

Gaines Cobblestone Museum July 4th Service

July 2, 2017 Joint Service

AMERICA, OUR INCLUSIVE FAMILY

Look around you. This Cobblestone structure is here today because a lot of stones came together, placed there by hard working people who had a common goal in mind.

None of the stones are exactly the same and none of the people that gathered and placed these stones were exactly the same, but in spite of the differences they came together so that we could be here together and celebrate this our country's birthday.

Happy birthday to you America. I say "to you" America because America is more than a place and more than just a country. America is most importantly a state of mind and you are what makes it real.

There is a commercial out there for recycling that says, "People say that I am just trash. They are wrong. Today I may be just an aluminum can but someday I could be a stadium."

"People say that I am just a man. They are wrong. I am not just a man. Like the rocks of this cobblestone structure I can be something so much better. Joined with you we can be the Real America. "Every one of us has a contagious disease and it is

either exuding a positive spirit or putting out a whole lot of negativity.

Little Big Town has a song out now that speaks to this. It is called Happy People and maybe I should insert Positive People.

Little Big Town

"Happy People"

Happy people don't cheat
Happy people don't lie
They don't judge or hold a grudge
They don't criticize
Happy people don't hate
Happy people don't steal
Cause all the hurt sure ain't worth
All the guilt they'd feel

If you wanna know the secret
Can't buy it, gotta make it
You ain't ever gonna be it
By takin' someone else's away
Never take it for granted
You don't have to understand it
Here's to whatever puts a smile on your face
Whatever makes you happy people

Happy people don't fail
Happy people just learn
Don't think they're above the push and shove
They just wait their turn
They always got a hand
Or a dollar to spare
Know the golden rule what you're goin' through
Even if they've never been there

If you want to know the secret
Can't buy it, gotta make it
You ain't ever gonna be it
By takin' someone else's away
Never take it for granted
You don't have to understand it
Here's to whatever puts a smile on your face
Whatever makes you happy people

These days it ain't always easy to find
They're the ones who you want standing by your side
No time for greed, if they need some, give 'em a slice
And we'll all be happy people

Well life is short
And love is rare
And we all deserve to be happy while we're here

Life is short and love is rare. And we all deserve to be happy while we're here.

We all have a contagious disease. We all are happy or mad. We are all positive or negative. We are all kind or mean. You cannot be grateful and hateful at the same time.

Which disease are you going to spread? Are you going to make a cobblestone country built of love, and respect, and compassion; or are you going to tear this country apart with hate, distrust, distain and contempt.

Either way you have a lot of role models to choose from.

Throughout history thousands of people have lived and died to make this country great. There were always a few Benedict Arnolds but there were always more George Washingtons, Abe Lincolns and Susan B Anthonys.

Bloom where you are planted. Do your part to make this the America the Beautiful that we all want it to be.

To para phrase a verse from the Bible, "Let your light so shine before men that they see your good works and glorify your treasured homeland, this beautiful though not perfect United States of America, home of the free because of the brave.

Hallelujah and Amen!