

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
JOHNNY MATHIS.

Born: September 30, 1935 (Libra)
San Francisco, California,
one of seven children.

Father: Clem Mathis, chauffeur.

Mother: Mildred Mathis, cook.

Education: San Francisco State College.

Accomplishment: Singer - entertainer.



JOHNNY MATHIS

Johnny Mathis grew up in San Francisco, and began taking professional opera lessons at age 13. In George Washington High School he was a letter winner in track and basketball. He went on to San Francisco State College on a track scholarship, where he shattered records by running the high hurdles under 14 seconds, and high jumping over six feet five and one half inches. He was invited to the 1956 Olympic trials at Berkeley; then, fate stepped in. Mathis was singing in a Sunday afternoon jam session in the 440 Club in San Francisco, when Columbia Records executive George Avakian heard him and sent a now famous telegram to the New York Office: "Have found phenomenal 19-year old boy who could go all the way. Send blank contracts." Mathis made a painful decision — his Olympic career would have to wait. His first record, "Wonderful, Wonderful" was a national hit in 1957, and was followed by "It's Not For Me To Say" and "Chances Are." Johnny Mathis has over 18 gold albums and his album, "Johnny's Greatest Hits," is in the Guinness Book of World Records for the "Longest Stay In Best Seller Charts" of 490 weeks (9½ years).

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 JOHNNY MATHIS. Tomorrow could we honor you?

Dr. Michael R. Loss.

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