



June 25, 2026

Happy 250th Birthday, America

What an extraordinary milestone.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, an idea took shape in the minds of ordinary men who believed extraordinary things were possible. That idea became the Declaration of Independence and ultimately the nation we celebrate today. It is difficult to imagine the courage it took for our Founding Fathers to challenge British rule and create a government unlike any the world had ever known. They risked their lives, their livelihoods, and their families for the hope that future generations would live in freedom.

For their vision, sacrifice, and unwavering courage, I simply want to say thank you.

Thank you for creating a nation where opportunity is limited only by one's willingness to work for it.

I also want to thank America for giving me—and millions of others—the opportunity to pursue a dream. What began as the dream of a young boy eventually became an idea, and through years of hard work became reality. Today, I have the privilege of leading a \$40 million company that employs twenty people and helps provide for their families.

I have not simply heard about the American Dream.

I have lived it.

I was raised in a hardworking, middle-class family. Sixty years ago, our first home cost just \$6,000. Later we moved into a \$13,000 house, and when my parents purchased a \$40,000 home in 1976, we honestly believed we had hit the jackpot.

Those homes represented far more than their purchase price. They represented security, progress, family, hope, and the belief that tomorrow could be better than today.

Both of my parents worked hard until they retired, and both became successful business owners. My older brother followed the same path. Entrepreneurship was not something we simply admired—it was something we lived. Watching my parents build their own businesses taught me that success is rarely handed to anyone. It is earned through hard work, perseverance, integrity, and a willingness to take risks.

I began working at eleven years old delivering newspapers for *The Courier-Journal*. More than fifty years later, I still enjoy getting up every morning to go to work.

Like many careers, mine did not follow a straight path. It zigged and zagged until I discovered a passion for sales and helping manufacturers solve packaging challenges. After twenty-five years of building relationships and earning trust, one customer gave me the opportunity to start my own business.

Twenty years later, they are still our customer.

The journey was anything but easy. It meant millions of miles on the road, countless nights away from my young family, long hours, difficult decisions, and more setbacks than successes in the early years. But America gave me something priceless.

It gave me the freedom to try.

America never promised me success. What it promised was opportunity—the freedom to dream, to work, to fail, to learn, and ultimately to succeed.

Today my company is a family business in every sense of the word. Some of my employees have been with me since the very beginning. My oldest daughter now works alongside me and hopes to own her own business after she is married.

Along the way I have also been fortunate enough to give back. Supporting charities and nonprofit organizations with both my time and financial resources has introduced me to some remarkable people. I have learned that one of America's greatest strengths is that success creates opportunities to help others succeed. Passing along what we have learned to the next generation may be one of the greatest responsibilities we have.

None of this would have been possible without the people who believed in me. I owe a debt of gratitude to my employees, customers, vendors, mentors, friends, and most importantly my family. The long-term relationships we have built over the years are among my proudest accomplishments. Businesses may measure success in dollars, but lives are measured by the people who choose to walk beside us over the years.

America is not a perfect nation. No nation is. Yet I believe it remains the greatest place in the world to build a business, raise a family, and pursue a dream. Our Constitution has endured for 250 years because generation after generation has accepted the responsibility of protecting the freedoms entrusted to them. That is an extraordinary achievement.

My message to the next generation is simple.

Never take opportunity for granted.

Work hard. Keep your word. Take responsibility for your actions. Build something that matters. Serve your community. Dream boldly, but understand that dreams require sacrifice, discipline, and perseverance. Challenge old ideas when they need improvement, but never lose faith in the entrepreneurial spirit that has allowed millions of ordinary Americans to accomplish extraordinary things.

The American Dream is alive for those willing to work, sacrifice, and take thoughtful risks.

From a family that once celebrated buying a \$40,000 home to leading a company that now provides opportunities for twenty employees and their families, I know firsthand that the American Dream is real. I have been blessed to live it.

I am proud to be an American.

I am proud to live in America.

And I am proud to support the dream that has given so much to my family and to countless others.

Happy 250th Birthday, America.

May the next 250 years be filled with the same courage, opportunity, and hope that inspired your first.



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