

Inaugural Poem
January 1, 2016

I could say anything right now...It would be the beginning and the end of it. I was born in Auburn. My family and friends are here. And I've never had to wander around and be someone else, somewhere else, like I had to feel at home. And I could look all the way back to meeting people and now it has fruition. It's good to proceed and it's good to see people grow up. And it's like, "Huhh!..." You know...and these kids over here. And like Jimmy was three when I met him, but ...ya' know. It's like when you're from Auburn, you know who's from Auburn. I like people that move to Auburn, they stay here. And it's like quickly they learn who's who. I've been trying to spend my whole life like not having to sign my name on it, ya know. It's like you'll figure out who I am sooner or later. I can't live up to any expectations, but... I wasn't told to...

I'm an Auburn kid.
This city is what I love,
This is where I live.

I was born on my due date, 4-20-1965
At Auburn Memorial Hospital
To my mom, Mary Ann, the youngest of six
Grew up on Cottage Street
To my dad, the youngest of four
Grew up on County House Road, on a farm
And drove the Hook and Ladder truck
For the Auburn Fire Department

Pretty astonishing thing to slide down the pole when you're five to see how big the truck is. And know that your dad came home from putting out fires.

Every time I hear the fire trucks, I know I'm in Auburn.
Every time I think of Lincoln School, I know I'm in Auburn.
Every time I think about Grant Ave being two lanes and turning into four,
and riding our bikes up and down it all Summer, I think about Auburn.

We have the most talented people I've ever met in Auburn. I've went other places and it seems like, everybody's not as genuine. For some reason, Auburn has something very unique to me.

Brilliant people,
Talented artists,
Genius inventors,
Revolutionaries.

And what we've planted is Hope
With our faith and our strength
It will grow,
And what we have,
We will protect and preserve
And what we can do together
Will be part of our history,
And what we will make better
Will be everyone's future.

Beautiful Central New York,
The heart of the Finger Lakes

I'm an Auburn kid
This is everything
I've always loved,
And this is where
I've always lived

All adults are children
Who have outgrown their toys
Down deep we're
Little girls and boys

And when the goin' gets tough
Sometimes the tough don't get goin'

Ah, you've caught me
With my soft side showin'

We'll always have swimmin'
In the Summer times
Sleddin' in the Winter
And in Spring time flowers
Under the blue skies,
And the Autumn leaves that change
And bring all of the colors of my Auburn pride.

I'm just an Auburn kid.
I know every inch of this town.
Everybody knows me
And I know my way around.

The International Plan
Has blown through my town
Now these wet streets

Are all alone

They're filled with shadows
From of times
That they'd never know.
I'll show you shortcuts and back lots
'Til the rain drops

And I walked down here so fast
It made my hand shake
And the stomp of my heel
Well that went and it made my back ache.

The sidewalks just drop away
With my hand through the air
I chop it down voodoo chile.

It's a breeze, now I'm your fan
You're a breeze, now I'm your man.

She sits and sips the drink
I bought her
While she waits
For someone better than me
To come along,
She says, "Come along."

And what if I run out of time
And can't see it thru'
To the end of the line
Who will carry out
What's been left behind?
My family
My friends
And Auburn

- Don Alger

[Applause]

God bless you. Here's to a new future, thank you. I do love this town and it is improved. I was worried a few years ago and it's have a life of its own...You know...I don't want to be Mayor. Tough job.

Transcribed by Terry Cuddy from the video on
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