

## 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 SYLVESTER STALLONE.

Born: July 6, 1946 (Cancer)  
in New York City.

Father: Frank Stallone,  
hairdresser.

Mother: Jacqueline Stallone,  
dancer

Education: University of Miami

Accomplishment: Writer - actor.



SYLVESTER STALLONE

Sylvester Stallone's early childhood was spent in the Hell's Kitchen section of Manhattan's West Side. As his parents struggled, he lived in foster homes until the age of 5. He then moved to Silver Springs, Maryland, where his parents opened several beauty salons. As a child he was troubled with a mild speech impediment and slight facial paralysis, making him the point of other children's taunting. As a teenager, his father told him, "You weren't born with much of a brain, so you'd better develop your body." Stallone began weight-lifting, and developed seventeen inch biceps. In school in Switzerland, he had his first acting experience as Biff, in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman." He was hooked! He then came back to the United States, spent two years studying drama at the University of Miami, and in August, 1969, moved to New York City, determined to break into Broadway as an actor and writer. To keep from starving, he worked odd jobs including cleaning the lions' cages in the Central Park Zoo. He made minor Broadway and movie appearances (the largest role being Stanley, in the "Lords of Flatbush," in 1974) but had little success selling his scripts. His luck changed in March, 1975, when after watching the Muhammad Ali/Chuck Wepner fight, he was inspired to write "Rocky." With only \$100 in the bank and his wife pregnant, Stallone turned down offers of \$265,000 for the script because he wanted to star in it. Finally, United Artists offered him a contract for \$75,000 plus ten percent of the net, and the starring role. The picture was low budget, costing \$1,100,000; took twenty-eight days to make, was nominated for ten Oscars, and won the Oscar for best picture of the year. It also made Sylvester Stallone a wealthy man, and launched his career.

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 SYLVESTER STALLONE. Tomorrow could we honor you?

*Dr. Michael R. Loss.*

DR. MICHAEL R. LOSS

President, America The Greatest, Inc.®