

The original documents are located in Box 37, “7/27/76 - Recorded Message for the Centennial Celebration of the State of Colorado” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

TAPING REMARKS FOR COLORADO CENTENNIAL

JULY 27, 1976

IT IS A SPECIAL HONOR FOR ME TO CONGRATULATE
COLORADO ON ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF STATEHOOD.

MRS. FORD, OUR CHILDREN, AND I KNOW FIRST HAND THE
BEAUTY OF COLORADO, AND THE HOSPITALITY OF ITS PEOPLE.

WE CONSIDER VAIL, WHERE WE HAVE SPENT SO MANY ENJOYABLE
VACATIONS, A SECOND HOME.

COLORADO, THE 38th STATE TO ENTER THE UNION,
HAS THE DISTINCTION OF CELEBRATING ITS CENTENNIAL DURING
OUR NATION'S BICENTENNIAL.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE WAS
PROCLAIMED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THIRTEEN COLONIES.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, COLORADO'S STATEHOOD WAS DECLARED
BY PRESIDENT GRANT.

IN 1976, AMERICA AND COLORADO TOGETHER ENTER A
NEW CENTURY OF HISTORY. BOTH HAVE GAINED THE WISDOM
THAT AGE AND EXPERIENCE BRING, YET BOTH HAVE KEPT THE
STRENGTH AND IDEALISM OF YOUTH.

LIKE OUR NATIONAL CELEBRATION, COLORADO DAY WILL
BE MARKED BY MANY WONDERFUL EVENTS. EACH EVENT, IN
ITS OWN WAY, WILL SYMBOLIZE A REVERENCE FOR OUR HERITAGE
AND A RESPECT FOR OUR POTENTIAL. I AM SURE THAT THE
COLORADO CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION WILL REVEAL THE SAME
HARMONY, GOOD WILL, AND OPTIMISM THAT HAS BEEN SO
EVIDENT THROUGHOUT OUR NATIONAL CELEBRATION.

THE CONTINUATION OF THAT RENEWED SPIRIT INTO OUR
NEXT CENTURY IS THE BEST BIRTHDAY GIFT WE CAN GIVE COLORADO
AND THE NATION.

WE COMMEMORATED THE ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE BY RINGING BELLS ALL ACROSS AMERICA.

I UNDERSTAND THAT ON COLORADO DAY BELLS AGAIN WILL RING OUT
IN FREEDOM'S NAME. AS YOU BEGIN YOUR SECOND CENTURY
OF STATEHOOD, LET EVERY CITY AND FARM RESOLVE TO MEET THE
FUTURE WITH THE SAME COURAGE AND DEDICATION THAT PIONEERS
HAVE SHOWN THROUGHOUT THE PROUD HISTORY OF COLORADO.

WHETHER SETTLING ON THE BROAD PLAINS, OR IN THE MAJESTIC
MOUNTAINS, COLORADO'S CITIZENS HAVE CARRIED IN THEIR
HEARTS THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM.

MAY YOUR CELEBRATION BE JOYOUS, AND YOUR NEXT
ONE HUNDRED YEARS EVEN MORE REWARDING THAN THOSE THAT
HAVE GONE BEFORE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEXT VISIT TO COLORADO.
UNTIL THEN, HAVE A GREAT ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

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