

AMERICA THE GREATEST®

America is the greatest nation in the world because she has allowed her citizens the opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness." Citizens such as
JOHN DENVER.

Born: December 31, 1943 (Capricorn)
the eldest of two sons, in
Roswell, New Mexico

Died: October 12, 1997

Father: John Henry Duetschendorf,
Lieutenant Colonel in the
United States Air Force.

Mother: Erma Duetschendorf

Education: School of Architecture
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas

Accomplishment: Singer-Actor



JOHN DENVER

John Denver was born John Henry Duetschendorf, Jr. He moved frequently as a child, secondary to his father's military career. At age 12, his grandmother gave him a 1920 Gibson guitar. He took lessons for a while, became bored with it, and put it away. When Elvis Presley became popular, John's interest in the guitar was rekindled; he found his old guitar, and became quite good with it. He began playing with local groups and at school functions. After graduating from Arlington Heights High School in Ft. Worth, Texas, he enrolled in the School of Architecture at Texas Tech. University, in Lubbock, Texas. He sang with local bands to help pay for school, and became so involved with music that, against the advice of his parents, he quit school to become an entertainer. With his guitar and \$125 in his pocket, he drove to Los Angeles, took a job as a draftsman, and looked for a band. Finally, he landed a job as a warm-up man in a night club, and was discovered by a Capitol Records producer, who had him change his name to John Denver. His career went nowhere, and Capitol Records soon dropped him. In 1965, he went to New York to replace Chad Mitchell of the Chad Mitchell Trio and started to do well. During 1966, he wrote "Leaving On a Jet Plane," which established him as a songwriter. In 1968 when the trio broke up, John Denver began singing college tours with such great success, that in 1969 he signed a contract with RCA Records and his career took off.

A nation is as great as the sum total of the greatness of its individuals. America offers her people more opportunity to develop their "Potential for Greatness" than any other nation on earth. I challenge you to develop yours!

Today we honor JOHN DENVER. Tomorrow could we honor you?

Dr. Michael R. Loss.

DR. MICHAEL R. LOSS
President, America The Greatest,® Inc.