

July 4, 2026

Dear America,

This year, our nation celebrates 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. At the same time, the South Tampa Chamber marks 100 years of serving businesses, strengthening our community, and advancing economic opportunity.



One anniversary marks the birth of a nation; the other, the founding of a local chamber. Both reflect a shared belief: people working together can build something stronger, more prosperous, and more enduring than any one individual alone.

For 250 years, America has stood as a place of possibility rooted in the idea that individuals, communities, and businesses can achieve more together.

For 100 years, the South Tampa Chamber has helped advance that spirit locally. Since 1926, we have championed businesses, fostered connections, developed leaders, and strengthened the community we call home. We are deeply grateful to the generations of members, volunteers, and community leaders whose vision built our foundation.

Chambers of commerce have long been part of the American story bringing people together to solve challenges, create opportunity, and strengthen local economies. That role remains essential today.

Progress happens when we work together. Businesses create jobs. Educators prepare future leaders. Nonprofits strengthen neighborhoods. Public servants guide communities forward. Chambers help connect them all.

As we celebrate America's 250th birthday and our Centennial year, we are inspired not only by our past, but by our future. The next century for both our nation and our Chamber will be shaped by innovation, entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and a shared commitment to expanding opportunity.

To our members, leaders, and community partners, thank you. And to America, thank you for 250 years of opportunity, freedom, and possibility.

Here's to the future and to the next century of leadership, prosperity, and community.

Happy 250th Birthday, America.

Sincerely,

Kelly Flannery, IOM, FCCP
President & CEO
South Tampa

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