2002 Ms. Wheelchair America Program



July 31 - August 4, 2001

Welcome to Colorado!

The Craig Hospital family of patients. families, and staff warmly welcomes the 2002 Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant to Denver. Since 1956 Craig has been helping individuals and their families from all over the U.S. to rebuild their lives following spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury, and we have supported the Ms. Wheelchair Colorado program for many years. We are proud to support this year's national pageant in Denver, and we hope that you have a successful event and a wonderful stay in Colorful Colorado. Best wishes to all the contestants and quests.





Wellington E. Webb

Mayor



August 4, 2001

City and County of Denver

CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING • DENVER COLORADO • 80202

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

Greetings!

On behalf of the citizens of the City and County of Denver, I would like to congratulate all involved in the 29th Annual 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,

Wellington E. Webb

Allington E. fills

Mayor



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

August 1, 2001

Dear Participants in the National Ms. Wheelchair Pageant:

It is a pleasure for me to welcome all participants, families, and spectators to the City of Northglenn. 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 beautiful place to visit. Northglenn has much to offer including convenient shopping centers, 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 offstreet 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,

D. L. Parsons

Mayor

CITY OF NORTHGLENN

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol Denver, Colorado 80203-1792 Phone (303) 866-2471





August 1, 2001

Greetings:

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Colorado, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 29th Ms. Wheelchair America competition.

I want to commend the Ms. Wheelchair America Program for its tireless effort to educate the public regarding the dignity, productiveness and basic value of disabled people. It is my hope that you will enjoy your stay in beautiful Northglenn, Colorado. Colorado's climate is the envy of the nation. Our Rocky Mountains provide the opportunity endless amounts of recreation.

Again, best wishes for a successful competition and good luck to all the contestants.

Sincerely,

Bill Owens Governor



Pat O'Bryant, Executive Director KENTUCKY

> Gail McKoon, President GEORGIA

Robert Watson, Vice President MARYLAND

Judy Hoit, Secretary

Vicki Kerkvliet, Treasurer SOUTH DAKOTA

To:

Contestants, Companions, State Coordinators, Family Members,

Sponsors and Friends

From:

Pat O'Bryant, Executive Director

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant in Colorado. Barb Cramer and her fantastic crew have been working for months to make sure that you have a very special week and a unique experience.

Becoming the Executive Director this year has been an exciting challenge and we on the Board of Directors are pleased to announce that we have brought together representatives from 26 States and the District of Columbia. We could not have accomplished this goal without the continued support of our State Coordinators and the fulfilling of the commitment made by last year's Independent Delegates—now State Coordinators themselves. Thank each one of you for all your hard work and dedication and meeting our deadlines. I know it was not always easy!

Thanks too, to our current Ms. Wheelchair America, Nicki Ard who has traveled throughout our Country giving of herself and speaking on behalf of all disabled persons, especially those in wheelchairs. Your reward is a job well done!

It has also been my privilege to speak with and to meet the wonderful accomplished and talented Titleholders that your state judges have sent us as participants in the 27th Annual Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant You contestants are all winners! We wish you the best! And to paraphrase a special slogan, we hope you:

Live Well.......Compete well

Laugh Often.....Enjoy the moment(s)

Love Much......Meet the most extraordinary people of a lifetime

In the words of the song; "We hope you dance!"

A Message from the Host State Director . . .

In 1972, an educational process was born 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 ablebodied person WAS the wheelchair!

This week, twenty-nine years later, accomplished women using a mobility device will travel to Denver to compete for the title of Ms. Wheelchair America. As Host State Director, I, along with the entire Ms. Wheelchair Colorado Board of Directors welcome you to Denver, the city a Mile High.

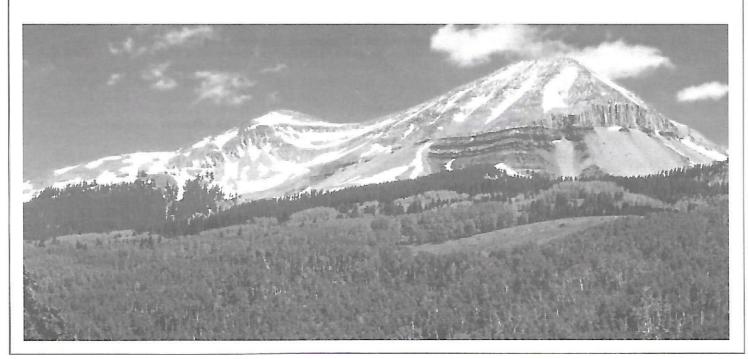


We welcome all of you to this years program; contestants, family, friends, and sponsors. We appreciate your commitment to this program. Each year unforgettable memories are made and new friendships blossom. We hope that all of you that are involved in the MWA program this week will go forward and share your experiences with others, so that one day all fifty states will send a representative to the Ms. Wheelchair America Program.

We have a fun and memorable time planned for all of you this week. You will have a chance to see some of our beautiful Colorado scenery, as well as hear some of Colorado's finest speakers and entertainers throughout the week. Then, on Saturday evening, we all together, will CELEBRATE AMERICA with the crowning of the 2002 titleholder. All the rest will share in her excitement and in the exciting accomplishments of all previous titleholders.

Together, we come, past titleholders, contestants, state coordinators, family and friends, to witness the accomplishments and abilities of 27 wonderful women. All of us have had obstacles along the way, all of us have climbed mountains to get to where we are today, but, as Jean V. Russell put it, "... and , so as surely as the sea rises to meet the shore, so the mountain of our victory shall stand forever more." Good Luck and Best Wishes to all of our contestants this year. You are all worthy to wear the crown.

Barb Cramer





Greetings from iCan!

August 4, 2001

iCan! would like to salute the extraordinary women of Ms. Wheelchair America 2002, and congratulate you on your achievements, your aspirations, and the inspiration that you provide to people with disabilities and the community at large.

iCan.com, the leading online community for people with disabilities, is proud to lend our support as the Official Media Sponsor of Ms. Wheelchair America. We hope that our efforts help raise awareness about the event so it can continue to grow in the years to come, and that we create opportunities for tonight's contestants so they can continue to serve as leaders and advocates for the disability community.

As the founder and CEO of iCan!, and as a wheelchair user, I invite all of you in attendance tonight to visit us at iCan.com. By joining the iCan Community, you can participate in the ongoing dialogue of industry leaders, have access to the Web's most comprehensive collection of disability information and resources, and help create positive change that will lead to life-changing opportunities, and improved quality of life, for people with disabilities.

I hope you'll join in our shared mission.

Thanks for letting iCan be part of this magical night and, to all of tonight's participants, shine on!

Heidi Van Arnem Founder and CEO iCan!, Inc.

www.ican.com

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250 East 12th Street Casper, Wyoming 82601 307-472-2877



From The Heart Of..... Nieke And Ms. Wheelchair America 2001

It is sometimes so amazing how time flies and it is very hard for me to believe that one of the best years of my life has come to an end. I never imagined on that Saturday night, one year ago in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, that I would have such a feeling of fulfillment and great honor as I do right now. This is a bittersweet time for me. It's a time when I can proudly say that I have lived the dream. Although another verse in my song is ending, there are many more to be written and the next wonderful queen will continue writing the ballad and represent Ms. Wheelchair America in an awesome way.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped make my year as Ms. Wheelchair America one that I will never forget. This year has fulfilled a lifelong dream of mine. Last August, when I went to the national Ms. Wheelchair America competition, my only hope was to make tons of new lifelong friends and have a wonderful experience. Instead, to my great surprise, I took home the crown.

This year has been quite an honor for me as Ms. Wheelchair America 2001, but it has also been an humbling experience. I have seen the faces of small children in wheelchairs as they look at me and realize that adversity can be a gift. I saw it as they opened their tiny bright eyes and thought, "If she can...I can". Those memories are ones that I will treasure forever. I have also had some of the most exciting days of my life as MWA 2001 and each special person in my life has helped make this possible. I have been able to travel all over the United States and share my story with people of all ages. I now know the awesome responsibilities that come with a national title, but even more, I know the joys.

I want all of you to know that I have lived the dream of a little girl who, at age 6, heard on the radio that there was a "Ms. Wheelchair SC" pageant. I could not wait until I was old enough to compete. I met Ms. Wheelchair SC at a telethon when I was 10 years old and I knew then that I had a goal. I wanted to wear the crown. I would not quit until I did. Finally.....my dream came true ~ all in good time. Unexpectedly, the dream got even better as I was chosen to wear the national crown.

This farewell letter is to say "thank you" to all who have supported me and helped make my reign the best I could ever hope for. I now ask that you help spread the word to everyone that Ms. Wheelchair America is a position of high honor and esteem. We are committed to showing the world that women in wheelchairs are voices in America worthy of being heard. We wrote the book on drive and determination and expect only what we deserve.

So, this is farewell. It's been a year that I could never forget and to the new queen, it will be the same for you. Thank you to all who have loved me, laughed with me, cried with me and shared in my greatest joys. Each time I think that my life has reached its peak, I am quickly proven wrong. I've learned to never ask "What next?". I only await a new beginning and I thank God daily for my "gift" ~ the gift of adversity. This year has given new meaning to my life quote..... "I live my life, every day, writing a melody the world will remember when my song is complete." The melody continues and I thank you all for having a part in my song. As always......rolling forward.

From The Heart,

Ms. Wheelchair America 2001

Nicki's Year



Crowning ceremonies Fort Lauderdale, Florida



Nicki singing for the flight of the USAF Thunderbirds Flight Team



Speaking/singing in town square at the Valley in the Blue Ridge Mountains



On the cover of MDA's *Quest Magazine*. circulation 110,000



Listening to a child read at his school



Receiving the DateAble Image Award in Washington DC



Nicki with two 'Make A Wish" kids



With Vince Gill and Ricky Skaggs backstage at the Grammys

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

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

B. Communication Skills

- 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

- 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

Laura L. Abdelaziz



Ms. Abdelaziz is a human services professional with over 20 years experience, working with individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and/or psychiatric disabilities. She has provided services to individuals with special needs in residential, vocational, leisure-recreation and day program settings. She is a dedicated individual with a strong commitment to quality services, team work, and community participation.

Ms. Abdelaziz was awarded a BA degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland University College in 1982. She began work on a Master of Arts degree in Special Education at the George Washington University in 1987. She has worked as manager, trainer, facilitator, advocate, and developer to private and government agencies in the Washington Metro area. Currently she is the director of "Making Connections", a social membership group for individuals with cognitive/developmental disabilities serving Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia.



Katie Barton

Ms. Barton moved to Colorado in 1980 from St. Louis, Missouri. She has a 16 year old son, Chase, who she thinks will probably be a comedian or a politician. She married Dr. Dave Barton three years ago after a whirlwind courtship that lasted three months! All three of them share the same interests - skiing, horses, and a love of animals. She lives on a 2-1/2 acre ranch southeast of Denver where she has two thoroughbreds, Scarlet and Yukon, and a mini-horse, Chicklet. She has ridden horses most of her life, having played Polo for 17 years.

Ms. Barton is a telecommunications consultant, specializing in cost reduction. She owns her own company, TeleAudit Plus. She has been in the telecommunications industry since 1987.

Judges Continued



Kathy Garcia-Farnsworth

Ms. Farnsworth was raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. She graduated from Utah State University with a BA in Social Work. She is currently employed by Utah Transit Authority as a Customer Relations Administrator for the paratransit division. She is a member of the Utah Governor's Council. She uses a wheelchair due to polio at the age of 18 months. Ms. Farnsworth is married, has a daughter Seneca and a four-year-old grandson, and is a former Ms. Wheelchair America titleholder.



Douglas P. Lathrop

Mr. Lathrop is Managing Editor of *New Mobility Magazine*. A person with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, he has been involved with disability issues for many years as a writer for *Mainstream*, a volunteer with the OI Foundation and as a fundraiser for the Access Center of San Diego, California where he currently lives.



Tracy Charlton-O'Connor

Mrs. O'Connor is the coordinator and presenter for the "Think First" program. She is involved in Friends of Rehab, counsels patients with spinal cord injuries, and she is also involved in Big Brother-Big Sister, and speaks to young people about courage and other related topics. She has spoken to over 8,000 people in the last 5 years on the prevention of spinal cord injuries. The Girl Scouts of America recently voted her "Woman of Distinction of the Year". She was MWA 2000 and was married to Dr. Brian O'Connor in December of that year. She is employed at the Rapid City Regional Hospital, and builds spec homes on the side. She enjoys snow skiing, water skiing, fishing and horseback riding and hopes to someday write a book on her life experiences as well as open a ranch for handicapped children.



Susan Lyle - Judge Coordinator

Ms. Lyle lives in Federal Heights, Colorado and is a past Ms. Wheelchair Colorado titleholder and a recipient of a MWA Outstanding Achievement Award. She is also a past recipient of the prestigious '9 Who Cares Award'. Ms. Lyle is very politically involved in her community, and is known for 'wheeling' from Las Vegas, Nevada to Denver, Colorado to raise money for abused women. She shares her life with her daughter Misty and her grand daughter Kayla. She is also very involved with her small business venture, "The Rolling Radio Show".



Jordan James - Judge Coordinator Assistant

Ms. James is a sophomore at Berthoud High School, and is very involved with the "Bridge Between Show Choir", having recently performed in New York City at Carnegie Hall.Ms. James recently returned from a two week European cruise which she claims to have been the 'event of her life'. She is also involved in theatre, drama, and plays basketball for BHS. She is the daughter of Joanne James, a former Ms. Wheelchair Colorado, and guest speaker at this weeks event.



California Ruthie Goldkorn

Ruthie resides in Moreno Valley with her husband and daughter, and uses a wheelchair due to MS. She enjoyed 17 years of continuing education classes in the medical administration field, and is currently an access consultant. She was the first female president of Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, founded the NO BARRIERS disabled access consulting firm, the Accessibility Appeals Board, is a member of California's for Disability Rights, and considers herself to be funny, dedicated, and a 'pit bull'.



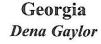
Colorado Candy Marsh

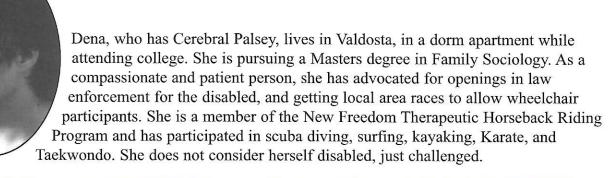
Candy considers herself a super mom and a very caring and tenacious person. She uses a wheelchair due to a water-skiing accident. Candy is currently a registered nurse, and has also been trained in the pharmaceutical field. She serves on the High Plains Paint Horse Club Board of Directors, and developed and implemented accredited horseshow classes for the disabled. She volunteers as a consult to new patients and new mothers at a local rehab center, and her dream is to start a camp for handicapped children.

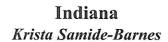


Florida Linda Clark

Linda lives with her husband in St. Petersburg. She has been teaching for 25 years and is currently a full-time teacher of band and chorus. She is a Kiwanian, and member of Alpha Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. As a determined, energetic and loving person, she has taught physically and mentally challenged students. She is a member of the Florida Vocal Association, Florida Bandmasters Association, and others. She feels that her disability has not prevented her from performing all activities.









Krista lives with her husband in Granger, and has been disabled since birth. She is involved in fundraising for the American Heart Association, is a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team, and also volunteers with Crisis Line. She has an interest in becoming an attorney in Disability Law, is legally trained to write tickets for people who illegally park in handicapped spaces, and continues to educate businesses on accessibility. She considers herself to be motivated, funloving and friendly and enjoys traveling, fishing, and working outdoors.

Iowa Becky Cadwell

Becky is married and the mother of three children. She suffered a spinal stroke in 1990, and currently is employed at Gateway Computers. She is board president for Three River Independent Living, and a board member of Iowa Program of Assistive Technology. She received the Civic Service Award for outstanding efforts in calling attention to the barriers facing the disabled, and attends many conferences focusing on independent living. She loves to camp, swim, and as a determined and creative person, she and her husband have built several raised gardens.

Kentucky LaDonna Brock

LaDonna, who uses a mobility device due to Muscular Dystrophy, lives with her husband Bill in Richmond. She attended Garrards County Vocational School and is self employed as a Diamond Designer/Independent Contractor through Home and Garden Party Inc. She is involved with Think First and volunteers at a local rehab hospital. she believes that there is a wonderful life after a traumatic, life altering experience, and wants to share that awareness with others. With an outgoing and positive attitude, she continues to be involved with research for spinal cord injuries. She and her husband designed and built their current home.

Maryland Margaret "Muffi" Lavigne

Muffi lives in Rockville, and uses a wheelchair due to a form of Muscular Dystrophy. She is currently an information/referral coordinator at the National Offices of United Cerebral Palsey, with a goal set to move into a marketing position. She continues to pursue her education with hopes of obtaining a Masters degree in non-profit management. She met with President Clinton in 1996, thanking him for his commitment to persons with disabilities, and considers herself to be an authentic, insightful, and loving person. She enjoys spending time with her standard Schnauzer service dog, Rudy.

Michigan Shani Khalil McLoyd

Shani lives in Ann Harbor, and was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1993. She graduated from Spelman College in 1999 with plans to attend law school this fall. She is also a licensed real estate agent, and she manages French classes for grades 6 through 12, and teaches disability awareness. She is involved with a center for independent living, where she is forming a support group for young adults with disabilities. She enjoys speaking to business and community groups and has enjoyed travels to Ghana, Jamica, and Puerto Rico. She considers herself a compassionate and energetic person.

Minnesota Glenda Diana Giles

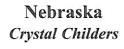
Glenda lives in Zimmerman with her two sons. She is a writer for the *Pen Pal Connection* and a celebrity news editor. Glenda reports on the news of soap opera stars and interviews them as well. She hopes to advance her writing skills, and considers herself to be reliable and quick witted. She was recently chosen for an interview with a local newspaper, and has been involved with Head Start. Glenda uses a wheelchair due to a fall.

Mississippi Rae Mathis

Rae, her husband Roy, and their four children, live in Ripley. She was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1991. She facilitates cross-disability support groups, peer counseling and organizes community projects for LIFE of North Mississippi Independent Living Center. She organized the Mayors Council on Disability, and a horticulture therapy garden at a local nursing home. She has been the Goodwill Ambassador for the National MS Society, did a television spot for the MS Walk, and has done extensive public speaking during her college days. She considers herself to be a caring and eager person, and continues to educate the community about disability issues.

Missouri Kelly Giannattasio

Kelly lives in Kansas City, and is a paraplegic due to an automobile accident. She is involved with Fashion Models of America, and is currently a corporate travel agent. She has been an Easter Seals volunteer, worked with Teen Outreach Program, and is a peer counselor for new injuries at a local rehab center. She would like to continue her education and obtain a Masters degree at the University of Missouri, and become a licensed counselor. As a driven and sensitive person she advocated with her employer to make their office building completely accessible for the disabled.

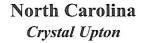




Crystal, who describes herself as hardworking and trustworthy, lives in Omaha, and is a 7th-8th grade science teacher. She uses a wheelchair due to an automobile accident in 1993. She spends her time speaking at churches and schools, as well as small-town businesses on accessibility and disability issues. She was a Student Teacher of the Year in 1997 and was nominated for Disney Teacher of the Year in 2000. She believes herself to still be a small-town girl, and tries to what keep her life simple and enjoy God has given

New York Denise DiNoto

Denise lives in Waterford and has had Spinal Muscular Atrophy since birth. She is currently a speech-language pathologist for area nursing homes. She has also worked at the College of Saint Rose as a personal assistant for college students with disabilities. She spent a year as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student in Australia. She has lectured as a guest speaker for Dr. Maureen Gillette's graduate course in multicultural education. She also represented an in-service in May entitled "Therapeutic Communication: Breaking Down Barriers To Effective Communication". She considers herself to be determined and vivacious.





Crystal lives in Goodwin with her husband Daniel and uses a wheelchair due to a 4-Wheeler accident. She is currently a chiropractor's assistant, and also volunteers at the Golden Years Nursing Home. As a disabled woman she wishes to make an impression on the world by educating the public and sharing with them that everyone with a disability has a rightful place in society. She considers herself outgoing, friendly and caring, and hopes to reinforce pride in disabled people.

A sincere **THANK YOU** to Dick Dedrick of **Dick Dedrick Productions Services** for all his time and talents spent on the 2002 Ms. Wheelchair America Program video. For MWA Video request forms, stop in at the registration table. For further information call 303-756-9682 to request information on MWA and his Video Family Album.

There's nothing like a video for making memories come alive.

Oklahoma Codi Dawn Culwell

Codi lives in Marietta, and sustained a spinal cord injury in 1994. She is currently a college student studying at MSC in Ardmore, with her career goal set at being a television news caster. She speaks to local schools and church groups on seat belt safety and how to reach for your dreams. She believes herself to be a smart and determined young woman and someday would like to be the Suzanne Sommers of spinal cord injury victims, possibly by making an exercise video. She believes strongly in physical fitness, for both the body and the mind. She also believes that God had a purpose for her life and has a firm belief in Him.

Pennsylvania Jessica McFarlane

Jessica lives in Spring City and has used a wheelchair since the onset. She developed a business plan for a web site design business, and is currently a free-lance writer for an on-line publication. As the education manager she oversees others at LifeTips.com. Her first publication *Journey Into Friendship* was published this year. She is also a Sunday school teacher and also has plans to teach at college level. She is a vivacious and creative person, loves to read, surf the net, swim an horseback ride. She hopes one day to become a wife and mother.

South Carolina Barbara Knight

Barbara lives in Easley and uses a wheelchair due to Cerebral Palsey. She is an animal lover and has two cats named Kirby and Coco. She has a Bachelor's degree in communication and considers herself bubbly, a dreamer and outgoing. She has received a writers achievement award and would love to have one of her writings published one day. She looks forward to making new friends and plans to have a good time at the MWA program in Denver.

South Dakota Laura Lynn McGreevy

Laura lives in Tea, and suffered a gymnastics accident in 1995. She's a recent college graduate, and as an aggressive and motivated person she should have no problems finding a career position. She has volunteered for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and for READY (a college disability organization), and for a soup kitchen for the needy. She was featured in "This Week Dakota", and at a Governor's Award Luncheon. She is the youngest of four children and hopes to have a family of her own one day.





Tennessee Andrea Cooper

Andrea was admitted to practice law in Tennessee in 1994. She lives with her husband in Nashville and sustained a spinal cord injury in 1996. She serves on the Mayors Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, chairs the Transportation Coalition, and serves on the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities. With her determination and compassion, she will hopefully, one day combine her training in law with her experiences with having a disability and return to practicing law.



Texas Holly Wayman

Holly was born with Spina Bifida, and she lives in Denton where she is currently a student studying Speech and Hearing Science. She has led a toy drive for a low income family, been a youth leader at Vacation Bible School, and works with the "Rainbow Connection" and "Helping Hands". She has led a protest for equal rights for the disabled, and considers herself to be a determined, happy and stubborn individual. Her goal is to earn a Masters degree in Deaf Education.



Virginia Joan Margaret Lanzendorfer

Joan, who has had a disability since birth, comes to us from Alexandria. She is a service coordinator for Medicaid and other state funded PAS programs. She hopes to continue her education and obtain a Masters degree in transition special education. She also works with the Fair Housing Council of greater Washington DC, was a founder of ECNV Singles Group, has been involved with inner city youth, and was a Lector in her church. Joan considers herself to be an assertive and determined person who is a first generation American. She speaks both German and English and has made over 10 trips to Germany.



Julie, or Jewells, as she likes to be called, is from Tacoma, and has Dermatomyositis. She is a notary public, a real estate agent for Century 21, prepares income tax returns for H&R Block and hopes to become a Certified Public Accountant. She works diligently with the local public transportation company for better access for the disabled, and has been an advocate for several state agencies. She considers herself to be passionate about animals and is a very reliable, honest and caring person.



Washington DC Djuna Parmley

Djuna lives in DC and uses a wheelchair due to Cerebral Palsey. She is a Peer Counselor/Independent Living Skills Trainer, with future plans to become an attorney doing general practice. This strong and patient woman was chosen Woman of the Year by the National Association of Women in Education, New York State. She participates in actions and rallys to advocate for policy and physical modifications to increase access for people with disabilities (ADAPT). She volunteered for the Washington DC Center for Independent Living and is also on their board of directors.



Wisconsin Heidi Evans

Heidi lives in Slinger where she is a single homeowner. She was injured while riding an ATV. She is currently employed by Independent Care Inc., an integrated Health Care and Social Services Insurance program. She is also a print advertising model for retail stores and businesses. She graduated with honors from college and was a member of the National Honor Society. She addresses occupational/physical therapy students and health care professionals, etc., on her personal experiences and considers herself to be good-hearted and gracious. She would love to be married and start a family in the future.



Wyoming Liz Ladeburg

Liz lives in Casper and has had a disability since birth. She is currently working on her GED, and is a Self Advocacy Specialist, helping persons 18 and over start a self-advocacy group or learn how to get involved with one. She is on the ARC board, and a former board member for the Wyoming Association of Professionals in Supported Employment. She works with the MEGA conference, and refers people with disabilities to resources related to housing, service agencies, etc. Liz is a very helpful, understanding and happy person with a very positive attitude.



The Ms. Wheelchair Colorado Board of Directors, family and friends of Barb Cramer would like to congratulate her on winning the prestigious Harry J. Schweikert Jr./Disability Awareness Award for 2001.

Barb was nominated by Tom Wheaton, of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Rocky Mountain Chapter. Those nominated, represented individuals or groups of persons from across the United States, who have dedicated their lives to improving life for persons with disabilities. This award has been given out for the past 20 years, with one of the past recipients being Senator Bob Dole.



Barb's first priority has been her family. Her husband Bill has been her main support system throughout the past 38 years, as well as her three sons, Scott (Joy), Sean (Kim) and Steven.

Some of her accomplishments include: • founding/co-founding the Whirling Wheels, and Colorado Wheelers Wheelchair Square Dance Teams • Denver Spoke Benders Wheelchair Basketball Team • Mile High Marauders Wheelchair Sports Team • Colorado Sports for the Physically Challenged Colorado Junior Wheelchair Sports Camp), and the Ms. Wheelchair Colorado Pageant.

She has served on the Ms. Wheelchair America National Board both as Executive Director and as a committee member for ten years, and has hosted three Ms. Wheelchair America Pageants. She was a member of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Organization; the United States Paralympic Team; Colorado Social Services and Rehabilitation Council (selected by the Governor for 3 consecutive terms); the Mayor's Committee for Disabilities; Mayor's Committee for ADA and the American Legion Auxiliary. In 1996 she was selected as the handicapped person of Colorado to wheel with the Olympic Torch froughout the streets of Denver. She also started her own news publication Victory Rolls, published first book, The Denver Bronco's Barrelman, and continues to have articles, poems, and other tens of interest published in national magazines. After a 25 year career with the local school district, the and her husband Bill own and operate an adaptive equipment business. Along with her focus on itsability issues, she has raised more than \$300,000 for a variety of disability organizations throughtal Colorado.

Barb has numerous awards including two international Gold Medals in Shot Put, several Outstanding Achievement Awards, Civic Service Awards and Fundraising Awards, to name only a few.

Although she has had a fulfilling life working towards the betterment of the disability community, the **tighlight** of her life has always been her family. She received incredible support from her Christian **earents** who (from age eight, when she contracted polio), taught her to be independent and maintain strong faith. She has always allowed her disability to be a positive rather than a negative force.

We know that Barb would want to thank all of those who have been an integral part of her life, for without them, this award would not have been possible. Our thoughts are with her as she and Bill travel to Long Beach, California, the latter part of August, for the awards ceremony.

Master/Mistress of Ceremonies/Entertainers

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. Pam and her husband Don live in Parker, Colorado and have two children, Tarryn, 5, and Logan, 2. Pam was injured in a horseback riding accident when she was 14.



Master of Ceremonies - Saturday Night

Kirk Kilgour: was born in Los Angeles and raised in Manhattan Beach, California. Kirk completed an AA degree from Bellevue CC and has a BA in Psychology from UCLA. In 1976, while training with the Italian National Team for the Montreal Olympics he sustained a spinal cord injury which left him a quadriplegic. Since his injury he has maintained his active lifestyle as a sports broadcaster, coach, actor, writer, producer, disability consultant and motivational speaker. He has a successful TV career and works as an expert on-camera analyst, commentator and interviewer for several major networks. He and his fiancee Belinda live in Lakewood, Colorado.



Entertainers- Tuesday

Ken Crouse & Patti Rose - Amazing Art Works: Ken will be doing a caricature drawing of all contestants during the kick-off party. Patti is available to do silhouette drawings as well. These amazing artists are donating their time for this event.

Skip Gorman: owner of Skipper's Ice Cream Parlor in Idaho Springs, Colorado will graciously be greeting everyone at the kick-off party in his classic '58 red Cadillac convertible as he arrives dressed as St, Nicholas.

Entertainers - Wednesday

Roz Brown (where folk music is alive and well): will be entertaining at the Buffalo Bill Museum with his famous Western folklore poetry & music.

Craig Ingram: is a six foot six inch native of Colorado. Trick roping has been a significant part of his life for 10 years. He's performed at many private engagements as well as doing public appearances in Colorado, Kansas, Nevada and Chicago. He has competed for the past 4 years at the Wild West Arts Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Garry Alan Priest: is a promising singer/song writer whose sensitivity and genuine nature are apparent in his music as well as in his life. He recently released his first album entitled "Movin' Ahead". He has been the opening act for David Allan Coe and George Jones. In 1989 Garry was a survivor of the airplane crash in Sioux City, Iowa. This was the beginning of some radical changes in his life. He then changed his career and began to pursue his true passion, music, full time. This is the second MWA pageant that Garry has been involved in.

Entertainers - Thursday

Garry Alan Priest and Shauna Williams: to MC the Gong Show. Shauna is a former Ms. Wheelchair Wyoming and has been involved with Ms. Wheelchair Colorado programs as Judge Coordinator for the past nine years. She currently lives in Laramie, Wyoming and is currently employed by the University.

Entertainers - continued

Buffy VandenBroeke: began her singing career when her mom would hold a pretend microphone in front of her and she would sing away. She lives in Aurora with her husband Travis and two children.

Entertainers - Friday

Lucy Roucis: has Parkinsons Disease and is an advocate for people with disabilities as well as a stage performer. Her skit is about those who are "football" challenged.

Broadway Revue: Meaghan Cusack - is a 12 year old who loves to play the piano, but has been unable to practice much as she has been battling bone cancer in her right leg, She comes to us through The Young Music Ambassadors Program; Mark Dissete - has been involved in theatre, film and television production for the last 20 years. Since 1989 he has worked as a member of the theatre group PHAMLy; Paul Fiorino - is the artistic director of Ballet Arts Theatre. He was the featured subject of the PBS Special "Paul Fiorino, The Man Who Came To Dance"; He currently serves on the Governor's Council for Physical Fitness; Igor Genuntegin - is a 15 year old who also comes to us as a Young Music Ambassador. He represents the 170 children that live and study at the Artjom School for the Blind in Far East Russia. He plays guitar, piano and flute and enjoys composing and singing; David Mineo - has done an array of different roles including 'Peter and the Wolf', 'The Nutcracker', and 'The Three Corner Hat'. He teaches dance at the Boys and Girls Club of Denver and appears courtesy of Ballet Arts Theatre; Kathleen Traylor - is an actress and co-founder of PHAMLy. She has performed in such roles as Adelaide in 'Guys & Dolls', and Mame in 'Mame'; Teri Westerman - is a former Ms. Wheelchair Colorado who has performed with Ballet Arts Theatre for just over a year. She has appeared in Dance Event 2000 and in the Colorado Performing Arts Festival. She is also a co-founder and chairman of the board of PHAMLy; Joya Wonderlight - is the founder of Young Music Ambassadors, international cultural exchange. She is dedicated to bringing people, especially children, together through the medium of the performing arts; Katrina Weber - has appeared in 5 PHAMLy shows including 'Side Show' for which she received a Denver Drama Critics Circle Award Nomination for Best Actress in a Musical; Troy Willis - has appeared in ten PHAMLy shows. Troy has been on the waiting list for 3 years for a new kidney and would like everyone to know the importance of being an organ donor.

Becca Lancaster: was a member of the Colorado School for the Blind Choir, has sung at talent shows and family gatherings, and has sung at the past three Ms. Wheelchair Colorado State Pageants.

Nicki Ard: the current MWA, is a two-time gospel recording artist. She will be performing on both Friday and Saturday evenings.

The Rolling Radio Show: will once again be handling our Karaoke on Friday night besides providing all the music for the dance after the crowning on Saturday night.

Entertainment - Saturday

Lori Muha: of Aurora is an impersonator, and a unique and talented entertainer. Lori dresses and dances the roles of Elvis, John Travolta, and Ricky Nelson, plus many more and is so accurate that she was actually judged the winner of the 1995 Elvis competition in Central City, Colorado.

BluJazz: is a combination of Jazz, Blues & Good Times. Band members include Dave Marshall, Eddie Lagerberg, Greg Lagerberg, Tony Rodriguez, John Lyke, and Lenny Kellog.

Linda Wirth: is an actress and singer who has appeared in a variety of roles from drama to comedy to musical theatre in both Denver and Chicago. Blind since birth, Linda is the mother of four, holds a Masters degree and is a social service director of a local healthcare facility. She will be singing the National Anthem at the crowning event.

Charlie Gilbert: lives in Lafayette and has his own handy man business, besides being a part-time DJ for the Trail Side Saloon. He has recorded one CD at Avalanche Recording Studio.



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Speakers

Dr. David Barton: graduated from Cleveland Chiropractic college, KANSAS City, MO in 1994. He is certified in acupuncture and has a Bachelors degree in nutrition. Dr. Barton's practice concentrates on proper bio-mechanics of the body and how to correct problems arising from trauma, disease, muscle imbalances and misuse. Dr. Barton specializes in extremity adjustment and function and their relationship to the rest of the body. Dr. Barton will be offering acupuncture and adjustments at the Thursday workshop.

Ryan White: is a 1995 graduate of the Massage Therapy Institute of Colorado in the art and science of Integrative Massage Techniques. He is also a 1998 graduate of Metropolitan State College of Denver with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Performance and Sport. Ryan uses the application of Swedish Massage, Neuromuscular Therapy, Deep Tissue Massage, and Remedial Massage. He is also certified in other techniques in his field.

Joanne James: is a former Ms. Wheelchair Colorado and mother of 2 teenage daughters. Joanne has a BS in Education and an MA in English and History. Joanne teaches English part-time at Berthoud High School, where she is also involved with the Berthoud High School Show Choir and events surrounding theatre and drama. Along with her two daughters, she also raises miniature horses on her ranch in Berthoud, Colorado. Joanne uses a wheelchair due to a 6 foot ledge of rock falling on her as she was hiking in Michigan 25 years ago. She will be leading the workshop on "Women's Issues", at this year's MWA pageant.

Stuart (Stu) Boyd: has been an educator for 37 years. He holds a BA in English from the University of Northern Colorado and a Masters in Education from Colorado State University. He is presently co-chairman of the English Department and teaches English and Speech at Berthoud High School. He is also the Language Arts Curriculum Specialist for the Thompson School District. Stu received Honorable Mention for the 1984 Teacher of the Year Award. He and his wife Barbara will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on August 7th. They are the parents of two grown daughters. Stu will be teaching a workshop on Communication Skills.

Bob Alexander: is the lead consultant of Access and Training Consultants. Before he began to use a wheelchair, as the result of a construction accident in 1991, he had been a carpenter for 15 years. Since then, he has gained specialized expertise in assessing ADA-required accessibility. He is a consultant in home modifications and provides programs on the legal and social implications of being disabled. In addition, he provides disability awareness programs to businesses and educational organizations and surveys buildings for accessibility. He also provides beginning computer training and computer repair. He is currently on the board and president of WIN/WIN Business Forum and is also on the board of The Village of Cotton Creek Homeowners Association. Bob will be offering a workshop on the ADA and related issues.

Master Ken Pratt & Brown Belt Phil Perez: will be doing a workshop on self-defense and martial arts. Ken has been a quadriplegic for 17 years, however, has had 23 years of experience in TaeKwonDo and SunDoSul. He is a single father of a 17 year old daughter. Phil is a paraplegic with 8 years of experience in Chinese Kenpo, Kung Fu and others. He is a single father, a power-lifter, web designer and has competed in the wheelchair games in shot-put, discus and javelin.

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Rocky Mountain Chapter: will be greeting our contestants at DIA upon their arrivals. They will be representing the PVA's Colorado Rockies, Wheelchair Softball Team. They will be in full uniform handing out Rockies memorabilia to all contestants as they disembark.



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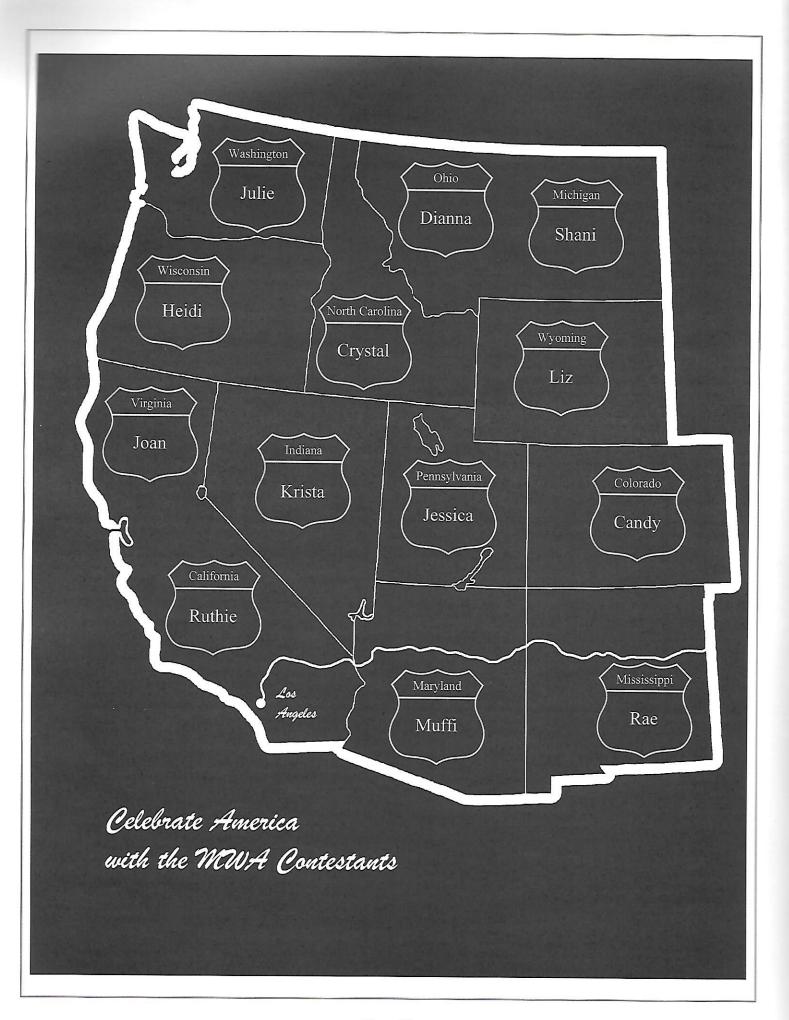
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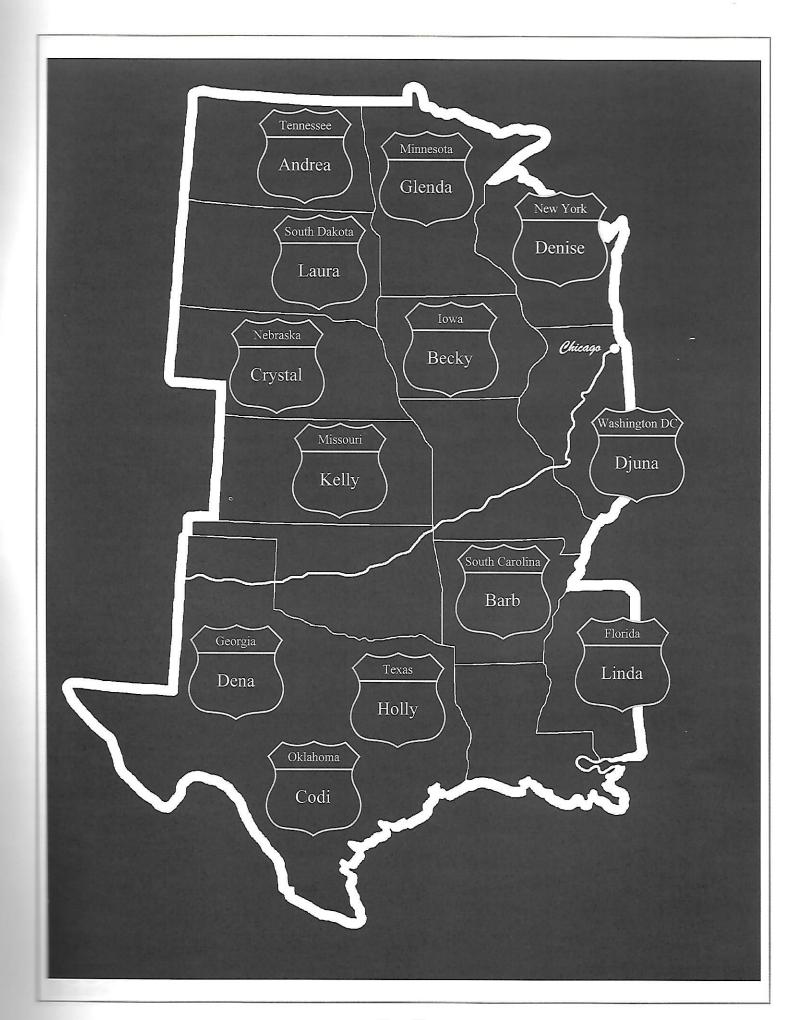
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Schedule Of Events

Arrival Days

Sunday, July 29

Monday, July 30

Tuesday, July 31

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

Tuesday, July 31

Registration . . . all day on Terrace 'C'

Hospitality Rm. open 12 noon to 6pm - Greenhouse Rm.

Get Acquainted Party . . . Supper/Caricature Artist/ gift exchange - 6:30pm to 10pm The Terrace.

Wednesday, August 1

Breakfast on your own/use breakfast coupons (casual attire - bring jackets/rain gear)

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

Arrival at Buffalo Bills Grave and Museum:

•Museum tour, gift shop, lunch . . . 9:30am

Buses load for trip to Idaho Springs . . . 11:30am to 12:00pm

Arrival in Idaho Springs:

• Meet with Mayor, tour the town, shopping, ice cream social. . . . 1:30pm

Buses load for trip back to hotel . . . 3:30pm

"Country Western barbeque/dinner/country entertainment - 6:30pm - 10pm

The Terrace (country western attire)

Judges Orientation . . . 7:00pm - Cripple Creek Rm.

Thursday, August 2 (you are required to be at workshops when not in judging)

Breakfast on your own/use breakfast coupons

Registration . . . all day - Terrace 'C'

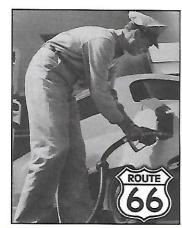
Hospitality Rm open all day - Greenhouse Rm.

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

Judging Sessions . . . 8:00am to 12:00 noon Cripple Creek Rm.

Workshop:

- Massage therapists, Chiropractor/Acupuncture/self defense, coinciding with Communication Skills
- ... 9:30am to 11:30am Crested Butte and Greenhouse Rm.
- Hollywood Theme Luncheon . . . 12:30pm **Grays/Torres Rm.** Judging Sessions . . . 1:30pm to 4:30pm **Cripple Creek Rm.** Workshop:
- continue same as above . . . 1:30pm to 4:30pm
- Dinner and The Gong Show . . . 6pm 10pm Grays/Torres Rm.



Schedule of Events

continued

Friday, August 3

Breakfast on your own/use breakfast coupons.

Registration all day . . . Terrace 'C'

Hospitality Rm. open all day - Greenhouse Rm.

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

Judging Sessions . . . 8:00am to 12:00 noon - Cripple Creek Rm.

Workshop:

- Joanne James Women's Issues . . . 9:30am to 11:30am Crested Butte Rm.
- MWA Board Meeting . . . 9:00am to 12:00 noon Telluride/Wolff Rms.
- New York Theme Luncheon comedian Lucy Roucis . . . 12:30pm to 2:00pm Pikes Peak Rm. Judging Sessions continue . . . 2:00pm to 4:30pm Cripple Creek Rm. Workshop
- Bob Alexander ADA . . . 2:00pm to 4:00pm Crested Butte Rm.
- Workshop for independent delegates/state coordinators . . . 2:00pm to 4:00pm Greenhouse Rm. Judged Speaking Event/Banquet Puttin On The Ritz 6:00pm Grand Ball Rm Karaoke with Rollin Radio Show . . . 9:30pm to Midnight Grand Ball Rm.

Saturday, August 4

Breakfast on your own/use breakfast coupons

Registration all day . . . Terrace 'C'

Hospitality Rm. open all day - Greenhouse Rm.

Judges Meeting . . . 9:00am - Cripple Creek

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

Route 66 Theme Luncheon (recognition of past titleholders/state coordinators) with entertainment . . .

1200pm to 2:00pm - Pikes Peak

Practice with Air Force Escorts . . . 2:30pm - 3:30pm - Grand Ball Rm

• Hair & Makeup . . . 3:00pm to 5:00pm - Cripple Creek Rm.

Pick up snack items in Hospitality Rm/get ready for crowning event 4:00pm to 5:00pm.

Meet with escorts/photo opportunities . . . 5:00pm - Grand Ball Rm. (you MUST be ready by

5:30pm for crowning event - NO EXCEPTIONS!!!)

Crowning Event . . . 6:30pm - Grand Ball Rm.

Buffet Supper/DJ/Dance (follows crowning event) . . . Grand Ball Rm.

Sunday, August 5

Queens Breakfast . . . 10:00am - Pikes Peak Rm.

MWA Pageant ends after this event.

MWA Board meets with new titleholder

Transportation to DIA will be available Sunday and Monday August 5 & 6 ONLY!

Saturday Evening Program

Pre-Celebration Music - BluJazz

Welcome and Opening Remarks - Barb Cramer

Posting Of Colors - Girl Scout Troup 1535

(Those who can, please stand during pledge of allegiance and singing of 'The National Anthem.')

'National Anthem' . . . Linda Wirth

Introduction of Master of Ceremonies - Kirk Kilgour

Parade of Entrants . . . Proceeded by 'Little Miss Wheelchair Colorado'

Introduction of Judges

Announcement and Interviews With Five Finalists

Judges Leave to Deliberate

Entertainment . . . BluJazz

Farewell Speech . . . MWA, Nicki Ard

A Tribute To The Contestants . . . MWA, Nicki Ard

Introduction of the MWA Board of Directors . . . Gail McKoon

Announcement of Ms. Congeniality and Ms. Achievement

Announcement of 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st Runners-Up

Salute to the NCOA . . . Charlie Gilbert

Crowning of MWA, 2002

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Buffet Supper/Dance - Grand Ballroom-Holiday Inn

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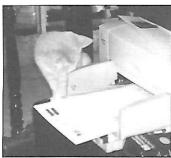
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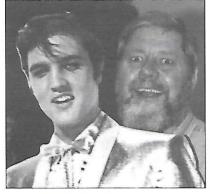
Hey . . . why are there cat prints on these forms?



Bev Dreith (craftsman extraordinare)



Wince Johnson-NCOA . . . lisst count 500



... I thought Elvis had left the building!



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The staff and management would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome the contestants, family and friends of the Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant. We are excited to see such a fantastic group of individuals. Enjoy the array of amenities that we have to offer our guests of the Holiday Inn® Northglenn:

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- S Colorado Rockies and the Denver Broncos
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application

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In this example, the Suitcase ramp shown is 5' in length. The two step rise is 12". When using the chart above this indicates an 11.5 degree rise



œ

distance from the top step or landing to the ground (RISE). Measure the At any incline use Refer to Incline Chart to find the proper qualified helper ramp only with a ramp length.

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Chart to determine the proper ramp Use this handy Incline RAMP LENGTH (in feet) OĮ. 13.8 10.8 ą 22 26 30 20 đ 4 ᄚ 18 RISE (in inches)



The Owners and Staff of Luby Chevrolet wish Candy Marsh,



2001 Ms. Wheelchair Colorado the best of luck at the 29th Celebration of MWA.







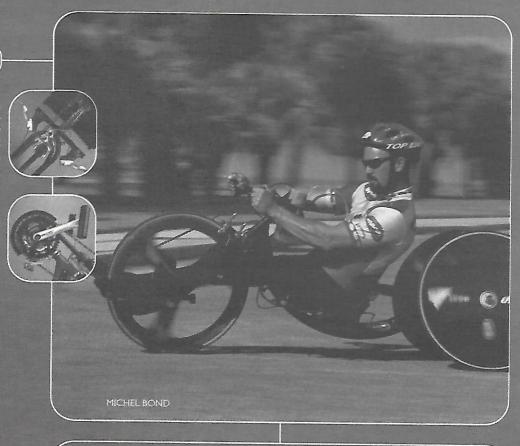


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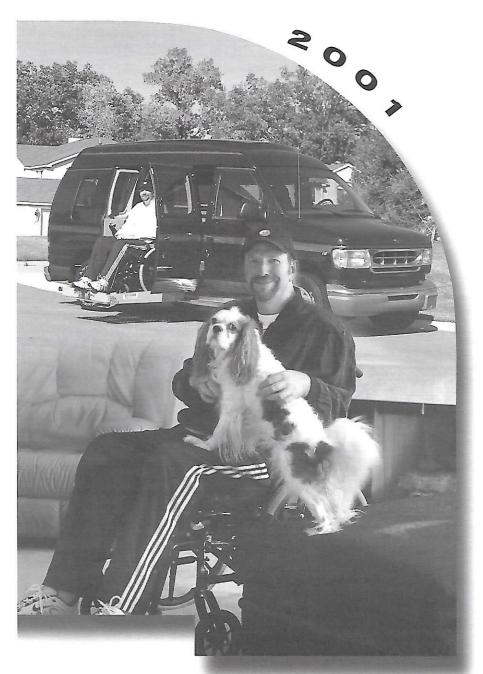
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congratulates all of the contestants and wish them the best of luck in the competition.

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Ms. Wheelchair South Dakota 2001

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in the

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John, Mackenzie, Corbin,
Bill, Megan, Maggie,
Brian, Polly, Aspen,
and Cooper



Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin Heidi Evans

We are so proud of who you are and who you have become! We can't wait to see where you go from here!



Congratulations Heidi!

We love you!

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Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin

Heidi Evans

mschairwi@yahoo.com

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Dena Gaylor

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We wish you
the best of luck
in Colorado in the
Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant

Creekside Apartments Congratulates

Barbara Knight

Ms. Wheelchair South Carolina

Thank You

A very special thanks to the following Ms. Wheelchair Colorado Board/Committee Members who made this event possible.

I could not have done it without you! Barb Cramer.

- Beverly Dreith
- Susan Lyle
- Connie Mills
- Bill Cramer
- Gary Verver
- Judith Mattson
- Charla Broom

- Betsy Hershey
- Teri Westerman
- Joanne James
- Steve Cramer
- Fred Criswell
- Karry Dreith
- Sharon Chaddick

Congratulations

Barbara Knight

Ms. Wheelchair South Carolina

I Am Proud Of You!

Love, Dad



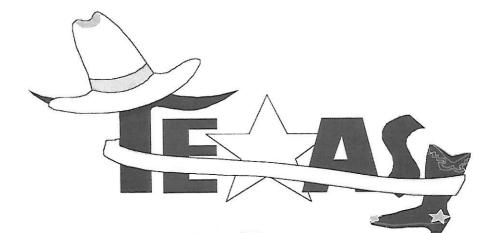
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Steve Cramer for
designing the 2002
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Holly





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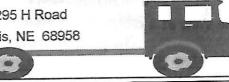
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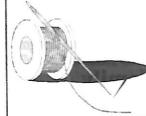


We love you! Mom and Dad



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