



101 South A Street, PO Box 155, Springfield, OR 97477
541-746-1651 | www.springfield-chamber.org

Dear America,

On your 250th birthday, we find ourselves thinking less about the moments that fill history books and more about the people who quietly shape history every day.

From our vantage point at the Springfield Area Chamber, we have the privilege of witnessing something remarkable. Every day, we see entrepreneurs opening their doors before sunrise, employers investing in the next generation, educators preparing tomorrow's workforce, nonprofit leaders strengthening lives, public servants stewarding our communities, and volunteers giving their time without expecting recognition.

Most will never make headlines. Yet together, they accomplish extraordinary things.

They remind us that America's greatest strength has never rested in its institutions alone, but in ordinary people who choose to build something beyond themselves. They build businesses that create opportunity. They build organizations that serve others. They build neighborhoods where people belong. They build trust, partnerships, and friendships that become the foundation of resilient communities.

A conversation over coffee. A handshake between strangers. A new idea shared around a table. A willingness to listen, collaborate, and imagine what's possible together.

These are the spaces where communities take shape - not only in our homes or workplaces, but in the places where people gather, connect, and discover a shared purpose. Every relationship formed, every partnership created, and every door opened strengthens the fabric of our community and, in turn, our nation.

Springfield's story reflects America's story. Built on the ingenuity of those who came before us, our community has continually adapted, reinvented itself, and embraced new opportunities while honoring the values that endure: integrity, stewardship, innovation, excellence, and a genuine welcome for others.

Builders rarely work alone. Every generation builds upon the work of the last, leaving a stronger foundation for those who follow.

At the Springfield Area Chamber, we open doors for entrepreneurs willing to take a chance, employers investing in people, innovators solving tomorrow's challenges, and community builders who strengthen the places we call home.

That's how we've seen America move forward - not through the efforts of a few, but through generations of builders who imagined something better and invited others to build alongside them.

As we celebrate your first 250 years, our hope is simple: that we never stop investing in one another, never stop opening doors, and never stop believing in the extraordinary things ordinary people can accomplish when they come together with a shared purpose.

Happy 250th Birthday, America.

Here's to the builders – and to the generations who will build what comes next!