



GREATER NEWPORT *Chamber of Commerce*

Dear America,

Happy Birthday from Newport, Rhode Island.

First to declare independence. Last to ratify the Constitution. Rhode Island has always done things its own way. Long before July 4, 1776, our colony became the first to renounce allegiance to the British Crown. Fourteen years later, we were the last of the original thirteen states to ratify the Constitution, helping secure the individual liberties that define our nation.

That independent spirit lives on today. It can be found in the small businesses that are the backbone of our communities, the defense innovators and sailors who strengthen our national security, the skilled men and women in our marine trades who keep a centuries-old maritime tradition thriving, and the entrepreneurs, workers, and families whose resilience and determination fuel our economy.

From the birthplace of our nation's naval heritage to one of its leading centers of maritime innovation, Newport continues to prove that greatness isn't measured by size, but by purpose, perseverance, and service.

Today, we celebrate the grit of the people who built this nation, those who defend it, and those who work every day to make our communities stronger. Here's to the next 250 years of freedom, opportunity, and the enduring American spirit.

Happy Birthday, America.

With pride,

Erin Donovan-Boyle

President & CEO

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce