Robert Speer served five terms as mayor of the city of Denver and is historically known as the man who implemented the City Beautiful to improve the quality of life of the city’s citizens, a concept he developed with influence from his trip to the 1893 World’s Columbia Exposition in Chicago. The plan included making major improvements to Denver during his tenure, including a master plan that resulted in parks, fountains, parkways, and impressive public buildings that created and preserved the city’s most prized landmarks. His contributions include but are not limited to:

✦ 110,000 shade trees throughout the city and along its redesigned boulevards
✦ A doubling of the city’s parks including the popular City and Washington Parks
✦ The sunken, tree-lined path along the Cherry Creek
✦ The creation of the Mountain Park System which led to the creation of Red Rock Amphitheater, and Buffalo Bill’s Grave site, among others
✦ The Denver Museum of Nature and Science
✦ The Denver Zoo (as well as its later expansion)
✦ The National Western Stock Show
✦ The hosting of the 1908 Democratic National Convention
✦ The Convention and Visitors Bureau, only the sixth of its kind in the world
✦ The paving and graveling of almost all of Denver’s streets and sidewalks (at the time)

Robert Speer died while serving in office, from influenza in 1918, an illness he sustained while walking to work in the rain.