



America the Beautiful

*Oh beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain.
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

*Oh beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness.
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self-control
Thy liberty in law.*

*Oh beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life.
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine.*

*Oh beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears.
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

In 1893, when the Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago, Katharine Lee Bates decided to visit more of the United States. Up to that year she had seen little of her native land outside of New England. After spending some time in Chicago, she journeyed to Colorado Springs where she stayed for several weeks and taught in a summer school. One day, with a party of friends, the poet climbed into the "Prairie Wagon" which made its way slowly to the top of snow-capped Pikes Peak. The group could not stay there long, for the air was too thin for some of the travelers.

Miss Bates was completely awed and inspired by the grandeur of the scene before her and the magnificence of the country. That day she experienced something she'd never known before; she did not realize that this day would prove to be one of the most important of her entire life. As she looked out for miles in every direction, she was thrilled; it seemed as if she were standing on the very roof of the world. Away to the west and north was a great expanse with mighty ridges and valleys, while vast plains stretched out toward the state of Kansas.

Miss Bates was simply enthralled by the sight. After having lived in New England, she began for the first time to realize the great extent of her native land. She stood there and was overwhelmed as she gazed at "purple mountain majesties"; then a rush of love for America surged up within her. The result of this unusual experience was her creation of the immortal poem, "America the Beautiful."

That evening, back in Colorado Springs, the poet thought over her awesome experience. And then she wrote the first version of her poem while the thrilling event was fresh in her mind.

Excerpt from *Sampler of American Songs* by Maymie R. Krythe.





Dedication and Unveiling
"America the Beautiful" Memorial
Colorado Springs' America the Beautiful Park
11:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 1, 2006
(Colorado Day)



PROGRAM

Prelude	Galaxy Brass Quintet The United States Air Force Academy Band
Posting of Colors	Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard
"The National Anthem"	Galaxy Brass Quintet
Invocation	Rev. Dr. S. Philip Covert St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Welcoming Remarks	Mr. Paul Butcher Director - Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services
Acceptance of the "America the Beautiful" Memorial	Mr. Larry Small Vice Mayor - City of Colorado Springs
"The Writing of America the Beautiful by Katharine Lee Bates"	CMSgt Fred Correll, USAF, Retired Director of Operations - The USAF Academy Band
Dedication Address	Mr. Lionel Rivera Mayor - City of Colorado Springs & Major General Robert W. Mixon, Jr. Commanding General - 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson
Unveiling of the "America the Beautiful" Memorial	Mr. Costas Rombocos CEO - Shrine of Remembrance & Colorado Springs City Council and Fire Department
"America the Beautiful"	MSgt Randy Ward The USAF Academy Band
Closing Remarks	Mr. Paul Butcher
Postlude	Galaxy Brass Quintet



Major General Robert W. Mixon, Jr., assumed duties as the Commanding General of the 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson on 27 January 2005. He is an Armor Officer who has served in command and staff positions throughout the Army in the United States and overseas. A 1974 graduate of the United States Military Academy, Major General Mixon also holds a Masters of Arts in History from Rice University. Major General Mixon's military decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (5 Oak Leaf Clusters), and Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters).



Lionel Rivera was first elected to an at-large City Council seat in April 1997 and re-elected in April 1999. In April 2001 he was elected by his City Council colleagues to serve as Vice-Mayor for a two year term. In April 2003, he was elected Mayor. He is the first Hispanic Vice-Mayor and Mayor in the history of Colorado Springs. Mr. Rivera holds a Bachelor's Degree in Microbiology from Texas Tech University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Jacksonville State University. He is Vice President of Investments at UBS Financial Services.



Costas Rombocos is the CEO of the Shrine of Remembrance. He immigrated from Greece in 1965. He began the Veterans Honor Court with its Honorary Trustees at the Shrine of Remembrance in 1985 to raise funds in southern Colorado for the construction of the State Veterans Memorial at the State Capitol. Since its inception, the Veterans Honor Court has been a place of inspiration and patriotism, honoring the Armed Forces. Mr. Rombocos has created many significant memorials in the Pikes Peak region and around the country. In 1990 he introduced the idea to the City Council that the City should celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the "America the Beautiful." In 1993, the centennial year, Mr. Rombocos dedicated and unveiled the memorial he had created at the summit of Pikes Peak, the site of Ms. Bates' inspiration for "America the Beautiful."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF APPRECIATION

Colorado Springs City Council: Lionel Rivera (Mayor),
Larry Small (Vice-Mayor), Scott Hente, Darryl Glenn, Jerry Heimlicher,
Margaret Radford, Tom Gallagher, Randall W. B. Purvis, Bernie Herpin
Lorne Kramer - City Manager
Paul Butcher, Director - Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services
Colorado Springs Fire Department
Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard
The United States Air Force Academy Band
John and Clarence Gianarelli - Ideal Concrete
C & C Sand
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co
Rocky Mountain Structures
The Shrine of Remembrance Veterans Honor Court