

“AMERICAN PRIDE IN BLOOM”

INTERPRETIVE DESIGN:

Selection and organization of design elements should suggest the following theme, idea, occasion, mood or atmosphere.

Notes: Dahlias must be the dominant flower in the arrangement. Accessories and minor colors may be used to accentuate the theme but **must be subordinate or secondary**. Dried flower heads and once live animals/birds/fish are not allowed within or around the arrangement. All other natural materials are allowed.

ARRANGEMENT CATEGORIES

“For Amber Waves of Grain”

From the first stanza, “O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!” We celebrate the horticultural bounty of America. This is low, wide, all-around arrangement designed to be viewed from every side, with formal and informal decorative dahlias in all shades of yellow, gold and bronze. It radiates outward from the center to create a balanced, rounded shape that looks complete from any angle.

“Purple Heart”

From the third stanza, “O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, Who more than self their country love and mercy more than life!” We honor all brave military heroes who have fought to make our great country free. This arrangement features dark red and purple dahlia blooms of any type arranged around an accessory* that represents military service. It is viewed from the front only and has no dimension limits for height or width.

“July 4th 1776-2026”

From the second and fourth stanzas, “O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years. A thoroughfare for freedom beat,” America’s birthday celebration always features FIREWORKS! This arrangement focuses on this annual tradition with dahlias in the forms of cactus, semi-cactus and incurved cactus in various colors to represent fireworks in the air. Viewed from all sides in a tall vase, the arrangement height should be a minimum 12” of floral material beyond the top opening of the container.

"Lasting Marble Monuments"

From the fourth stanza, "Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears." This design takes inspiration from the monuments of Washington, D.C. with tall flowers standing proudly like the Washington Monument and soft rounded shapes that hint at the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. Instead of bold patriotic colors, this arrangement uses white, cream, and light blend pastels in formal decorative shapes to resemble the marble and stone of the actual monuments. It is designed to be viewed from all sides.

"Designer's Choice"

This arrangement compliments the theme with a variety of dahlias flowers on display. It DOES NOT need to relate to the America the Beautiful poem; however, it needs to celebrate the semiquincentennial for America. A small card attached details its NAME, varieties included in the arrangement and description of the relationship to the show theme. "Designers Choice" DOES NOT need to follow "symmetry, line to follow, or a flowing quality" as other arrangements require.