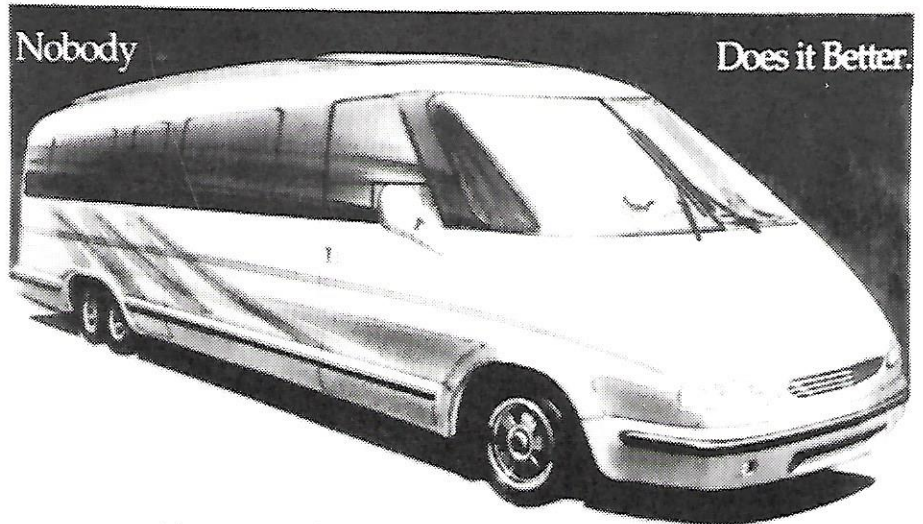
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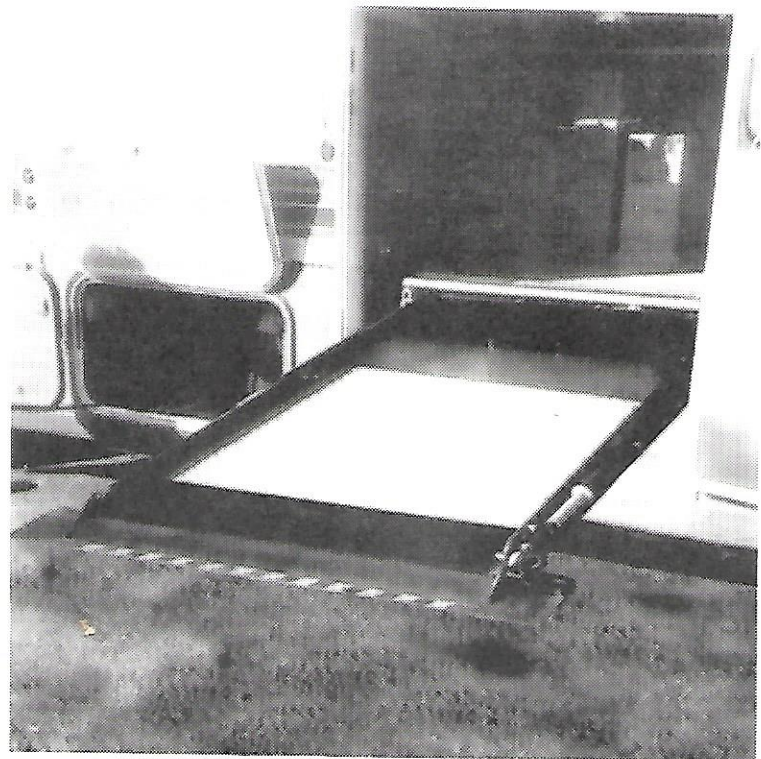
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**Stored Completely Under The Floor
Also Allowing The Able Bodied
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Schedule Of Events

Arrival Days

Sunday, August 10

Monday, August 11

Tuesday, August 12

(Transportation from DIA to Holiday Inn available only on Monday and Tuesday)

Tuesday, August 12

Registration . . . 12 noon to 10pm - Rm-The Terrace/Hotel

Get Acquainted Party . . . Supper/Cariacature Artist - 5pm to 10pm - Rm-The Terrace.

Wednesday, August 13

Breakfast on your own . . . (casual attire - bring jackets/rain gear)

Buses load for Fun Day . . . 7:45am to 8:30am.

Arrival at Denver Botanic Gardens:

- Tea with Mayor of Denver/2 hour tour of Gardens . . . 9:00am

Buses load for trip to Black Hawk . . . 11:30am to 12:00pm

Arrival in Black Hawk:

- Lunch at Canyon Casino/freetime for gambling, etc. . . . 1:30pm

Buses load for trip back to hotel . . . 5:00pm

"Grease" Theme Dinner with Impersonator Lori Muha as John Travolta - 6:30pm -

Rm-The Terrace (casual attire or 1950's 60's attire)

Judges Orientation . . . 7:30pm - Rm-Cripple Creek

Thursday, August 14 (you are required to be at workshops when not in judging)

Breakfast on your own

Judges Meeting . . . 8:00am - Rm-Cripple Creek

Judging Sessions . . . 9:30am to 12:00 noon Rm-Cripple Creek

Workshop:

- Assistive Technology and Legal Issues Surrounding Persons with Disabilities

Speaker - Kim Erickson . . . 9:30am to 11:30am - Rm-Hospitality Suite

- Coca Cola Theme Luncheon . . . 12:00 noon - Rm-Grays/Torreys

Judging Sessions . . . 1:30pm to 4:30pm - Rm-Cripple Creek

Workshop:

- Fitness/Wellness/Nutrition - Laura Adams and Teri Chase, Speakers . . . 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Rm-Hospitality Suite (you may change into casual attire prior to afternoon judging sessions.)

Barbeque in the Reins Park with Gary Priest, Country Singer - 6:00pm to 8:00pm - Across from hotel.

Continued Entertainment with Denver Outlaws (with coffee and dessert) . . . 8:30pm -

Rm-The Terrace (casual or country/western attire.)

Schedule Of Events

Continued

Friday, August 15

Breakfast on your own

Judges Meeting . . . 8:00am - Rm-Cripple Creek

Judging Sessions . . . 9:00am to 12:00 noon - Rm-Cripple Creek

Workshop:

- ADA - John Roberts, Speaker . . . 9:00am to 11:00am

- MWA Board Meeting . . . 9:00am to 12:00 noon - Rm Longs Peak

- Colorado Theme Luncheon - State Gift Exchange . . . 12:00 noon to 2:00pm - Rm-Pikes Peak

Judging Sessions . . . 2:00pm to 4:30pm - Rm-Cripple Creek (professional attire required at both sessions).

Workshop

- Pageantry Issues - MWA, Elaine Stefanowicz; Gail McKoon/Tom O'Bryant . . . 2:00pm to 3:30pm
Rm-Hospitality Suite.

Judged Speaking Event/Banquet with ROCK ON Musical Extravaganza - 6:30pm - Rm-Grand Ball Room

Karaoke with BOSS Entertainment . . . 9:30pm to Midnight - Rm-Grand Ball Room.

Saturday, August 16

Breakfast on your own

Judges Meeting . . . 8:00am - Rm-Cripple Creek

Judging Session (if needed) . . . 9:30am to 12:00 noon - Rm-Cripple Creek

Coordinators Brag & Steal Meeting . . . 9:00am - Rm-Longs Peak

Rock and Roll Luncheon . . . 11:30am - 1:00pm - Rm-Pikes Peak/Long

Entertainers Practice Time . . . 12:00 noon - Northglenn Auditorium/Theatre

Practice with Air Force Escorts . . . 1:30pm - 3:00pm - Northglenn Auditorium/Theatre

Getting Ready for Crowning Event - Must Be In Evening Attire PRIOR To Hair & Makeup

- Hair & Makeup . . . 3:00pm to 5:00pm - Northglenn Auditorium/Theatre Access Room

Meet with escorts/photo opportunities . . . 5:00pm - Auditorium/Theatre - Access Rm. (you MUST be ready by 6:00pm - no exceptions!!!)

Crowning Event . . . 7:00pm - Northglenn Auditorium/Theatre

Buffet Supper/DJ/Dance . . . 10:00pm - Rm-Grand Ballroom/Hotel

Sunday, August 17

Queens Breakfast . . . 10:00am - Rm-Grays/Torreys

MWA Pageant ends after this event.

MWA Board meets with new titleholder

Transportation to DIA will be available Sunday and Monday ONLY.

Saturday Evening Program

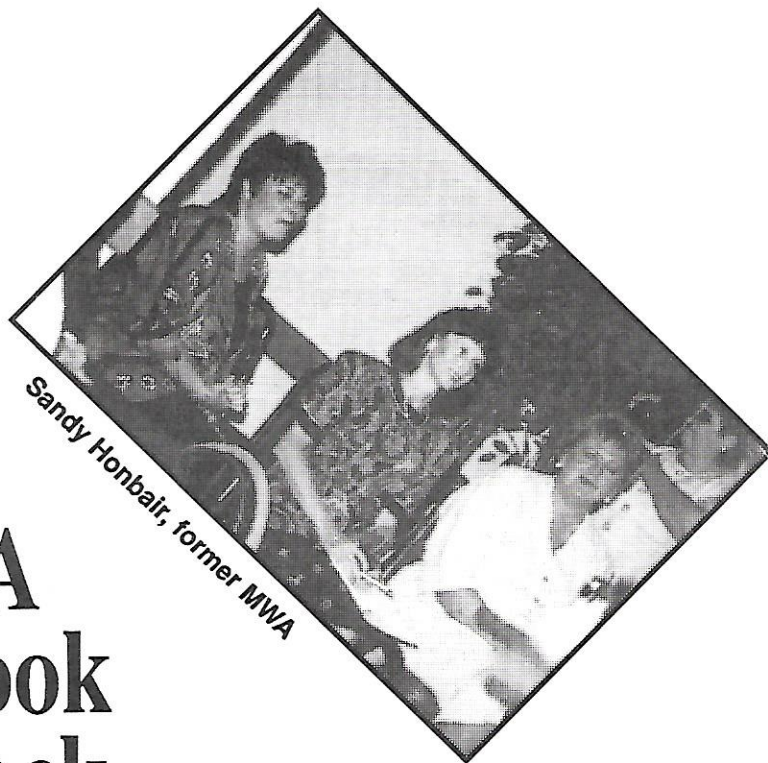
Welcome and Opening Remarks - Barb Cramer
Posting Of Colors - Lakewood Police Department Honor Guard
(Those who can, please stand during pledge of allegiance and singing of 'America the Beautiful.')
'America The Beautiful' . . . Lida Shoemaker
Introduction of Mistress of Ceremonies - Stephanie King
Parade of Entrants . . . *BluJazz Band*
'God Bless The USA' . . . Melissa Lujan - Escorted by officers of the NCOA-USAF
Introduction of Judges
Announcement and Interviews With Ten Finalists
Judges Leave to Deliberate
Salute To America . . . *The Music Factory*
Farewell Speech . . . *MWA, Elaine Stefanowicz*
A Tribute '*True Companion*' written by Marc Cohn . . . *Steven Stefanowicz*
Introduction of the MWA Board of Directors
Announcement of Ms. Congeniality; Ms. Achievement; Second Runner-up; First Runner-up
Crowning of MWA, 1998
A Tribute To Contestants . . . *Melissa Lujan*
Photo Opportunities

Buffet Supper/Dance - Grand Ballroom-Holiday Inn

The members of ARTSABILITY,
a class for kids of all levels of disabilities
who explore music, dance and art,
are happy to sponsor
Ms. Wheelchair Colorado,
Robin Ryerson,
because "We like it when she comes
out and dances with us.
We hope she wins."



Jewell Massey, former MWA

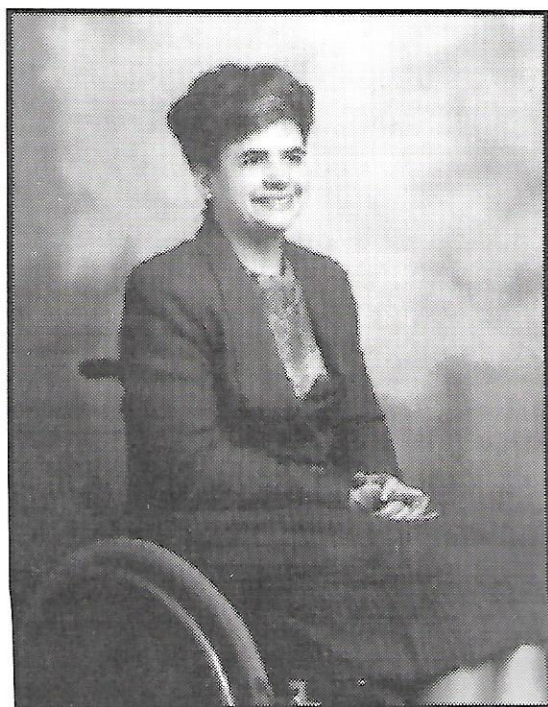


Sandy Honbair, former MWA

A Look Back



Susan Gardner, Ms. Wheelchair Colorado
1961



Marian Vessels, MWA 1981



1991 - (l-r) 2nd Runner-up, Barbara Cramer, Ms. Wheelchair Colorado; Deanna Greene VanHook, MWA 1991; 1st Runner-up Cheryl Angellelli, Ms. Wheelchair Michigan.



Barb Cramer with 1991 Ms. Wheelchair America, Deanna Greene-Van Hook on The Maurey Povich Show.



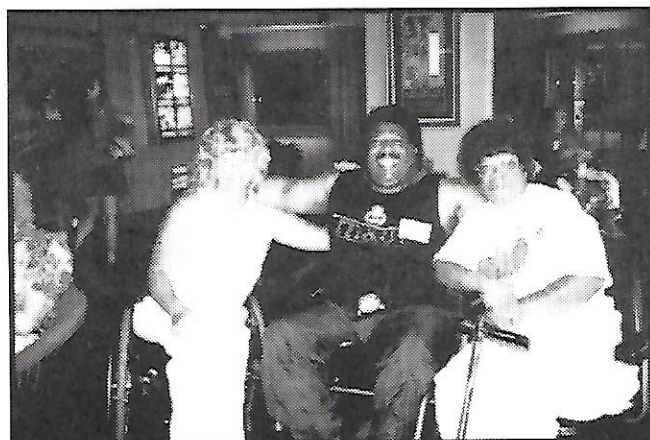
Ms. Wheelchair Maryland/MWA Congeniality 1993 - Janice Jackson.



Action Rep., Cheryl Angelleli presenting plaque/wheelchair in Columbus, GA, 1994.



Mercedes Rodriquez, Ms. Wheelchair America, 1990 watching the crowning of Ms. Wheelchair America, 1991 - Deanna Greene-Van Hook in Orlando, FL.



Sharing the good times in Columbus, GA, 1994.



Ms. Wheelchair New Jersey, 1995 - Nancy Starnes and friends.



Kim Mensl, MWA 1992



Dawn Blodgett, MWA 1994



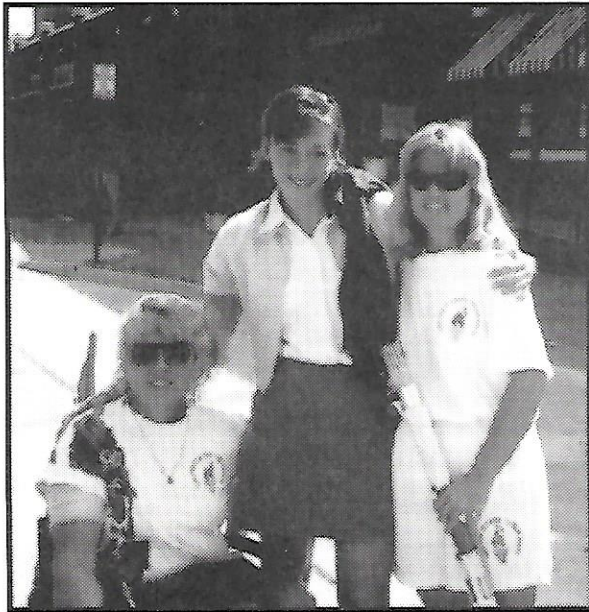
Debbie Lee Bettes, Ms. Wheelchair Utah 1996.
Debbie was also Ms. Congenialty MWA 1997 and Ms. Achievement MWA 1997.



Wendy Petzold, MWA 1995 and Jennifer Forrest, Ms. Wheelchair Colorado 1994

5. Nancy Starnes, Ms. Wheelchair New Jersey 1995-96 who also was a 1996 Olympic Torch Bearer.

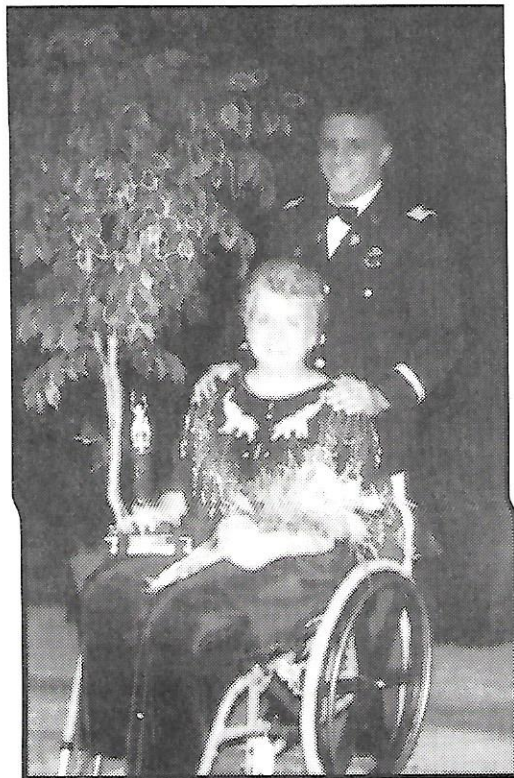




**Barbara Cramer, MWA 2nd Runner-up 1991
with Amy Van Dyken - Olympic Gold Medalist
and Liz Izely - MWA, Vitamin Cottages
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***Pictures from MWA 1996 at Warm Springs, Georgia
Gail McKoon, MWA Director.***



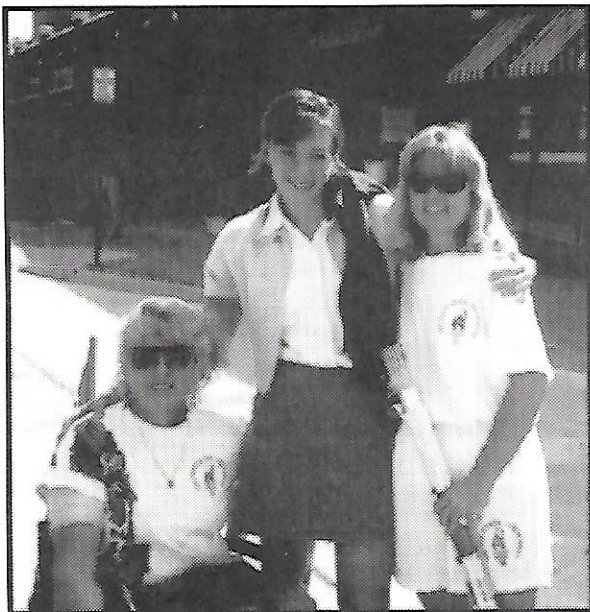
**Joanne James, MWA 1st Runner-up
1996 and Escort**



What a group!

**Gina Erickson, Ms.
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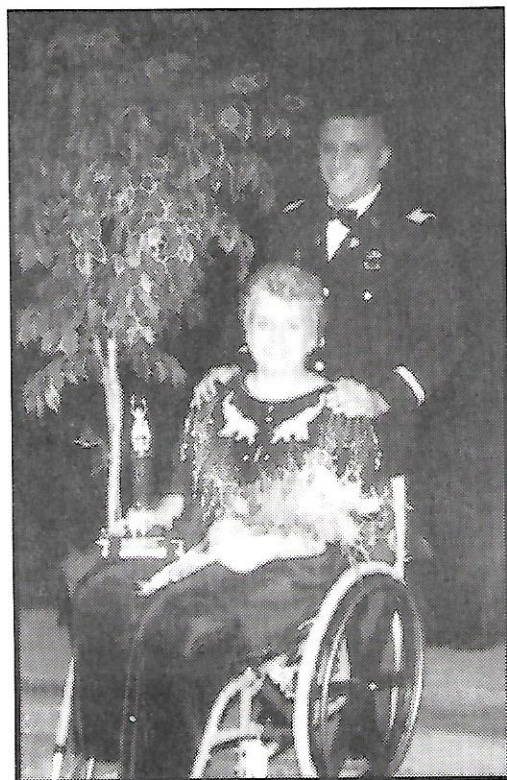




Barbara Cramer, MWA 2nd Runner-up 1991 with Amy Van Dyken - Olympic Gold Medalist and Liz Izely - MWA, Vitamin Cottages Sponsor.



Pictures from MWA 1996 at Warm Springs, Georgia
Gail McKoon, MWA Director.

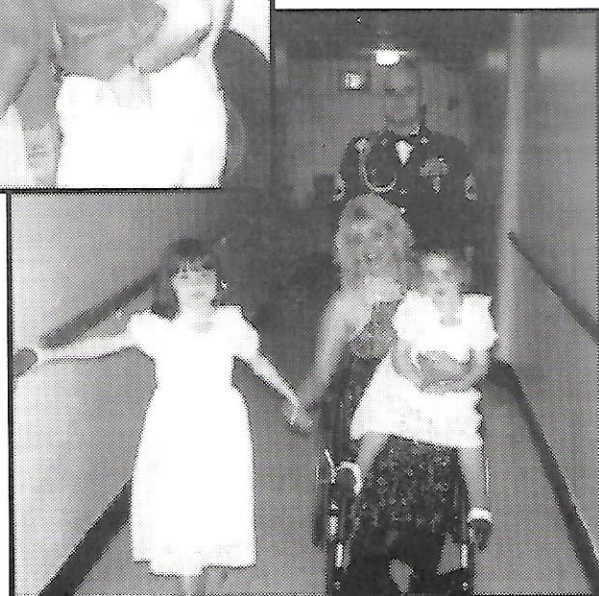


Joanne James, MWA 1st Runner-up 1996 and Escort



What a group!

Gina Erickson, Ms. Wheelchair California 1996 and friends



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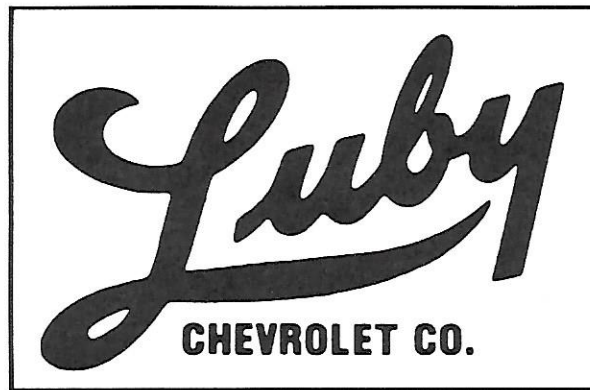
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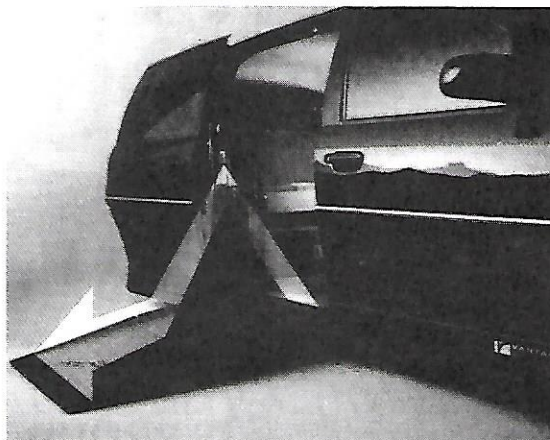
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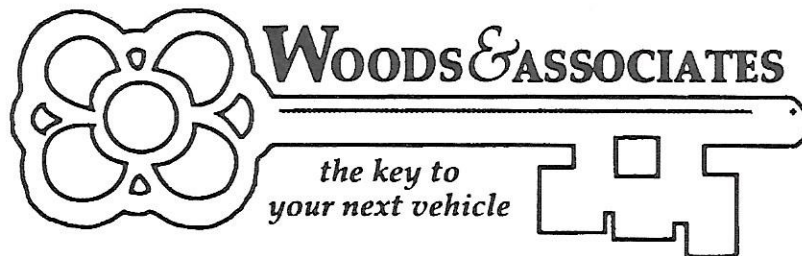
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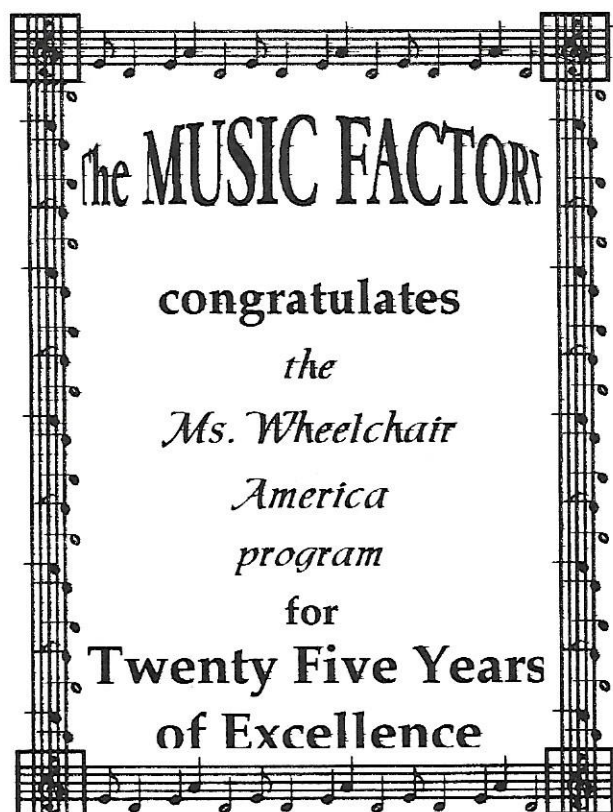
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The Story of JoeSam's Wheelchair Pins

JoeSam's Wheelchair pin is a replica of a pair of original sculptures. One was commissioned by the James Smith Neighborhood Center in Orlando, Florida, the other he donated to the Bayview-Hunter's Point Adult Day Health Center in San Francisco. Christmas in April, an organization dedicated to rehabilitation of public and private facilities in poor neighborhoods, was in the process of renovating the health center and approached JoeSam to add one of his colorful pieces to brighten the entrance area of the center. He visited the center and noticed right away that most of its users are in wheelchairs. JoeSam felt that the best way to bring some color and warmth to their day would be to create a sculpture of a happy person in a wheelchair chasing a bird. The director of the center promptly offered to let him use one of their discarded wheelchair wheels for his mixed media sculpture. The residents often go up to the sculpture and turn the wheel so that even a blind resident has been able to appreciate the sculpture.

Two years later, the University of Central Florida in Orlando, saw a picture of JoeSam's original wheelchair sculpture and requested a similar sculpture for their new Track and Field Arena. JoeSam, then designed a second sculpture of a boy playing ball in a wheelchair, reflecting the mobility of people in wheelchairs and their enjoyment of life. The Boy in Wheelchair pin is based on this sculpture.

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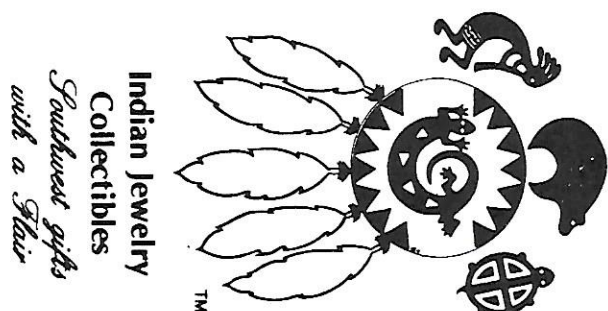
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To support their athletic endeavors, including tournament travel and equipment, the Sunrise depends solely on fund-raising events, and individual and corporate donations.

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Front, L-R: Griselda Leyva, Luz Ayala, Olivia Reyes, Jo Woo-Oesch (holding ball), Alma Torres, Jamie Danskin. **Back, L-R:** Assistant Coach Ed Danskin, Coach Les Hayes. **Team members not pictured:** Betty Cruz, Alicia Riviera, Melody Williamson, Sharon Willis.

