



Dear America,

Happy 250th Birthday.

Two hundred and fifty years is an incredible milestone. It is a chance to celebrate how far we've come, reflect honestly on where we are today, and consider the role each of us can play in shaping what comes next.

The American story has always been one of possibility. Generation after generation, people have looked at challenges and seen opportunities. Entrepreneurs have built businesses. Innovators have solved problems. Neighbors have come together to strengthen their communities. Leaders have stepped forward to serve something bigger than themselves.

That spirit is alive today.

At the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce, we have the privilege of seeing it every day. We see business leaders investing in their employees and communities. We see educators preparing the next generation. We see nonprofit organizations meeting critical needs. We see public servants working to improve the places we call home. Most importantly, we see people choosing to work together, even when the challenges are complex.

That work matters.

As we look toward America's next 250 years, I believe our future will be shaped not by a few headline moments, but by millions of everyday actions. A business owner taking a chance on a new idea. A mentor investing in a young professional. A volunteer showing up to serve. A community leader bringing people together around a shared goal.

Those moments create momentum. They create trust. They create opportunity.

Recently, our Chamber adopted a bold ten-year goal: to create one million moments of positive impact. While that goal is local, the idea is universal. Strong communities are built one positive interaction, one innovative idea, one act of leadership, and one moment of service at a time.

America has never been perfect, but it has always been a place where people are willing to roll up their sleeves and build something better. That optimism, ingenuity, and determination remain some of our greatest strengths.



So today, we celebrate. We celebrate the entrepreneurs, workers, educators, volunteers, and leaders who have shaped the first 250 years. And we look ahead with confidence to the next 250 years of innovation, opportunity, and progress.

Happy Birthday, America.

The next million moments of positive impact start today.

With gratitude and optimism,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Owczarski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jodi" being more prominent than the last name "Owczarski".

Jodi Owczarski
President & CEO
West Coast Chamber of Commerce