

Ms. Wheelchair America

26th Annual
"Pageant of Achievement"

August 1998

Stars Across America



Queen City
Charlotte, North Carolina

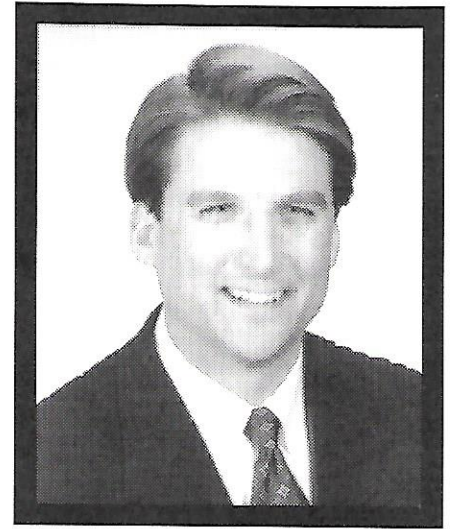
Former
**Ms. Wheelchair
America**

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Terri Cecil | Kentucky |
| Elaine Stefanowicz | Washington |
| Amy L. Baxter | Texas |
| Wendy Petzold | Wisconsin |
| Dawn Shannon Blodgett | California |
| Kim Mensi | Alabama |
| Deanna Greene Van Hook | Texas |
| Mercedes Rodriquez | Florida |
| Kathy Garcia | Utah |
| Jewell Massey | Georgia |
| Peggy Simpson | Alabama |
| Sandra Honbaier | North Carolina |
| Donna Cline | Nevada |
| Lori Cottam | Utah |
| Gaynell Colburn | Maryland |
| Barbara Crozier | Alabama |
| Marian Schooling Vessels | Maryland |
| Vivian Thompson | Massachusetts |
| Nancy Pudvin | Georgia |
| Marge Chmielewski | Michigan |
| Margie Sloan | Georgia |
| Beverly Chapman | Florida |
| Dixie Lee Etheridge | Mississippi |
| Kathy Smith Tiley | Alabama |
| Janie Robinson | Texas |

In Memory of Janie Robinson



August, 1998



Greetings!

As Mayor of Charlotte, I am delighted to welcome the Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant to be held in the Queen City on August 4 - 9, 1998.

We are happy to host this exciting program and trust that all participants, families and friends will enjoy your visit in Charlotte. We are blessed with a wealth of social, cultural and recreational opportunities and hope you will enjoy as many as possible during your stay.

I commend all the participants on your achievements. You serve as a shining example and source of encouragement to disabled young women everywhere.

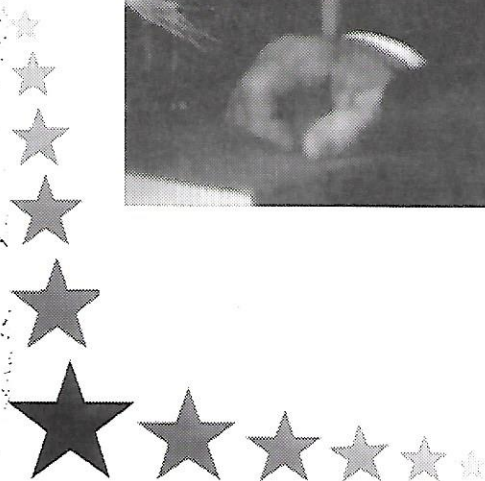
Best wishes for an exciting and successful event. We hope you will return to Charlotte again soon!

Sincerely,

Pat McCrory
PATRICK McCrORY

Patrick L. McCrory, Mayor
Office of the Mayor 600 East Fourth Street Charlotte, NC 28202-2839 704/336-2244







STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RALEIGH 27603-8001

JAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNOR

June 30, 1998

Dear Friends:

As Governor of North Carolina, it is indeed my pleasure to welcome all participants, families and spectators to Charlotte for the **26th Annual Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant of Achievement, August 4-9.**

I understand your theme for the week is *Celebration of Achievement - Stars Across America*. What an appropriate theme for such a special occasion which celebrates the determination and strength of spirit which you demonstrate by your participation in this significant event.

I encourage you to continue to 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 awareness of the continuing need to eliminate barriers, both architectural and attitudinal.

Carolyn joins me in extending congratulations and best wishes for success in your competition.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jim Hunt", written over a horizontal line.

James B. Hunt Jr.

JBH:sjs



Ms. Wheelchair America, Inc.

Gail McKoon

Executive Director



Thank you for attending the Ms. Wheelchair America Program for 1999 here in beautiful Charlotte, North Carolina. Robin Heffner, our Host State Coordinator, has done a magnificent job in planning this year's event! Robin has put a lot of time and thought into each detail of this program and I am sure by now you have felt the charm and the comfort of her wonderful "Southern" hospitality. This promises to be one of the best programs MWA has ever had and certainly one we will always remember fondly.

This past year has been quite a challenge for Ms. Wheelchair America as we tried to strengthen and sustain existing state programs and acquire new ones through recruitment of independent delegates. Many of us have worked very hard toward this goal and I would like to thank all our "Regional Coordinators" who have given their time and talents in contacting the state coordinators within their respective "regions". This year we have shared the activities of the various regions through quarterly updates. Our Regional Coordinators for this year were: Elaine Stefanowicz, Amy Baxter Ley, Pat O'Bryant, and Doris Olds-Eck. Thanks you, ladies!

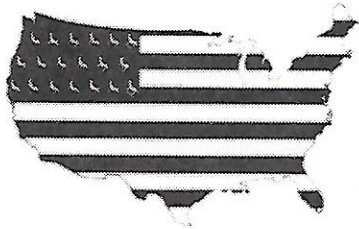
Thanks also to our State Coordinators who worked so hard to host pageants in their own state and who have brought (or sent) delegates to compete in this year's MWA. We are grateful for your faithfulness to the program. Thank you for persevering when contestant recruitment, fund-raising, and other commitments and responsibilities became difficult.

"Thank you" to Terri Cecil who did an outstanding job as Ms. Wheelchair America. Terri, we really appreciate you!

Lastly, I would like to thank the Executive Board members (Amy Baxter-Ley, Doris Olds-Eck, Robin Heffner, and Tom O'Bryant) for doing a great job this year and for the personal sacrifices they each made to serve on the board. They have worn many "hats" and worn them well. Thank you for the many hours you spent on the telephone with each other trying to resolve problems and make plans for a better future for MWA. Thank you for participating in board meetings for hours and hours and "brainstorming" for ideas which would help us reach the goals we set. A special "thank you" to Tom O'Bryant, our President, for keeping us focused and on schedule!

The future of MWA is dependent on each of our commitments to the program. There is much hard work yet to be done in establishing strong state organizations. I sincerely wish the MWA program every success in the future and look forward to the day when all fifty states are represented at the Ms. Wheelchair America Program!

Sincerely,
Gail McKoon, MWA Executive Director



Ms. Wheelchair America Inc.

TOM O'BRYANT
PRESIDENT

August 1, 1998

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

FROM: Tom O'Bryant, President

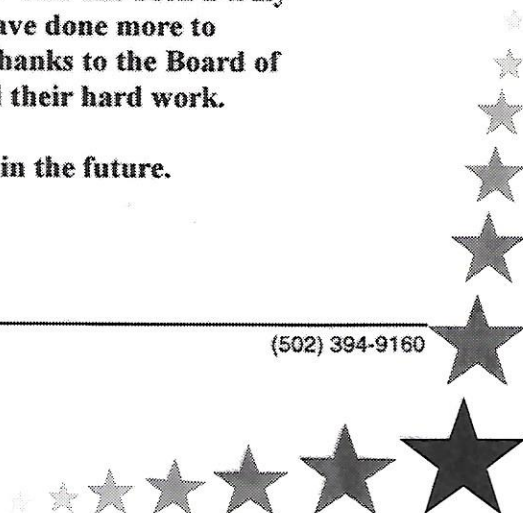
This year the Ms. Wheelchair America Program is twenty-six years old. In 1972, Dr. Philip K. Wood, a Columbus, Ohio psychiatrist, established the Ms. Wheelchair Program as a forum to publicize the accomplishments of disabled women in wheelchairs. Since its inception, Ms. Wheelchair America titleholders have dedicated their regins to raising the awareness levels of the public to the accomplishments and abilities of people with disabilities, using their personal achievements as an example. 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. Their efforts have included numerous interviews in print, radio, and television; visits with local, state, and federal elected officials; and, in recent years, each titleholder has had the opportunity to visit the White House and meet with the President. We are proud of their accomplishments and truly feel their efforts are making a difference for persons with disabilities.

On behalf of the Board of Ms. Wheelchair America, I am pleased to welcome all of you to Charlotte. I would like to recognize the efforts of Robin Heffner and her volunteers for all the hard work that has gone into the planning and coordination of this annual event. I again welcome each of you and ask that you join us in celebrating the accomplishments of our contestants.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation to you for the honor of being President of Ms. Wheelchair America for the past three years. This has been a truly rewarding experience and my only regret is that I could not have done more to further the growth of Ms. Wheelchair America. My sincere thanks to the Board of Directors of Ms. Wheelchair America for their support and all their hard work.

Best wishes to Ms. Wheelchair America for continued success in the future.



Purpose And Goals

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 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, communications and inter personal skill development, networking with community programs and other educational topics. We offer 'free time' to allow for information exchange 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.

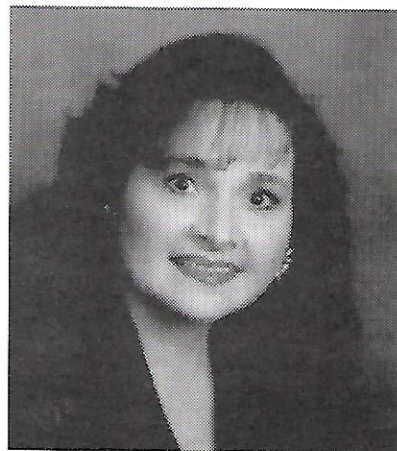
Ms.
Wheelchair
North Carolina

Robin Heffner - State Coordinator

219 Classic Ct. - Mt. Holly, NC 28120 - P: (704) 827-6301

Twenty years ago I myself was a contestant competing for the title of Ms. Wheelchair America. The Pageant that year was held in Columbus, Ohio and was one of the greatest moments in my life. I can honestly tell you the experience made a lasting impression and gave me the courage to do many things I would have never dreamed of before.

As many years have past, I've continued to see the encouragement and dreams shared by those who take part in this "Program of Achievement". This program guarantees the opportunity to meet many of the finest and most accomplished individuals in America.



It was an honor to be elected on the Board of Directors for Ms. Wheelchair America this past August while attending the annual pageant in Colorado. I will never forget the experience and opportunities I have had to share ideas with a great team of volunteers. Little did I realize this involvement would turn into the position of "Host State Director" for this year. While the hours have been long and tiring pulling everything together, I will always cherish this time because it has fulfilled another one of my many dreams. Having the chance to bring together such a wonderful group of accomplished women to my home state is a true honor and blessing.

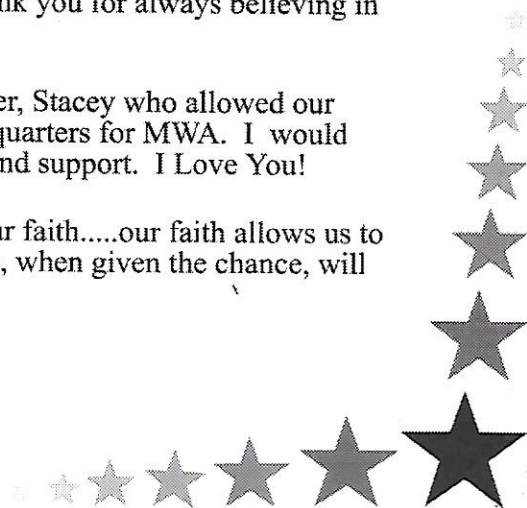
My sincere *Best Wishes* to all the contestants participating this year. Your desire and determination to be here has already made you a winner. Thanks to all of you for making this a special year. To all the families, friends and companions who stand in our shadow, you are our shining stars! To all the escorts who have given their time so willingly, we appreciate your comfort and support. To all the former title holders who have traveled to be here for support and to keep this program alive, God Bless You!

To the MWA Board of Directors, State Coordinators and Volunteers, *you have and always will make a difference.* And for that we will be forever grateful. To the many sponsors it takes to keep this program active, it would not be possible without your kindness and caring support. *Thank you for believing in our purpose.* To the MWNC Board of Directors, Susie, Kaye, Merlene and Sandy....." We finally made it happen" thanks to all of you. I share such a special friendship with each one of you. To the other Alumni members who took an active part in this program, thank you so much for your continued support.

To my Mom & Dad and to my sisters Maxine and Tabatha thank you for always believing in me and being there when I needed you.

Lastly, I want to thank my loving husband, Bobby and daughter, Stacey who allowed our home to be taken over for the past several months as Host State Headquarters for MWA. I would not be who I am today, still following my dreams, without your love and support. I Love You!

Life's journey is a mystery...a mystery that is challenged by our faith.....our faith allows us to dream.....in our dreams we can make choices.....making choices in life, when given the chance, will determine our destiny. *Never stop following your dreams!*



A Farewell From Terri Cecil 1998 Ms. Wheelchair America

I'm not sure I can adequately sum up what a blessing the past year of my life has been and I don't even know where to begin in thanking all those who had a hand in making it possible...

My reign as Ms. Wheelchair America has been such a wonderful experience--one I will never forget and one for which I will always be grateful. I have traveled all across the country representing Americans with disabilities--being our voice, sharing our accomplishments as well as our dreams, and promising our commitment to helping to make the world a better place, one where diversity is celebrated! What an honor that has been for me!

I have spoken before medical professionals, school children, and everyone in between. It never ceases to amaze me what a tremendous teaching opportunity this is. However, what I didn't allow for back in August of last year was what an incredible learning experience this would be for me personally. I had no idea back then the impact this year would forever have on my life.

I will never forget the first time a parent hugged me and thanked me for spending time with his child. Nor will I forget seeing a beautiful little girl sit a bit taller in her chair and watching her eyes light up when talking about her someday participating in the pageant. I smile when I think of one little boy telling me that my picture would have a place of honor in his bedroom--on the wall between Shaquille O'Neal and Derek Jeter (is this great company or what?). Maybe best of all was having a 5th grader invite me to his school dance and then having him pay me the most perfect compliment.. "Terri, after 5 minutes with you I didn't even notice the chair."

While these experiences may seem like, and to a degree are, examples of my having an impact on someone else, I know in my heart that it was truly I who learned the most.

I have learned that a moment in time--a touch, a smile, a word of encouragement--can influence a life forever. I have learned to slow down, seek out those moments, and to savor them when they come. I have learned that we are all role models; that someone is always watching and that my words and actions may be the ones that a person chooses to emulate. I cherish that honor, I take it very seriously (but always with a smile!), and I pray daily to do it justice.

I have learned that true beauty really does come from within. I've always said that but I'm not sure I really knew what it meant until this year. I have traveled extensively, crawled off airplanes at 8:00am to speak somewhere at 9:00am, and had more than my share of bad hair days but I have never felt prettier than when a child wraps his arms around my neck and tells me that he is glad he met me and that we are now friends. I know he won't remember if my hair was in place or if my makeup was flawless and he certainly won't care to what degree my legs work. What he will remember, what he will care about, is love. In a world that is often cold and cynical and focused on only the "perfect" people, I now know that that is enough.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who made this year beautiful for me. To American Airlines and Vantage Mini Vans--thanks for getting me there on time and in great style. To Quickie Manual Chairs--thanks for keeping me fencing; sports equals sanity, you know? To Pride Health Care, the makers of the best power chairs and scooters going...I so admire your commitment to excellence and I thank you for making me a part of the both during my reign and now as a Pride employee.. More than anything, I treasure the friendships I have found with you! Thanks!

Thanks to the Ms. Wheelchair America Board. Your support, love and encouragement have allowed me to accomplish so much. Particularly to Gail McKoon, Tom and Pat O'Bryant--you do this organization proud and the world in general one better! To Elaine Stefanowitz...girl, you have been my voice of reason in the midst of occasional insanity--you are the BEST!

To my family...I am what I am because of you. I live my life daily knowing that you are the finest examples of all that is good and right in the world. I can only hope to make you as proud of me as I am of you. I love you so much.

To Michael...you saved me and I love you...more than you know.

To the ladies on this stage tonight...you are the best kind of winners...the ones who shine not just tonight but every minute of every day. I wish you a night and a lifetime of wonderful memories and incredible happiness. I am proud and honored to know you.

Love, Terri



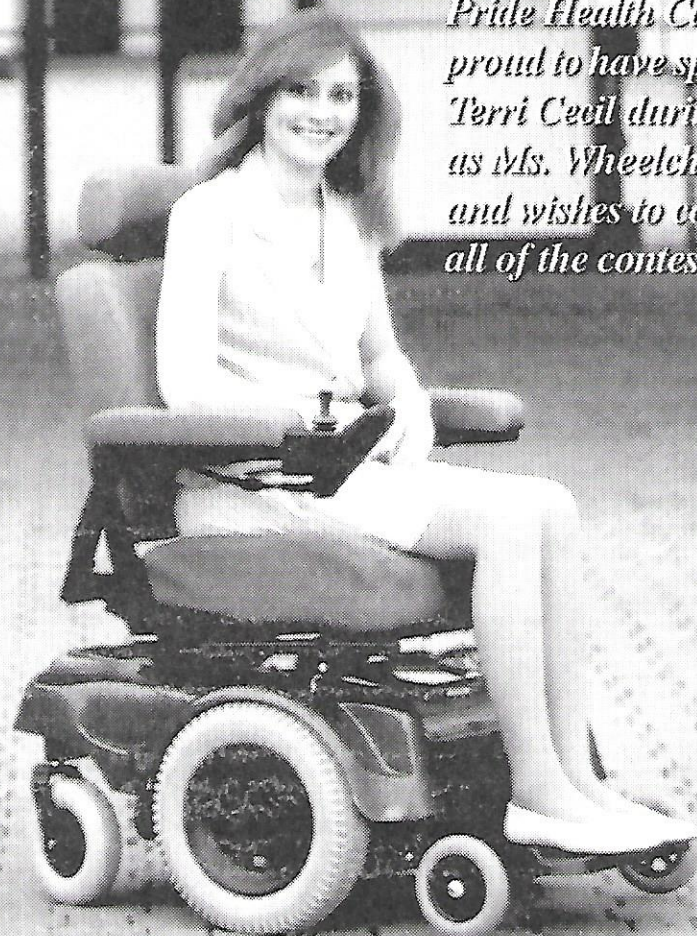
Terri Cecil
Ms. Wheelchair America 1998



JAZZY®

POWER CHAIRS

Pride Health Care, Inc. is proud to have sponsored Terri Cecil during her year as Ms. Wheelchair America and wishes to congratulate all of the contestants this year.



*Terri Cecil -
Ms. Wheelchair America 1998*

BEST OF LUCK TO EACH OF YOU.

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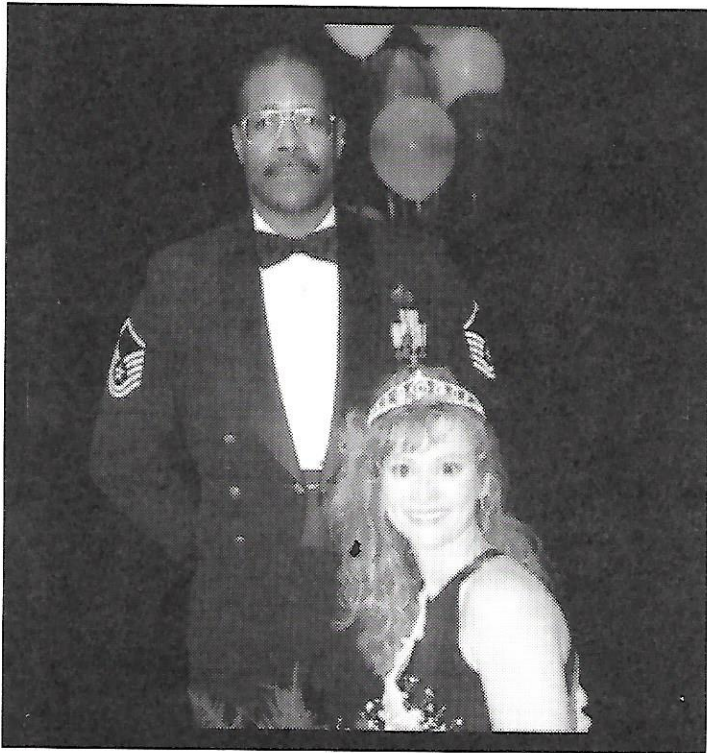
Terri's Year



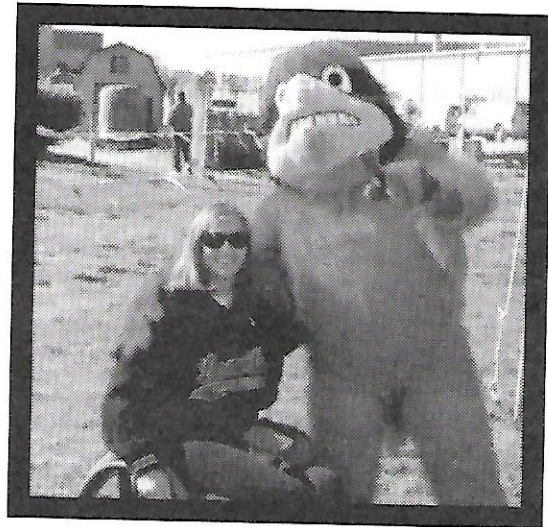
With Bart Connor, gymnast



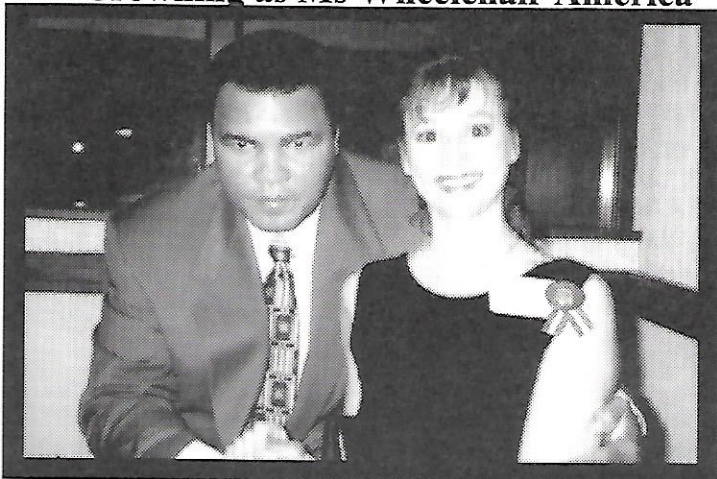
**With Jeff Blatnick
Gold Medal, Wrestling 84 Olympics**



Crowning as Ms Wheelchair America



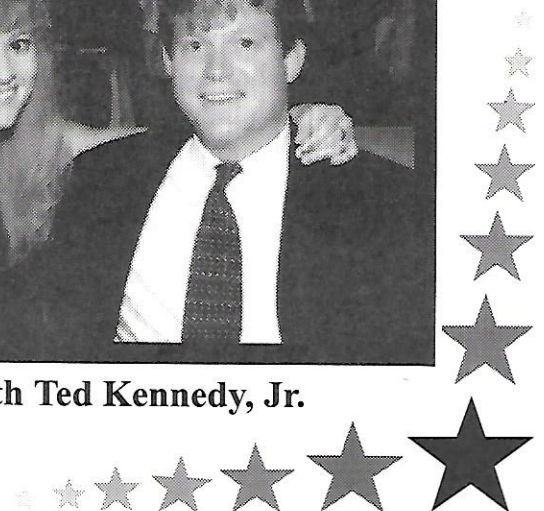
**Hangin with the
University of Louisville
Cardinal Bird
My Alma Mater**



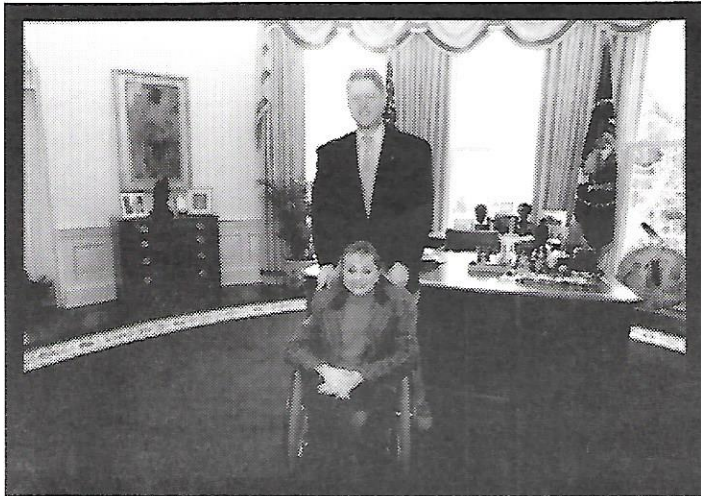
With Muhammad Ali



With Ted Kennedy, Jr.



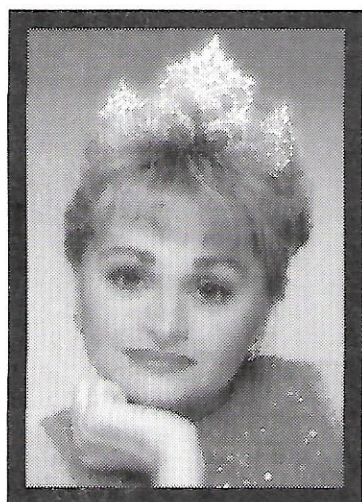
Former Ms. Wheelchair America's



Amy Baxter-Ley with President Bill Clinton



Amy Baxter-Ley with Olympic Torch



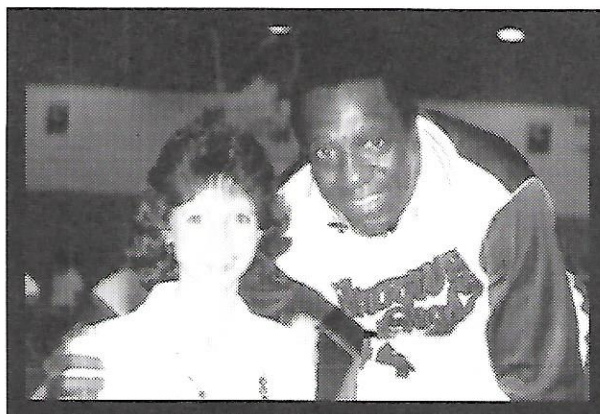
Amy Baxter-Ley



Sandy Honbaier with President Ronald Reagan



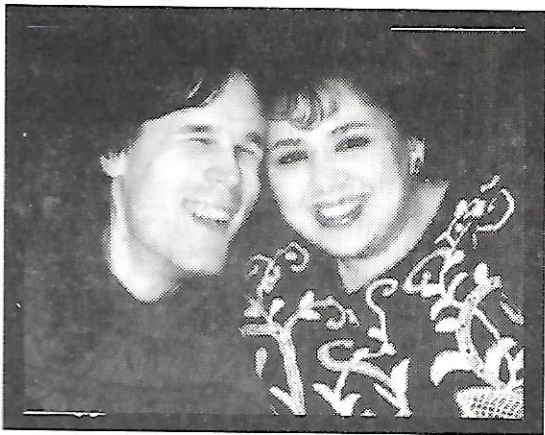
Sandy Honbaier



**Sandy with Medowalark Lemon
"Globtrotters" 1987**



**Sandy Honbaier with
Jesse Helms**



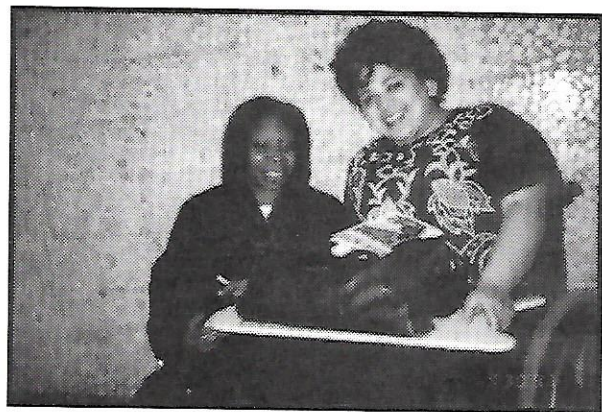
Elaine and husband Steve Stefanowicz



Elaine with President Clinton and First Lady



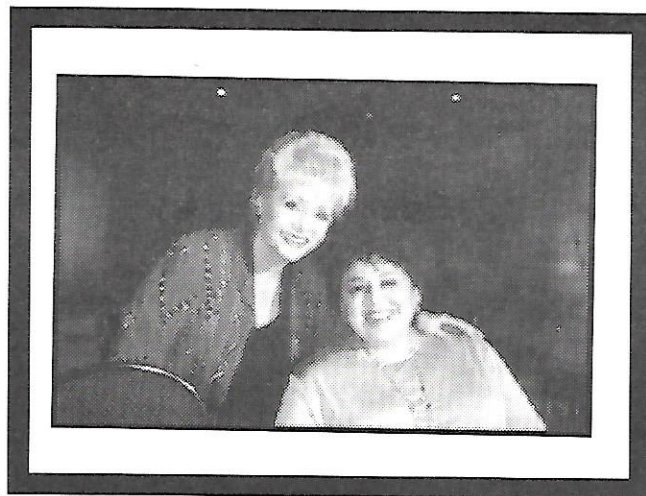
Elaine Stefanowicz



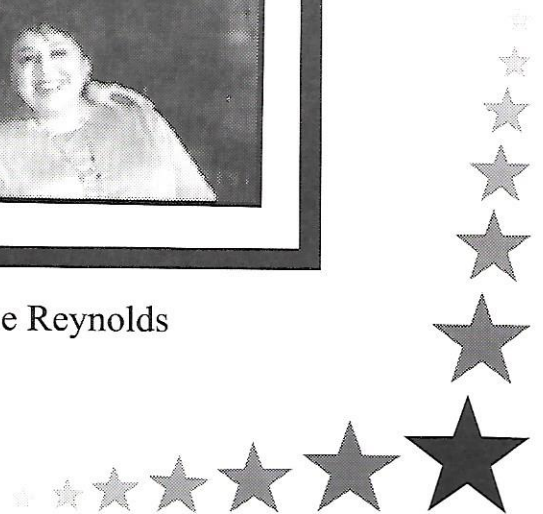
Elaine with Whoopie Goldberg



With Larry King



With Debbie Reynolds



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%)

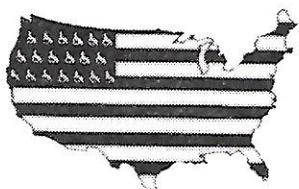
- 1. Ability to deal with media, peers, civic groups, etc.
- 2. Public Relations skills.
- 3. Advocacy for persons with disabilities
- 4. Self-confidence/motivation/initiative/creativity.

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.



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.

Judges

Amy B. Ley - Head Judge



Amy B. Ley, held the title of Ms. Wheelchair America 1996 and was Ms. Wheelchair Texas 1995. She uses a wheelchair because of a bone condition, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, or "brittle bones." She majored in marketing and graduated from Texas Wesleyan University in 1987 with a B.B.A. Upon college graduation, she began her career with American Airlines, where her current position is Procedures Analyst in Advantage Customer Service. While at American Airlines she has served on many committees, but two of her favorites were as a charter member of the AMR diversity Council and the Consumer Relations Disability Council.

Other accomplishments include Vice President of the Handicapped Resource Association of Arlington, Texas, member of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and member of the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation. Amy currently serves as vice president of the Ms. Wheelchair America Executive board, member of the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities (appointed by Governor Bush), and member of the United Methodist Church Disabilities Concerns Committee. Amy recently received the TWU Young Alumni Achievement of the Year Award.

Amy lives in Euless, Texas, with her wonderful husband, John, and their Black Lab, Maxine. Amy enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, gardening, swimming, trying out new recipes, and participating in an occasional 5K

Sandra Washington - Judge



Sandra is President and founder of ATM Cash Services Inc., Established in 1992 to advise banks, data-processing companies, and armored-car businesses in the area of ATM installation, cash handling, security, fraud and theft. Sandra entered this field in the early eighties when automated teller machines were first being installed in Dallas, TX. She is involved in various civic and charitable activities, serving as a Nutrition Master Volunteer with the *North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service*, member of the Extension Program Committee, volunteering as a surrogate parent for a special needs child for the Department of Public Education. In Addition, she is head of the women's organization at New Life Fellowship Church and recently led a successful fund-raiser in support of the church's Building Fund.

Dennis Woods - Judge



Dennis Woods is the owner of Woods and Associates, a buying service for people looking for new or used vehicles. He also coordinates the adaptive process when required. His services include counseling with the buyer, assisting with the shopping and helping with the financing.

Dennis networks with groups such as the Lupus Foundation, the Muscular Dystrophy Society, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society. He was recently appointed by Governor Romer to the Colorado State Rehabilitation Advisory Council. Dennis also has a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Denver.

Dennis is married and has one daughter and one grandson. He loves hunting, fishing, camping, skeet and sport clays--as well as traveling at home and abroad.



Judges

Sharon Lentz - Judge



Sharon is a transplanted Midwesterner living in Texas and has worked in the airline industry since 1969. Her career began as a flight attendant for Braniff Airlines. Following the closing of Braniff in 1982, Sharon worked as a cooperative flight attendant for Hilton Hotels Corporation until 1987. She went to work for American Airlines in 1987 and has worked as a flight attendant, flight attendant manager and flight attendant procedures analyst.

Her position as procedures analyst included twice yearly meetings with advocacy groups where ideas and information exchanged has enabled American Airlines to provide safer and more comfortable travel for our customers with disabilities. Sharon writes an article each month for flight attendants about how in flight service could be improved for passengers with a variety of special needs.

She enjoys collecting antiques, gardening and listening to classical music. She lives in Dallas with three very entertaining cats and works out of the DFW airport. Sharon states "I look forward to participating in the MWA event"

George P. Tatsis - Judge



George is the Administrative Director of the Laser and Applied technologic Laboratory at the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC. He manages various cardiovascular research projects dealing with new interventional devices for vascular disease as well as new non-pharmacological therapies for arrhythmia's's. He has co-authored more than 100 articles and book chapters reporting the laboratory's results. In addition, he is the Director of Clinical Research at the Carolinas Heart Institute where he manages along with a team of nurses approximately 30 clinical research trials dealing with investigative drugs, devices, and procedures for cardiac patients.

Mr. Tatsis teaches 11th grade Sunday school and has recently served a President for three years of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte. He received his B.S. in Biology at the University of N.C. At Chapel Hill and his M.S. in Biology from the University of N.C. At Charlotte. In his spare time he enjoys reading, studying nature, traveling, astronomy, and growing wildflowers.

Carrie Padgett - Judge



Carrie Padgett is a kindergarten teacher from Old Hickory, Tennessee. She volunteers with the Easter Seal Spinal Cord Support Network as a peer counselor and has taught a G.E.D. class for adults with disabilities. She also enjoys working with the FIRST sports camp for children with disabilities, the Girl Scouts, the Ronald McDonald House and the Think First Program. Carrie has received the Nashville Mayor's Award for enhancing the environment for people with disabilities and was recognized as an Outstanding Women by the Otahki Girl Scout Council.

She was Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee 1997 and was the second runner-up to Ms. Wheelchair America 1998. She participates in water skiing, tennis, and scuba diving. Carrie uses a wheelchair as a result of an automobile accident in 1990. Carrie is a well respected entertainer and sings for weddings and various other events such as "The Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant".

Ms. Wheelchair America Contestants

We wish to give each and every contestant participating in this years program a warm welcome. We hope you will offer your support and encouragement to each of them as they compete for the title of Ms. Wheelchair America. Regardless of the outcome of the Pageant, each contestant has already faced the most important step in helping support others by being here. It takes a lot of energy and hard work to make it this far. Their accomplishments and desire to generate more awareness is to be respected by all. Contestants.....we love you and wish you all a wonderful week here in Charlotte. Best Wishes in your continued efforts to make life more enjoyable for all.

California - Contestant #1 Mary Michael



Mary resides in San Jose, California where she lives with her husband Ron. The couple has been married for 24 years. Mary uses a wheelchair as a result of a Neuralgic Disorder that began in 1974. Mary first attended college in Alaska for one year and then attended the University of Kentucky Community College System for one year majoring in Geology. She then moved to San Jose City College where she majored in CIS. Mary works for the Disney Store and is the first person you see when you come in the door. She greets the customers by acting as one of the cast that makes the magic happen. We is also known to make the magic happen through her volunteer work. Her volunteer work includes tutoring children in math, being an active member of her church, and volunteering at San Jose City College for the Disabled Students Program. One of her achievements included being on the Deans List in college. She hopes to return to college and complete her degrees. For fun, Mary enjoys bowling and takes it rather serious. She has won numerous awards for bowling right from her wheelchair! She also enjoys baking and has 63 ribbons to show for her talent. She is an artist in jewelry and even started her own business. As a young girl, Mary was involved in ballet, gymnastics and many other sports including martial arts. Mary describes herself as being Loving, Optimistic, Passionate, Honest and Persistent.

Colorado- Contestant #2 Karen "Sue" Lyle



Sue Lyle resides in Federal Heights, Colorado with her husband of 26 years. They have one daughter and one granddaughter. Sue uses a wheelchair due to polio which was diagnosed in 1952 and like many others, is now coping with post-polio syndrome. She is very active as a public speaker campaigning for numerous political figures as well as speaking on behalf of various organizations for persons with disabilities. Fund-raising is an area that Sue excels in very well. She rolled 1,105 miles (yes, in her power chair) on a road trip through Las Vegas, Arizona, New Mexico and back to Colorado for awareness for victims of crime. Sue and her husband Mike are involved in searches for Missing Children, some of which have been successful. Each Thanksgiving their time is spent helping raise money and feeding the homeless. Sue even finds time to dress as a clown for many events sharing smiles and laughter. She is a lover of Country Music and was given the honor of meeting and speaking to such stars as, Reba McEntire, George Strait, Charlie Daniels and Suzy Bogguss. Sue wishes to bring more awareness about the Ms. Wheelchair Program and considers herself Positive, Creative, Independent, Motivated and Humorous.



Florida - Contestant #3 Lynn Naves



Lynn Naves lives in St. Petersburg, Florida with her husband Eugene. In 1980 Lynn was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis which requires her to use a wheelchair for mobility. She currently works as a Recreation Aid that includes special programs, computer entry, handling correspondence and being a receptionist. Outside of work Lynn is a volunteer for WOW pit crew, and SCION Board of Directors. In her work as an advocate she has sat on several committees, CAPI-Committee Assistance Physically Impaired. Tac- Transit Advisory Committee and MPO - Metropolitan Planning Organization. Lynn played an active roll in gathering signatures to support the state bill H.R. 551. She is also the founder of PCE an adult support group. She won an award for volunteer of the month in 1990. She also speaks in schools about a program titled "Welcome to my world". She encourages other persons with disabilities to get out and live. The five words Lynn chose to best describe her are: Kind, Caring, Sharing, Motivated and Understanding.

Georgia - Contestant #4 Leslie Ostrander



Leslie resides in Columbus, Georgia as a newlywed with her husband Aaron. She uses a wheelchair due to an automobile accident in 1979 which left her injured as a c-7 quadriplegic. Leslie is presently working as a Marketing/Sales Director for Medical Marketing Group, Inc. She manages the annual advertisement campaign, represents MMG at all the Abilities Expos's, and sales products. Leslie attended Columbus State University majoring in Public Relations and Marketing. Since the onset of her disability, Leslie has been the first of many things. She was the first cheerleader to use a wheelchair in junior high, the first disabled selected to the Modeling Board at a local department store, the first disabled to compete in scholarship pageants, and the first Junior Miss Wheelchair Georgia. Leslie volunteers her free time to the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, Blind Association, Relay for Life, and Paralympic Games. During her reign she has been a National Spokes Person for Initiative 2000, a featured speaker at many events held for persons with disabilities, and she shares her personal testimony in many churches. She has won numerous awards including the Mayor's Committee Award for Persons with Disabilities (1993). Among many of the goals Leslie has set for herself includes being a role model and setting the example that a wheelchair is not a barrier to achievement or success. Sharing with others that a positive attitude, self-belief, and self-image can take everyone though life's adventures. One of her greatest treasures is the support and love of her family and friends. Leslie's motto is "Eat dessert first...tomorrow is a hope not a promise". She considers herself to be affectionate, enthusiastic, reliable, peace-maker and spiritual.

Kentucky - Contestant #5 Jenny Smith



Jenny lives in Louisville, Kentucky with her parents, brother and grandma. She suffered a spinal cord injury at age 16, while tumbling at cheerleading practice. Although this accident occurred at a cheerleading practice, Jenny considers herself more of a former gymnast. She competed as a gymnast for more than ten years prior to her accident. Jenny has been recognized for many achievements including 1990-CADRE Award from the National Association of Home Builders for "extraordinary courage and determination", 1995-Phi Kappa Phi National All University Honor Society, Honor Roll/President's List. She received her B.A. Psychology *cum laude* at the University of Louisville where she will also be graduating in December 1998 with a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. While being a full-time student she has worked in Public Schools as a Teaching Assistant/Tutor and she counseled for an after school and summer program at the YMCA. Jenny volunteers her free time to tutoring Young Life, a Christian Outreach for high schoolers. Jenny is a member of the Derby City Chapter of the Natal Spinal Cord Injury Association and is involved with Wheels for the World, an organization that refurbishes used wheelchairs and distributes the chairs to individuals in other countries. She enjoys spending time with her friends "hanging out" and having fun. She likes reading historical novels, and studying her family's genealogy. Jenny considers herself to be friendly, patient, studious, a listener and a perfectionist.



Iowa - Contestant #6 Barbara Faber

Barbara Faber resides in West Des Moines, Iowa with her husband Michael. Barbara uses a wheelchair due to Cerebral Palsy which she has had since birth. She spends her time speaking with various school children and adult government body at various conferences. Her advocacy has been focused on helping change bills in senate. Talking to various groups and telling them what would be helpful to the disabled. She has received many volunteer awards. Barbara is currently working as a Greeter for Wal-mart and taking care of customer needs. She looks forward to furthering her skills that will lead her into a better job with the opportunity to make more people aware of disability rights and what we as the disabled can accomplish if given the opportunity. Barbara believes that everyday should be lived to the fullest and each day we should take the opportunity to experience what the world has to offer. She wants to spend her free time giving support to other disabled people who may not have been given the support she has. She best describes herself as strong, personable, caring, understanding, and trusting.



Maryland - Contestant #7 Tracy Wright

Tracy Wright resides in Silver Springs, Maryland. She uses a wheelchair due to Cerebral Palsy since birth. Tracy attends Montgomery College where she has already received her Certificate in Early childhood Education. She is now pursuing an Associates Degree and has future plans of completing her Bachelor's degree so she can pursue a job in the field of Early Childhood Education. Her speaking experience has included over 100 events speaking at schools, civic groups, and businesses. She has made television and radio appearances for FIDO's for freedom (service dog organization). She participated in hearings for improving accessible transportation in Maryland. Tracy co-founded Folks on Spokes (organization for recreation for persons with physical disabilities). She serves as a volunteer at the Inwood house coffee shop and for various events. During her year as Ms. Wheelchair Maryland, Tracy worked to connect the program to other organizations with similar philosophies to broaden awareness and stimulate growth for the program. After serving for a Ms. Wheelchair Maryland, Tracy says that she has matured in many areas of life, leadership qualities have surfaced, organizational skills have sharpened, and her confidence has soared. If selected Ms. Wheelchair America, Tracy will utilize these skills to accomplish even greater things. Tracy describes herself as compassionate, outgoing, intelligent, dedicated and generous.



Michigan- Contestant #8 Monica Blue

Monica Blue lives in Detroit, Michigan with her three children. She uses a wheelchair due to Polymyositis diagnosed in 1992. She attended Michigan State University, Wayne County Community College, as well as business school. She is currently a volunteer for Macomb Hospital Corporation. As Ms. Wheelchair Michigan, Monica has taken on many duties. She is responsible for the ongoing effort to eliminate the architectural and attitudinal barriers that prevent people with disabilities from assuming their rightful place in society. Monica volunteers free time to the Woman's and Disabilities Conference, Detroit Riverview Hospital, and Macomb Hospital. She also appears on the Channel 7 Dare Don Program promoting and challenging able bodied people to wheelchair races etc. Monica's goals are to provide persons with disabilities the opportunity to network in a partnership with able bodied individuals, and also "To Let People Know God is Alive and Living and Miracles Do Happen!" Monica considers herself charismatic, energetic, personable, persistent, and Spiritual.





Mississippi - Contestant #9 Shelia Burnham

Shelia Burnham lives in Madison, Mississippi and has used a wheelchair since 1992 when she was injured in a fall. Shelia is presently working towards a Master's Degree at the University of Southern Mississippi in Rehabilitation Counseling. At this time she works as a Claim Analyst assuring claims are fairly and accurately evaluated in accordance with establishing standards provides training well as other responsibilities. Shelia is a "peer" for SCIA; a member of Ms. Methodist Rehab. "Spirit Team", member of Directors for Special Equestrians just to name a few. She is one of a six person disabled bike team sponsored by Ms. Methodist Rehab. Center. After receiving her Masters in Rehab Counseling, Shelia wants to counsel wheelchair bound women to help improve the quality of their lives. In Shelia's spare time you can usually find her in the Caribbean diving. She learned to scuba dive 2 years after the accident and has logged 86 Caribbean Deep dives. She is N.I.A.D. Certified with no restrictions. Shelia states "there are no words to express to the feeling of awe and exhilaration as I swim in God's aquarium filled with wonderful colors and creatures. Her other hobbies include horseback riding and water skiing. Shelia describes herself as determined, confident, intelligent, humorous and long life learner.



New Jersey - Contestant #10 Jeanine Stoddart

Jeanine resides in Towaco, New Jersey with her husband and two sons. She uses a wheelchair as a result of Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. Jeanine has taken up the cause of educating health care workers on the needs, wants, and point of view of the patient and or person with a disability. She hopes to expand this presentation to all areas of patient care including medical students. Jeanine has a B.A. in Communication (Radio, TV, Speech) and a Minor in Psychology and Religious Studies. Jeanine served as an intern at Z-10 Radio in both the promotion and production departments. Her most rewarding role is being a wife and mother to her two sons as best she can due to the realistic challenges due to her disability. She is interested in going back into Radio and broaden her classes to include all sides of patient care as educating people with disabilities on how to manage their disorder as the care given to them. After graduating college Jeanine and her husband started a business building drag racing cars. Jeanine handled the administrative end as well as all the graphic arts and advertising (which included painting signs for the roadside). Within the past few years she has appeared on a few cable talk shows concerning issues of the disabled. The past three years she has been teaching classes to home health aides in training. Jeanine describes herself as Positive, Persistent, Caring, Spirited, and Resourceful.



New York - Contestant #11 Betty Gastelua

Betty lives in Farmingdale, New York with her husband. Betty utilizes a wheelchair due to partial paralysis from the waist down due to Guillian Barre Syndrome since 1970. Betty's family has lived in New York since her grandparents immigrated to this country from Czechoslovakia in the early 1900's. Betty works at North Shore Health System Management Services Organization as a Training and Development Consultant where she is responsible for various training programs and exercises to meet the professional needs of the physician, the physician practice staff, and the MSO staff. Betty's major accomplishments in this role she has implemented an on-going management and staff development program for MSO staff, private practice staff and the public at large. Organized and publicized the "Educational Series for physician Practices" program.

Assembled and coordinated two-day management seminars for physician practice office managers and practice administrators. She also held a Train-the-Trainer class for presenters in preparation for this seminar. Betty also delivers sermons at Sunday morning worship services in her church occasionally. Betty's list of hobbies and interests include skiing, kayaking, jet skiing, swimming, bicycle riding, bowling, parasailing, snorkeling, white water rafting, hot air ballooning and many other daring activities. Her volunteer efforts resulted in starting a cooking program for the homeless, becoming Administrative Board Chairperson at the Bayside United Methodist Church, organized and participated in activities and fund-raisers for her church. Betty describes herself as Friendly, Honest, Achiever, Christian, and Goal-Oriented.

North Carolina- Contestant #12 Elaine Spallone



Elaine resides in Charlotte, North Carolina. Elaine utilizes a wheelchair as a result of a fall from a ladder resulting in Paraplegia, T7/8. Elaine's speaking and advocacy for people with disabilities has been to diverse audiences including, doing a "Presentation Skills Seminar" to Chubb Insurance Companies, in 1995 to "What Adaptive Sports Means to Me" to the Charlotte Institute of Rehabilitation Luncheon for case workers and insurance representatives. She gave a presentation "Explanation and Introduction to Adaptive Equipment" at the Children's Miracle Network Sams's Club/Wal Mart Luncheon. Elaine graduated from State University of New York at Binghamton, with a B.A. literature in 1990. She presently works as a Staff Assistant at the Adaptive Sports and Adventures Program at the Charlotte Institute of Rehabilitation. To coordinate and market adaptive sports programs to the inpatients and community members; educate and inform members through newsletter and literature. Elaine's goal is to discover, experience and be all that she can be and this can be accomplished by holding onto the principle, if I can change my mind, I can change my life. Elaine is also involved in the Theater as an Actor and Artistic Director for Iron Horse Theater Company, she is currently rehearsing as the lead for "Hard, Fast and Beautiful" She is also responsible for obtaining sponsorship for the theater company. Elaine is a member of the Mitey Riders Horseback Riding Club Misty Meadows Farm, in Weddington, NC. Her hobbies also includes Handcycling doing daily 2.5 mile push for exercise, sailing, down-hill skiing, water and jet skiing, white water rafting and camping. She describes herself as Open-minded, Creative,

Ohio - Contestant #13 Kristine Palmer



Kristine lives in Perrysville, Ohio. She uses a wheelchair because of an injury in a sled riding accident in 1997 leaving her at a level T3 paraplegic. Kristine has been busy speaking on behalf of people with disabilities to patients and families at Dodd Hall, for Kohl's Department Store, Ohio's Independent Living Center, "Knocking Down Barriers.", Special Olympics, County of Summit Board of MR/DD, Weaver County Fair, along with various television and radio interviews. In the field of Advocacy Kristine is willing to do "What ever It Takes" to live a fulfilling life, but she questions is our society willing to do whatever it takes to give her and every other individual with a disability the same option?

She has also been working with the Independent Living Center in Mansfield, Ohio on issues directly relating to health and physical fitness for individuals with disabilities. Kristine presently attends North Central Technical College majoring in recreational therapy. For the past two years she has worked for Kohl's Department store full-time as the Accessories Department's Supervisor. In the future she plans to work in the recreational therapy field. Kristine describes herself as Strong Willed, Leader, Adventurer, and Sociable.

South Carolina - Contestant #14 Sandra "Sandy" Redmon



Sandy resides in Tega Cay, South Carolina with her parents, sister and brother. Sandy uses wheelchair due to an automobile accident in 1996 which left her injured as a C5/6 quadriplegic. Sandy is presently a full time student at York Technical College and serves as a math tutor. She plans to transfer to Winthrop University to earn a B.S. Degree in Business Administration to pursue a career in business finance. Since the onset of Sand's disability, she has been recognized and honored by many organizations. Her community of Tega Cay held a "Sandy Redmon Day" in recognition of her tenacity and fighting spirit. Her former high school created the "Sandy Redmon Volleyball Award" in honor of her perseverance and determination. Sandy has been an effective spokesperson for people with disabilities by meeting with her local and state transportation officials as well as government officials to encourage the development of more reliable and responsive transportation for people with disabilities in South Carolina. She has made presentations to a diverse group of organizations such as Girl Scout troops, church youth groups, elementary school classes, CIR respiratory care week assembly and CMC hospital resources conference. Sandy describes herself as being Honest, Tenacious, Caring, Congenial, and Fun-Loving.

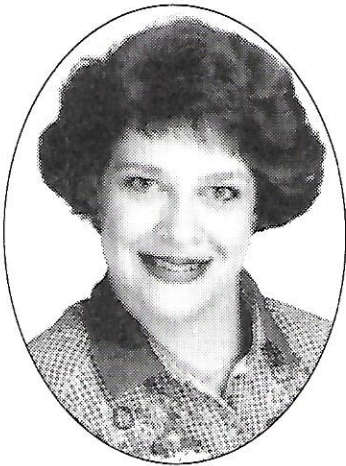


South Dakota - Contestant #15 Vicki Kerkvliet



Vicki resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She uses a wheelchair because of a bone disease called osteogenesis imperfecta. Vicki has a B.A. in Religion, and a Minor in Psychology from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD. She is presently a Counselor Aide for the State Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services, where she completes the initial intake interview with applicants with disabilities, gathers the needed information from hospitals and doctors and performs various duties for the rehabilitation counselors. Vicki was also the Director of Disability Ministry for the Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese for five years. Her volunteer work includes the homeless shelter, the soup kitchen, Children's Care Hospital and School, youth retreats, and the Ronald McDonald House. She also plays a flute for various community activities. From 1992 to the present she has presented disability awareness programs to over 2500 people in eastern South Dakota, her audiences consisted of elementary, junior high, and high school students, the South Dakota Association of Medical Assistants, patients in rehabilitation unit at the hospital, church groups, and service organizations. As Director of Disability Ministry she was involved in TV interviews and local news stations and wrote several articles for the Diocesan newspaper, and in 1996 was chosen for the "People You Should Know" segment for the local news station. The focus of her Disability Ministry was to ensure full inclusion of people with disabilities into the life of the church. Vicki describes herself as Energetic, Enthusiastic, Outgoing, Compassionate, and Determined.

Texas - Contestant #16 Shannon Folger



Shannon lives in Denton, Texas with her husband, Glen. Shannon uses a wheelchair due to Cerebral Palsy since birth. Shannon has made presentations to various groups: Lions Clubs, Easter Seals and March of Dimes. Shannon worked for the University of North Texas office of Disabilities for four years. She has been a client and patient volunteer for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. Shannon was the first child in Bryan Public School district to be mainstreamed. Shannon's achievements include being selected as a Poster child for Easter Seals and March of Dimes. Shannon completed her degree at the University of North Texas with a B.S. In Vocational Rehab and with a minor in Psychology and Public Relations. Her ambition is to become an advocate for people with disabilities by using the ADA and working with builders providing barrier free environments. Shannon describes herself as Strong, Independent, Funny, Caring and Creative.

Tennessee - Contestant #17 Beverly Kirby-Jones



Beverly lives in Lafayette, Tennessee and is the mother of two teenagers. Beverly uses a wheelchair because of an automobile accident in 1984 which resulted in paraplegic. She has a broad arena of public speaking and advocacy opportunities made possible through her work and association with the Easter Seals Society of Tennessee, National Easter Seals Society, 1997 Governor's Trophy for Disabled Citizen of the Year for the State of Tennessee, and her professional position as a Certified Court Reporter, as well as serving as Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee. Her work and involvement with these organizations allowed Beverly the opportunity to travel throughout the United States, including participating in the Transportation and Appropriations Sub-Committee where she was able to testify regarding public transportation accessibility for people with disabilities. Beverly was also selected to present Mattel with the EDI Award for the creation of Share-A-Smile Becky (the Barbie doll who utilizes a wheelchair) in New York City. She also models and has been featured in magazines, print work and videos for Castner Knott, Hanes, Leggs, and Bali. In addition to her family, vocational and advocacy commitments, Beverly enjoys playing tennis, water skiing, traveling and shopping at flea markets and auctions. Beverly describes herself as Committed, Kind, Intelligent, Energetic, and Cheerful.

Virginia - Contestant #18 Ellen Shackelford



Ellen resides in Hampton, Virginia with her two children. Ellen uses a wheelchair as a result of an automobile accident in 1983. Her goal is to become an Image wardrobe consultant. She received her AAS degree in Marketing at Thomas Nelson Community College. Ellen is also pursuing a degree in Psychology/Counseling at Chadwick University. She presently works full-time at Insight Enterprises, Inc. Peninsula Center for Independent Living as the Youth Services Specialist/Peer Counselor. Ellen has spoken at some elementary schools on topics relating to people with disabilities. As well as speaking to various women's support groups. Ellen states that she exercises advocacy every day of her life. No matter where she goes if something is not right or accommodating she immediately ask to speak with who can make the necessary change. Advocacy to Ellen means you step up, speak up, and wait for results. Ellen volunteers for the PTA Board at her daughters school, community affairs such as the Neighborhood Fair, she is working with adults on teaching and strengthening their reading skills, and the Mayors Committee for persons with Disabilities, and a recent member of NCIL (National Council on Independent Living). It is her desire to have her own business and work with people of all walks of life. Ellen's hobbies include decorating and house design shop, she worked with her builder on designing her own home and gained invaluable knowledge on the codes and compliance's of ADA laws on accessibility for home design. Ellen describes herself as Determined, Positive, Ambitious, Self-sufficient, and Encouraging.

Washington - Contestant #19 Lisa Doolittle

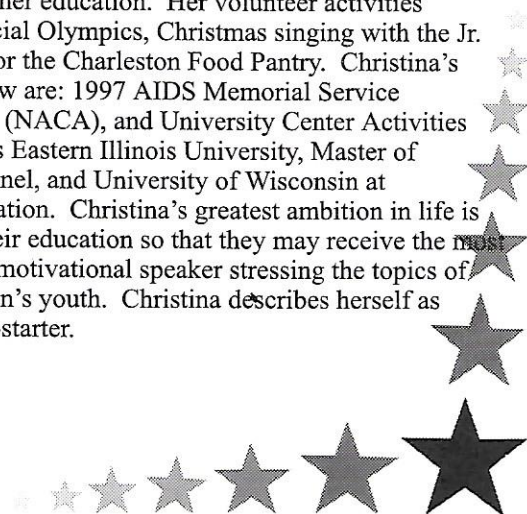


Lisa lives in Spanaway, Washington with her care provider Rob Garcia. Lisa uses a wheelchair as a result of T-12 paraplegia from cancer at birth. Lisa is an Avon Staff Supervisor and is providing training seminars for Travel Navigator which is their travel Internet Business and training for Avon Representatives. She also arranges sales meetings and expositions for Avon. As a Avon Staff Supervisor she has a staff of 30 representative. She has also worked as a receptionist for a larger Insurance Company answering 12 lines and directing their calls. Lisa completed a word processing course at Green river community College. Lisa has appeared on JP Patches which is a children's show when she was younger. Lisa's achievements include receiving Special Olympic awards, as well as special recognition working at Express Insurance Company. Being selected as Ms. Wheelchair Washington has opened the door for more speaking engagements. Lisa's ambition is to have her own van equipped with a lift so that she can travel. She is presently training a dog to be an assistant dog and that is going very well. Her hobbies include reading especially mysteries, and rubber stamping. Lisa describes herself as Perky, Daring, Thoughtful, Determined, and Interested.

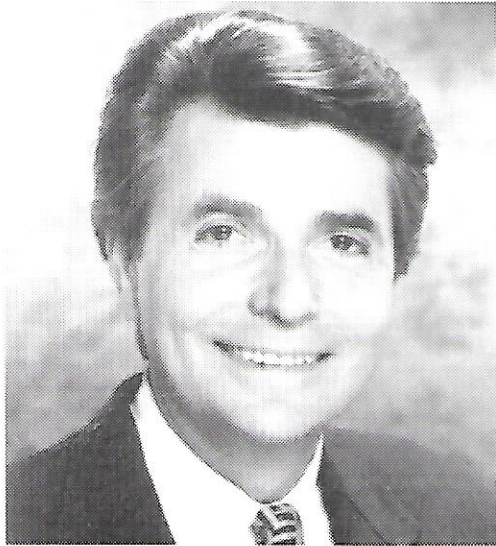
Wisconsin - Contestant #20 Christina Gilmore



Christina resides in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She uses a wheelchair due to Cerebral Palsy since birth. Starting July 1, 1998 Christina began a new job as Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities at Schreiner College in Kerrville, TX where she is directly in charge of the entire student activities and leadership development program at Schreiner. Other work experience extends into a wide variety of areas within student affairs and higher education. Her volunteer activities include being a First Grade Sunday School Teacher, Special Olympics, Christmas singing with the Jr. Greek Council at local nursing homes, and Penny Push for the Charleston Food Pantry. Christina's achievement's include too many to list...just to name a few are: 1997 AIDS Memorial Service Coordinator, National Association for Campus Activities (NACA), and University Center Activities Board Music Coordinator. Christina's education includes Eastern Illinois University, Master of Science in Education with an emphasis in College Personnel, and University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, Bachelor of Arts/Organizational Communication. Christina's greatest ambition in life is to have a positive impact on her students and to foster their education so that they may receive the most out of their experience. She is also seeking to become a motivational speaker stressing the topics of positive self-esteem and effective mentoring for the nation's youth. Christina describes herself as Compassionate, Charming, Intuitive, Dedicated and Self-starter.



Master of Ceremonies Larry Sprinkle



We would like to thank Larry for his many years of involvement with the Ms. Wheelchair North Carolina Program and now for his support and involvement with the Ms. Wheelchair America Program.

Larry is a long-time broadcaster in the Carolinas. He was the "Morning Man" on WAYS/WROQ for 13 years, where he was paired with Jay Thomas for five years and Robert Murphy for six years. He did the show alone for two years, before leaving to join NBC 6. While in radio, he was known for his many voice impressions, including Elvis, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bill Clinton, Arnold Schwartzenger, H. Ross Perot, Jimmy Stewart, and dozens more.

Larry also pursued a career as a TV and motion picture actor. He performed in many national TV commercials for clients like Magnavox, Chewels Gum, Dristan, McDonalds, Safeguard Soap, Little Debbie Snacks, and you may remember him as the "Ty-D-Bowl Man".

He has appeared in 11 feature films, including Stephen King's "Firestarter", "King Kong Lives", "Rare Breed", and "The Ryan White Story".

Larry's dream as a child was to pursue a career in TV weather, and he realized that dream in 1985 when he joined WCNC-TV (NBC 6). He has been the week-day weathercaster for the past five years. Before that he had been the weekend and morning weather anchor. Larry is also heard on many public service and promotional announcements for NBC 6.

Larry is very involved in the community and is on the board of directors of a number of charities. His volunteerism keeps him busy almost everyday, including speaking engagement at schools, civic organizations, senior centers, and fund raisers. Larry has received many awards for his charity work including the "The Governor's Award" for working with senior citizens, the "Mayor's Award for volunteerism", the "President's Award" from the Association of Retarded Citizens, the "Shinn Award" for work with the disabled, and the "Humane Citizen" award for years of work with the Humane Society and the animal

Pageant Choreographer

Kelly McManus is the owner and director of Star Struck Dance Studio in Denver, NC. She received her Bachelor of Arts Certification from Dance Educators of America Teachers Training School in Musical Theater Arts and Ballet Arts. Kelley has twenty years of performing arts experience, and has traveled throughout the Southeast attending training sessions where she has studied dance with many professional teachers. During her dance career, Kelley has performed for many local and civic functions, and her choreography has won numerous honors regionally and nationally. Currently, she is the head dance coach for the Carolina Cats dance teams. Her senior dance team won the first place at the All-Star State Dance Team Championships and competed for the national title in Jacksonville, FL. Where they were runner-up to the high score.

Kelley has been involved in various phases of pageantry for several years as a judge, Mistress of Ceremonies, and choreographer for area pageants. She is the present Business Manager for the Miss Lincoln County Scholarship Pageant, a preliminary to the Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant. Kelley was Miss Lincoln County 1993, and participated in the 1994 Miss N.C. Scholarship Pageant.



Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant

August 8, 1998

"Stars Across America"

Welcome and Opening RemarksRobin Heffner, Host State Director
National Anthem.....Carrie Padgett
Introduction of Master of Ceremonies.....Larry Sprinkle

Celebrate....."Stars Across America"..... Contestants with Escorts and Dancers

Introduction of Judges and Judging Criteria.....Larry Sprinkle

Entertainment "Carolina Cats"

Introduction of MWA Board of Directors.....Larry Sprinkle
Contestants Interviews withLarry Sprinkle.....Greeted By
Little Sisters & Brothers Program
Entertainment "Carrie Padgett"

Intermission 15 minutes

Entertainment "VAN GOGH"

Visiting Queens and Special Guest
Recognize Sponsors and Awards.....Larry Sprinkle
Entertainment "East Gaston Dancing Warriors"
Contestants Line-up on Stage for Awards..... Music By East Lincoln Jazz Band
Presentation of Ms. Congeniality and Ms. Achievement.....Larry Sprinkle
Announcement of Finalist.....Larry Sprinkle
Entertainment
Questions to Finalist from the Judges.....AssistingLarry Sprinkle

MWA-Terri Cecil and cast - "We are the World"

Farewell / Ms. Wheelchair America 1998.....Terri Cecil
Carrie Padgett - "Greatest Love of All"

Announcement of Second and First Runner-up.....Larry Sprinkle

Crowning of Ms Wheelchair America 1999

Closing.....Entertainment and Remarks



*We Acknowledge
With Appreciation and Gratitude
"You have made this Pageant of Achievement Possible"*

American Airlines
Carowinds Theme Park
Radisson Plaza Hotel
Food Lion

NationsBank
Founders Hall
Charlotte Hornets
Charlotte Sting

Everest & Jennings
Med-Emporium
Craig Hospital
Handi-Clean

Adaptive Sports & Adventures Program-CIR

Teresa Norman Productions
Carolina Cats Dance Team
Star Stuck Studios
Donald Jewelers
Rubbermaid
Performance Embroidery
Reynolds Metal Company
The Crown Athletic Club
Mark Erwin
Jack Setzer
Corner Grocery
Sam's Stereo/Jewelry/Pawn
Glamour Masters
Robert Whitt, Attorney
Diamond World-Gastonia
Morrisville Paper Company
Employees of A&E
Milton & Carolyn Patterson
Stephanie Deaton
James E. Shearer, DDS
Employees of Consumer Division A&E
Consumer Customer Service

Extravaganza Events & Props
East Gaston Dancing Warriors
East Lincoln Jazz Band
BBC-London
McClure Lumber
"Karaoke with Carla"
Deborah Young Photography
Specialty Transportation System
Art Shoemaker-State Farm
J C Penney-Eastridge Mall
Family Med Pharmacy
Diana's Cuts & Curls
Rabb's Florist-Mt. Holly
Mr. D's Pizza
Charles Drug Store
Belmont Storage Center
Claude Luvis, MD, PA
Reidsville Junior Women's Club
Cynthia Augello
Winn Dixie
A&E Information Systems
Allstate

Individual Volunteers

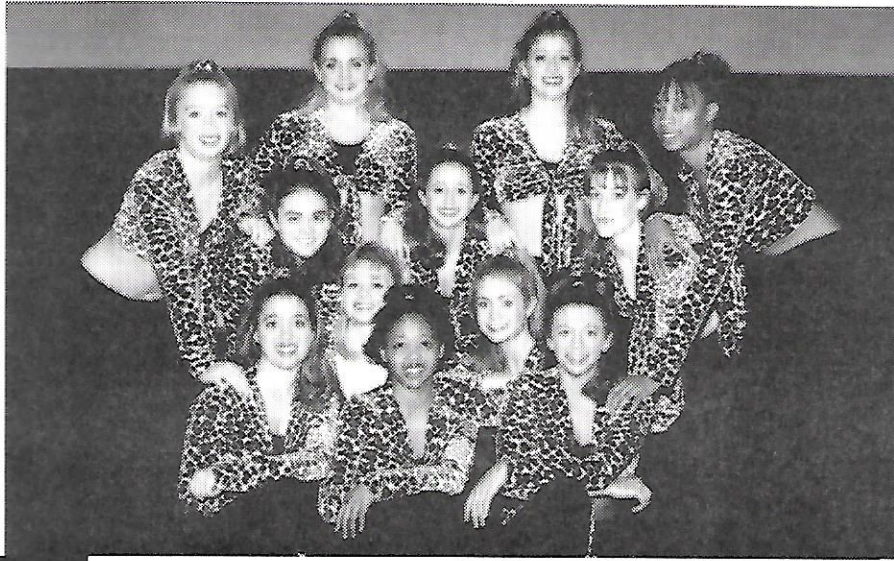
*Larry Sprinkle
Chuck McBride
Joan Morgan
Merlene Hilton
Randy Sweatt
Barbara Karras
Sandy Honbaier
Jill Moore
Kaye Pack*

*Rick Silvestry
Kelly McManus
Stacey Heffner
Susan Cloninger
Jerry Mazurkiewicz
Despina Karras
Gail Tucker
Tammy Hamerick
Sara Cloninger*

*Greg Trantham
Debbie Caddell
Tabatha Baldwin
Kaye Barrier
Lawana Walker
Sharon Madren
Blondell Lamberth
Margaret Huddleston
Dabney Weatherford*

*Ron Gilstrap
Robin Blake
Stacey Donald
Missy Eury
Pam Lull
Gladys Cox
Jim Redmon*

Entertainers



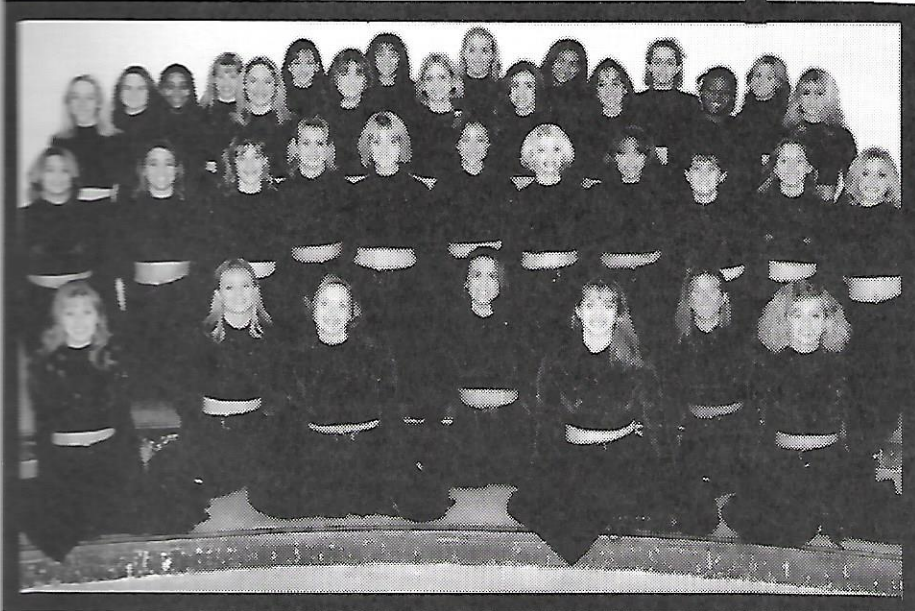
Carolina Cats



Carrie Padgett



Van Gogh



East Gaston Dance Team



Program Activities *Ms. Wheelchair America*

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Registration: Radisson Plaza Hotel uptown Charlotte, NC.....12:00-4:00PM
 Contestant Orientation.....5:00PM
 Get-Acquainted Time
 Dinner7:00PM
 Entertainment *"Let's Make A Deal"* - Game Show Host, Larry Sprinkle

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Hospitality Room - Breakfast.....7:30 - 9:00AM
 Depart for *"Fun Day In The Carolinas"* Carowinds Theme Park....10:00AM
 Fun Day Includes: Picnic, Thrill Rides, Shows, Entertainment andMuch More
 Dinner At Carowinds
 Evening: Invitation to Charlotte Coliseum for *WNBA Game*.....7:00PM
 Choice of Game or Relaxing at the Hotel

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Hospitality Room - Breakfast.....7:00 - 8:30AM
 JUDGING and WORKSHOPS.....8:30 AM
 Break for Lunch - location and time to be announced
 JUDGING and WORKSHOPS continue
 Dinner at Radisson70's *THEME*.....7:00PM
 Entertainment after Dinner

Friday, August 7, 1998

Hospitality Room - Breakfast.....7:00 - 8:30AM
 JUDGING and WORKSHOPS.....8:30 AM
 MWA Board Meeting for Directors and State Coordinators.....10:00AM
 Break for Lunch - location and time to be announced
 JUDGING and WORKSHOPS continue
 Contestants Speeches/Come dressed ready for Dinner/Semi Formal.....6:30PM
 Dinner Buffet8:00PM
 Entertainment after Dinner until Midnight

Saturday, August 8, 1998

Hospitality Room - Breakfast to be Announced
 Alumni Brunch for Contestants and Former Title Holders (.....10:00AM
 JUDGING to be Announced
 Contestants Rehearsal - Founders Hall.....12-NOON
 Preparation for Pageant
 Food Delivered to Contestants Room.....5:00PM
 Meet Escorts in Lobby.....Depart For Founders Hall for Pictures.....6:00PM
 Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant.....7:30PM
 Reception and Entertainment Following Pageant til Midnight

Sunday, August 9, 1998

Good-byes and Departures
 The MWA Board of Directors will meet with the new Ms. Wheelchair America

Workshops



Cindi Wood: Author, speaker and entrepreneur, Cindi is also a wife, mother, and prime material for stress over-load! That's why her company, CREATIVE DIMENSIONS, specializes in skills which encourage people to creatively manage the stresses of life. With over twenty years of experience working with adults and children, she believes anyone can combat stress by managing time developing a sense of humor, and learning to organize. Her book, *I'VE USED ALL MY SICK DAYS, now I'll have to call in dead!*, is an outgrowth of her years of experience juggling the roles of the fast paced nineties woman. A member of the National Speakers Association, she speaks primarily throughout the southeast helping adults develop strategies to work with co-workers and family members. Addressing a variety of audiences through keynote speaking and seminar training. She has encouraged and offered insight and hope to those working in education, business,



Rob Bridges, has spent 16 years in the telecommunications business. His on hands experience covers everything from marketing and public relations to operations management. During his 14 years of managing multiple cable television operations Rob's accomplishments included heading up a \$15 million fiber optic project, successfully turning around the public image of 2 local cable companies and being appointed President of NC TeleCommunications Association representing the State's 100 cable companies.

Presently, Rob is Vice President of INSP Digital a subsidiary of the Inspirational Network where he has created and introduced one of the Nations 1st true cable television digital networks.

An active member of Central Church in Charlotte, NC. Rob describes leading 5 short term world mission teams to countries such as Equador and Ukraine as the most gratifying experiences of his life.

In his spare time Rob enjoys golf, tennis and is an avid scuba diver.



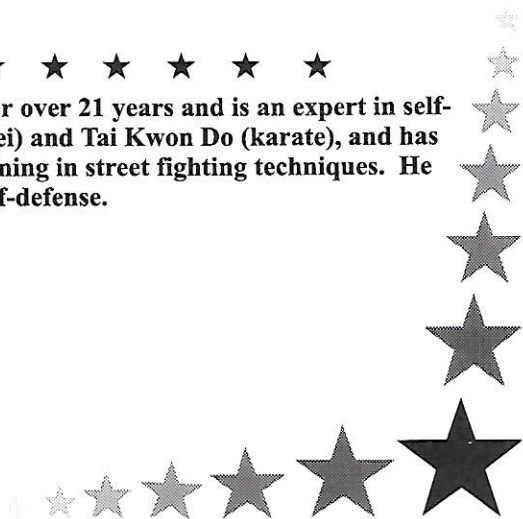
Kaye Barrier is a former IBM Manager and Senior Equal Opportunity Specialist. She was the first Ms. Wheelchair NC crowned in 1978 via Pageant Competition. She then went on to be in the Top Ten in the 1979 National Pageant. Currently Kaye serves as President of the Ms. Wheelchair NC, Inc, Board of Directors.

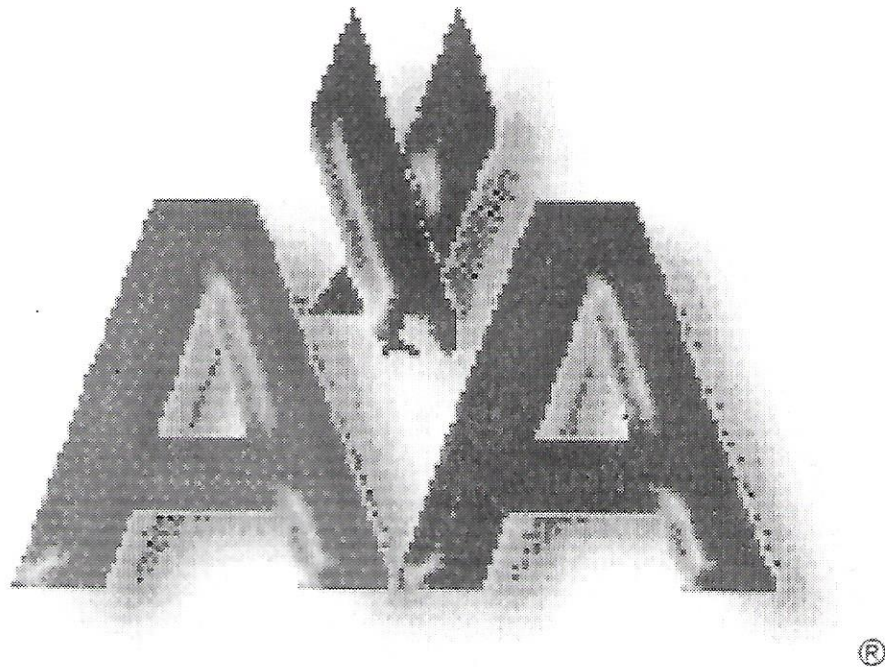
She now resides in N. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina where she enjoys her family and friends. Her time remains busy, serving as a Motivation/Inspirational speaker. She offers training sessions on a wide variety of subjects for Business Professionals, Schools, Colleges and Religious Organizations. Kaye is an active community leader; serving as President of the North Strand American Business Women's Assoc., Board member for the United Way and Hospice, and Trustee for Carolinas Fellowship Baptist Church.

"Kaye believes that our life is a gift from God and what we choose to do with it is our gift back to God!!!"



Mike Wilson, has been a practicing attorney in Charlotte for over 21 years and is an expert in self-defense. He holds black belts in Street Self-Defense (Czi Wei) and Tai Kwon Do (karate), and has trained in several other martial arts, including years of training in street fighting techniques. He has trained, or assisted in training, over 2000 women in self-defense.



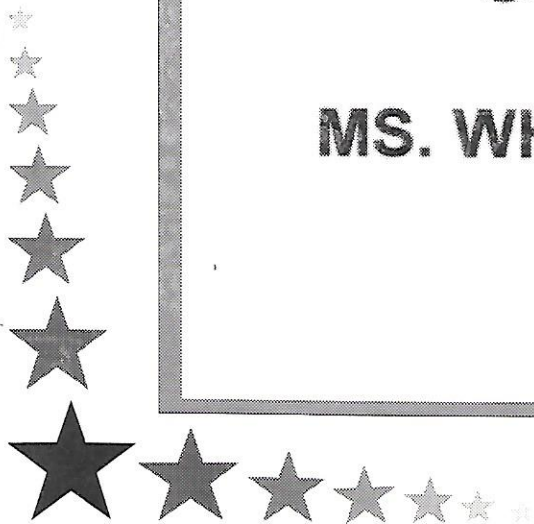


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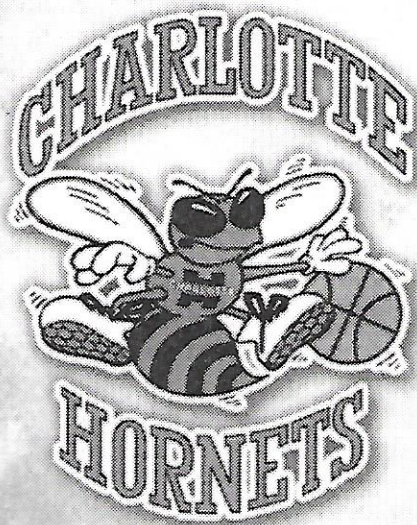
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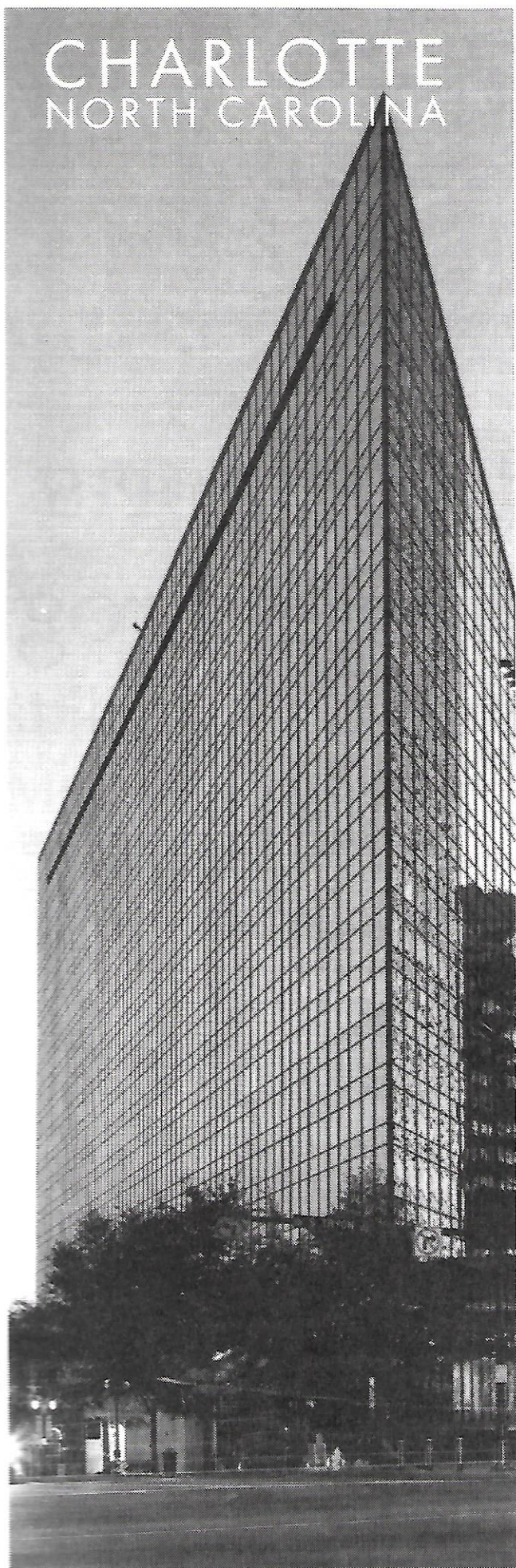


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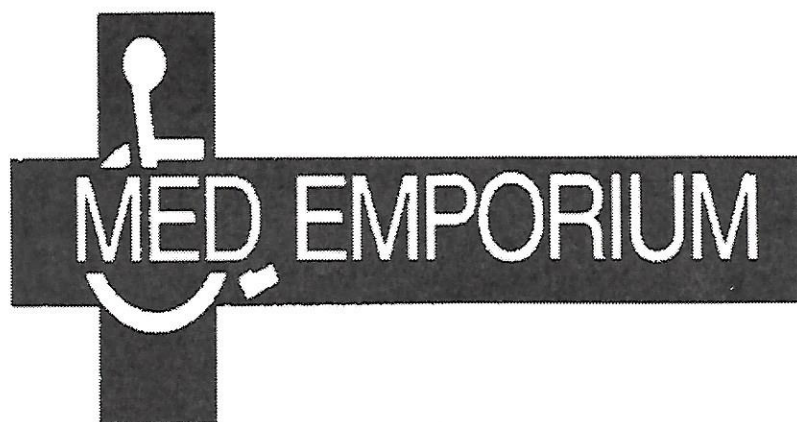
Charlotte Institute of Rehabilitation

***Thank you for being examples of
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***Good luck in the Ms.
Wheelchair America
Program.***





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Good Luck, Christina!!
We Love You!!!



Christina Gilmore
Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin

Love, Mom, Dad, Craig, Barb, Cole
Kevin & Karen

A Special Thank You to All My Sponsors.....

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Employees of Chrysler Motors

Lou Ross

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The Griffin Family

Fireside Restaurant & Lounge

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Members of the Kenosha Moose Lodge

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Good Luck

*Love: Dad, Lynn, Page
AJ, Christy, Jae
& Benji*

Ms. Wheelchair South Carolina



I would like to thank all my sponsors for their financial help, as well as for cheering me on. I really appreciate it!

Medtronic 

*Love,
Jenny*

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Jenny Smith
Ms. Wheelchair Kentucky 1998



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Good Luck!



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**Would like to wish the best of luck to one of our
very own riders as she participates in the
Ms. Wheelchair America Program**



Elaine Spallone
Ms. Wheelchair North Carolina



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Congratulations Sheila
1998 Ms. Wheelchair Mississippi

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Good Luck, Sis!



Sheila Burnham
Ms. Wheelchair Mississippi 1998



"Good Luck Beverly"
Thanks for all your hard work



Good Luck to Beverly Jones
Ms. Wheelchair Tennessee
from



For Sports Medicine & Orthopaedics
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**From, The Board
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We Celebrate...

Beverly Jones,

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1998

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Ms. Wheelchair New York 1998
Betty Slavicek Gastelua
with her husband Danny Gastelua

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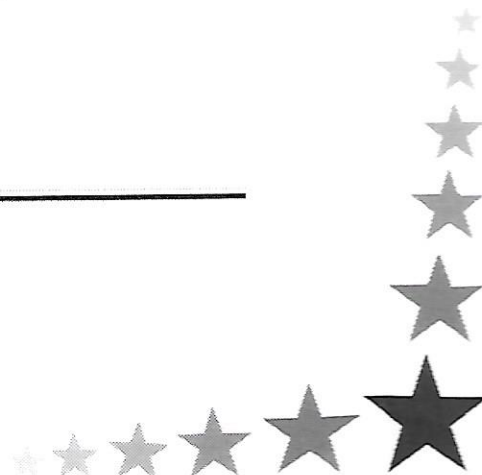
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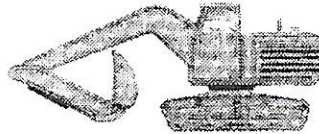
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North Shore- Long Island Jewish Health System
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Pageant
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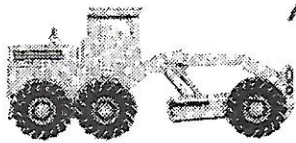
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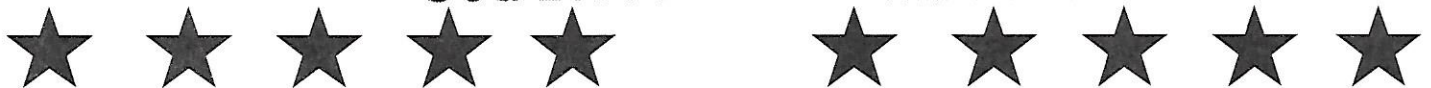
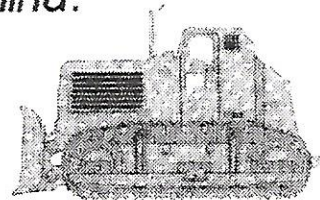
Max V. Hilton
President

Kip Hilton
Vice President

*Hilton Contractors, Inc. would like to welcome
the contestants of The Ms. Wheelchair
America Program to
North Carolina.*



*Good Luck and may
God Bless*



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All my friends

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For Ms. Wheelchair NJ Jeanine Stoddart



"I wish you the best of luck. And remember, my heart and soul are with you forever! With Love,
Your Husband Dave"

"Austin and I wish our beautiful mother luck!
From you adoring sons, Stephen and Austin"



The Ms. Wheelchair Colorado
Board of Directors
Barb, Bev, Jennifer,
Judy and Joanne, SALUTES

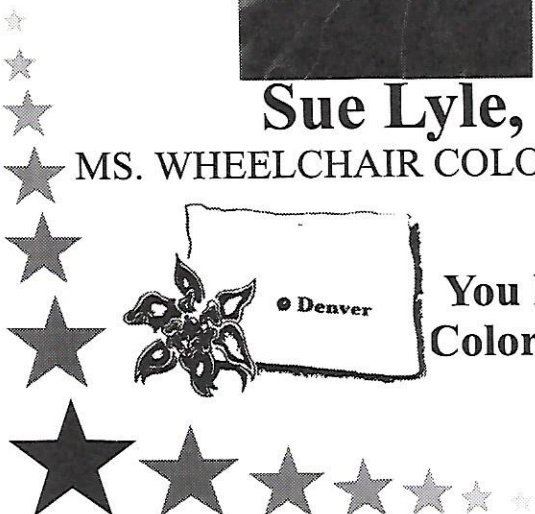


Sue Lyle,

MS. WHEELCHAIR COLORADO 1998



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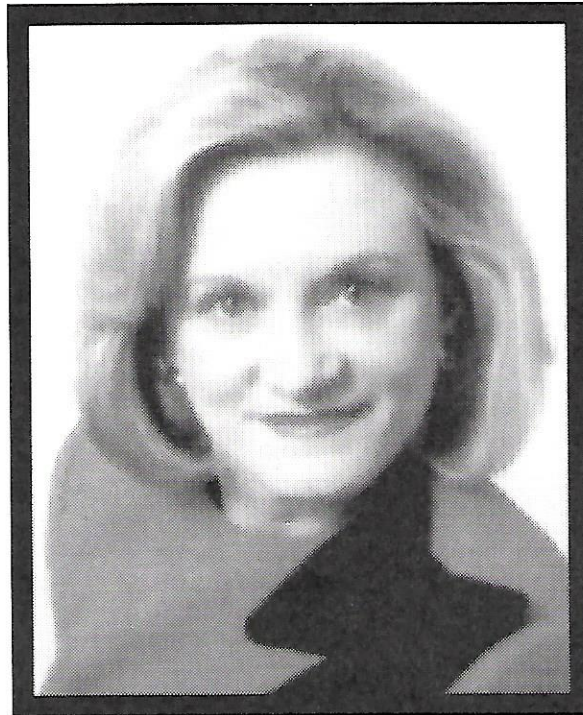
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**GOOD LUCK
TO
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(Ms. WHEELCHAIR MISSISSIPPI)**



SAIL YOUR
VESSEL

**FROM YOUR CRONIES:
SHERRY, CAROLYN, DENISE, CAROL,
YVONNE, TAMMY, AND SUE**



Vicki Kerkvliet
Ms. Wheelchair South Dakota



Good Luck Vicki!
We Love You!!

Your Brother and Sisters
Kathy, Tony, Kenny
Scott and Laura

The Shop

Congratulations
and Best Wishes
to

Our Special Volunteer and
Ms. Wheelchair Michigan
Monica Durrett Blue

From Your Friends at
Detroit Riverview Hospital
and
Macomb Hospital Center

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Congratulations Ellen Shackelford



Ms. Wheelchair Virginia

**From Your Loving Family and
Friends**

**Jason, Ashley, Cortney
And Elijah**



Ms. Wheelchair Maryland



Tracy Wright

*I would like to thank all my family and
friends for their support and for making
this year a success.*

Love Tracy



**Mary A. Michael
Ms. Wheelchair California**

**Wishes to thank all her sponsors,
for all their support and prayers.**

Her Church

Her Family

Robert & Laura Brandt

Norma Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. John O'Loughlin

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Susan Krogstad

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas DeNatale

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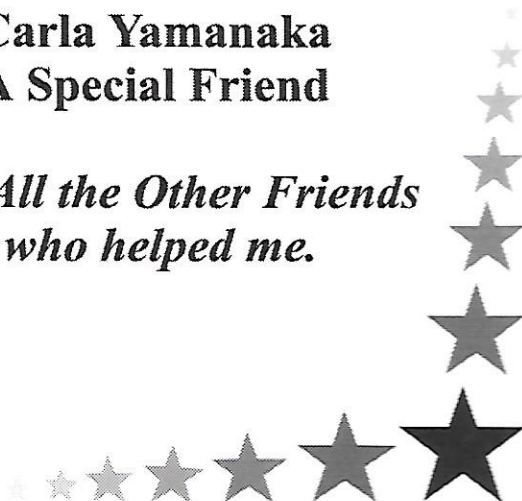
Claudia Cunningham

Dianne Gill

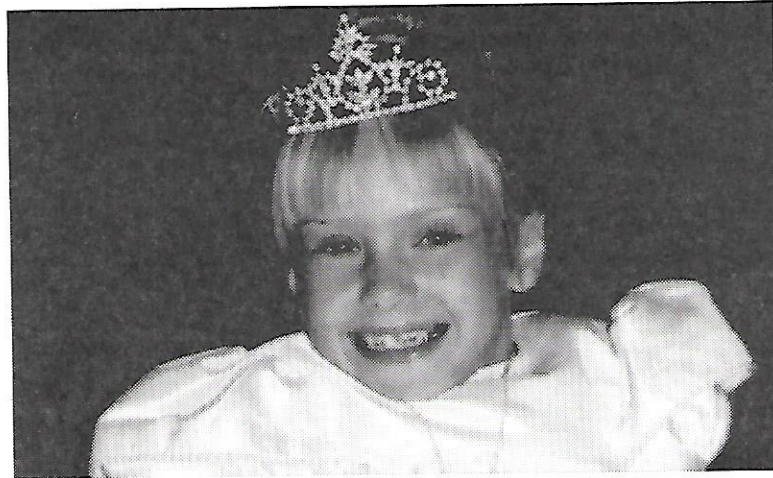
Carla Yamanaka

A Special Friend

***And All the Other Friends
who helped me.***



Congratulations



Logan Sweatt
**Junior Miss Wheelchair
North Carolina
1997-1998**

We are so proud of you!!!

With All Our Love.....

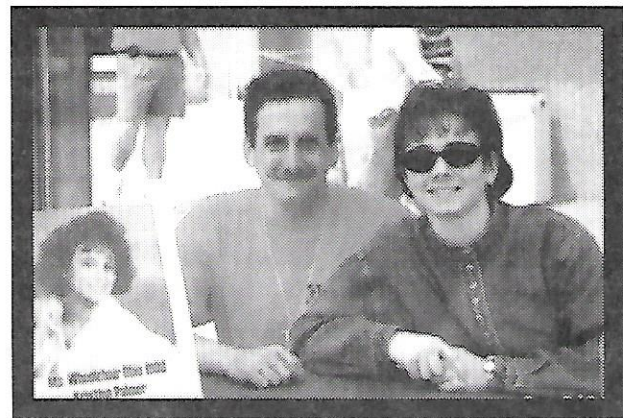
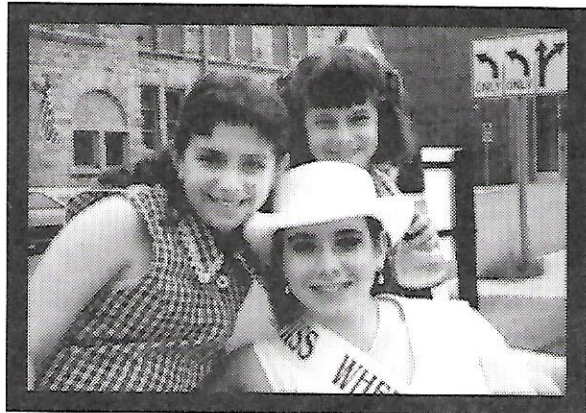
**Your Family and Friends
North Myrtle Beach, SC**



CONGRATULATIONS & GOOD LUCK !

KRISTINE PALMER,

Miss Wheelchair Ohio '98



From ...

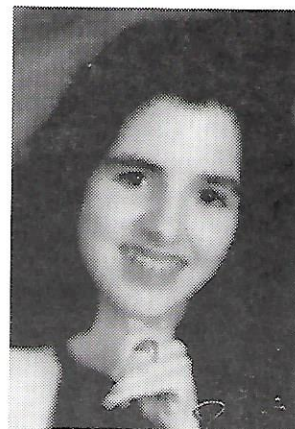
The County of Summit Board of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities, The Miss Wheelchair Ohio Committee, Kohl's Department Store, I Do Bridal Shop, Dr. Norman Czubaj, Lowery Lookard, Carole Bright, Betsy McGhee, Marlene Shepard, Beth Loeffler, Mary Mendoza, Cynthia & Jack Foster, Jackie Ebner, Stefan Welch, Palmer Family, Fisher Family, Lindeman Family, Rose Family, Senokozlieff Family, Howell Family, Hope Family, Leslie Murray, Gretchen Ryan, Pat Rife, Stephanie Falconer, Yvonne Cook, Marie Blaurock, Chuck Skoczen, Cindy Hanna, Sue Bachemer, Caroline Cotton, Marge Green, Kim Hands, Jean Martin, Pam Sutton, Debbie Williams, Shirley Woodall, Joyce Serdinak, Sandra Weems, Laura Strebel, Dale Hedrick, Christine Cook, Don Hazzik, Gail Korora, Marcia Dufore, Sherron Schelkle, Jill Boxler, Joe Antonucci, Roger & Marsha Garner, Maggie Albright, and Bonnie Long.



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the Olive Garden*

*Michael T. Taylor - General Manager
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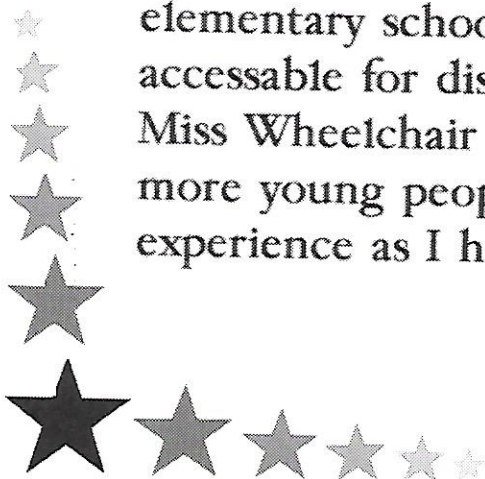


Despina Karras



The Olive Garden Resturant
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Charlotte, NC 28205

Being Teen Miss Wheelchair North Carolina this year has been a wonderful experience for me. I've had so much fun being in the program by organizing fundraisers and speaking to elementary school classes about how to make this world more accessable for disabled people. I sincerely hope that the Teen Miss Wheelchair Program can grow in the upcoming years so more young people can get involved and have a rewarding experience as I have had.



Contestants Sponsors

California-Mary Michael: Robert & Laura Brandt, Norma Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. John O'Loughlin, Ricon Corp., Susan Krogstad, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas DeNatale, Carla Yamanaka, Dianne Gill, Claudia Cunningham, Trudi Wallie Horrocks Sally & Sue Widup, James L. 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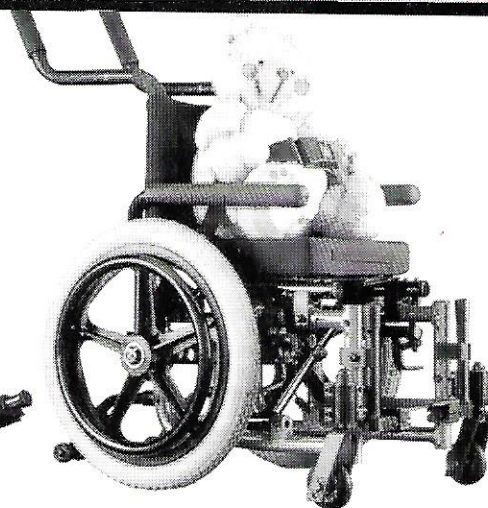
Craig Hospital

3425 S. Clarkson Street • Englewood, CO 80155
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Congratulations to all of the contestants!

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