



America Turns 250, and the World is Here for It!

I don't know whether this was on purpose or just dumb luck, but hosting visitors from across the globe for the FIFA World Cup at the same time we are celebrating the 250th Anniversary has been an unexpected, added treat for me.

Seeing the social media accounts of fans enthralled by the very things we all take for granted should be a reminder that freedom, capitalism, and democracy aren't a given around the world.

We've even had a couple of those folks come through Savannah, including Scottish fans — the Tartan Army — who stopped here on the way from Boston to Miami and saw dolphins during an evening cruise on the Georgia Queen riverboat. Sometimes it takes a different perspective to help us refine our own perspective.

As we near Independence Day this weekend, I hope we can all appreciate the great things about America that our international visitors have experienced.

Remember that the Preamble to our Constitution establishes our collective goal of forming a "more perfect union" — a clear sign to me that our founders knew we would never be perfect but wanted to encourage us to strive to be "more" perfect every chance we have.

They certainly could not have envisioned what has happened here over 250 years, where we enjoy a level of freedom and quality of life that is the envy of the rest of the world.

The U.S. hasn't gotten everything right, but more often than not, our country's moral arc has bent towards justice. And while our international visitors may not be thinking much about that when they hit Buc-ee's for the first time, make no mistake about it — you have to appreciate that our commitment to freedom and democracy has also generated the largest economy in the world.

So I hope you take a moment this weekend, amongst all the fireworks and events, to think about what our nation's founders would say about America 250 years later.

My guess is that they would be pretty proud to see their democratic experiment be so successful, and wowed at the 120 fuel pumps at Buc-ee's — just like our friends from overseas.

Your friends at the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce wish you a safe and joyful Independence Day as we celebrate the freedom, resilience, and shared spirit that continue to strengthen our businesses, families, and future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BBrantley', on a light blue background.

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