

Mayor Bach, members of the Colorado Springs City Council, federal, state and local dignitaries, members of our military community, city employees, family and friends and all citizens of Colorado Springs

While the swearing in of a new mayor marks a new beginning in city government, I would be remiss, standing on the steps of this historic Colorado Springs landmark, if I didn't begin my remarks by talking about the legacy which is ours as citizens of Colorado Springs. Our city was founded by ambitious risk takers, entrepreneurs like William Palmer, Winfield Scott Stratton and Spencer Penrose. They sought and found personal fortune, but at the same time sought to act in the best interests of this city and its future generations. And they, and thousands of community leaders that followed them, have left us a great legacy.

We have inherited a city of unparalleled natural beauty - one with wide streets and beautiful parks.

And throughout the history of Colorado Springs the citizens of the city have been its greatest asset. Prior generations have nurtured the city as it has grown to be among the 50 largest cities in America. Philanthropists, past and present, have contributed greatly to our quality of life. The vision of our predecessors brought us Fort Carson, the United States Air Force Academy and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Bold and foresighted decisions of our political leaders, including acquisition and development of water rights, were made to ensure Colorado Springs could become a great city.

So as we confront the challenges of the future, let us be mindful of the hard work, sacrifice and foresight of those who've gone before us. As a lifetime resident of Colorado Springs I've watched and been very mindful of the dedication and devotion to Colorado Springs of prior mayors like Bill Henderson, Harry Hoth, Eugene McCleary, Andy

Marshall, Larry Ochs, Bob Isaac, Mary Lou Makepeace and Lionel Rivera. And today I want to particularly commend the contributions of Mayor Steve Bach. Mayor Bach took on a most formidable challenge as the first strong mayor in the city's modern era. He had to create, not follow a blueprint. He had to traverse uncharted territory. Mayor Bach was in every sense a change agent and he has played the role very well. He has focused city government on the delivery of essential services and has been candid and forthright about the fiscal challenges it has in delivering those services. And he's focused city employees on delivering customer service. I believe I speak for all the citizens of Colorado Springs in extending our heartfelt gratitude to Steve and Suzi Bach for the tremendous service they have rendered to our city.

The future of Colorado Springs begins today and the citizens of the city have given me the great honor and great responsibility to help lead the city

into that future. It will be up to the City Council as the legislative branch of city government, and the Mayor, as head of the executive branch, to work collaboratively to address the significant challenges that confront us. And it will be our shared obligation to communicate effectively with the citizens of our community and to enlist their support in meeting those challenges. We must begin to repair our roads and deteriorating stormwater systems and we must create a dynamic that will lead to new job creation in the Pikes Peak region.

Today I ask the citizens of Colorado Springs to take renewed pride in their city and to look for ways they can contribute to its quality of life. To paraphrase the words of President John Kennedy, "Ask not what your community can do for you, but what you can do for your community." Perhaps you can volunteer to help beautify our city, to work on our parks and trails, to mentor our youth, assist our elderly or to support the arts. Consider applying for

a city board or commission or volunteering for a non-profit organization. There are unlimited opportunities to become involved in making Colorado Springs an even better place to live. And I ask all the employees of the city of Colorado Springs and of Colorado Springs utilities to rededicate yourselves to your public service commitment. You are privileged to have jobs that promote the public interest. Endeavor each day to carry out your responsibilities effectively, enthusiastically and with the public interest in mind.

I ask every citizen of Colorado Springs to recognize the great legacy we have inherited and to work together to build upon it as we continue the task of creating a great city. Ronald Reagan used to talk about the promise of the future by describing a "shining city on a hill". Ladies and gentlemen, our task going forward is to continue to build a shining city at the foot of a great mountain. Wallace Stegner, the Pulitzer Prize winning author and

historian of the American West said that the successful development of the West requires us to set aside our rugged individualism as necessary to work in full cooperation with each other. Only then can we create a society that matches our scenery.

Citizens of Colorado Springs - that is our enduring challenge. To create a society that matches our scenery. Let us embrace the challenge.

May God continue to bless the city of Colorado Springs.