
Birthday Letter to America - Time Capsule Project Business for America / Together for 250

To future generations,

On behalf of the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, our Board of Directors and our over 1500 businesses, we are honored to contribute to this national reflection as our country marks its 250th birthday. Sarasota's business community has long believed that America's strength comes from its people – their creativity, their resilience, and their willingness to build something better for those who come next.

Our city has grown from a small coastal town into a vibrant, diverse, and entrepreneurial community. Every day, local businesses – from family-owned shops to innovative startups – help shape a place where people want to live, work, and invest. They remind us that the American story is not only written in our nation's capital or in history books, but in neighborhoods, main streets, and downtowns across the country.

As we look ahead, we hope future generations inherit a nation that continues to value opportunity, civility, and collaboration. We hope they see communities that embrace both tradition and innovation, and businesses that lift up the people around them. And we hope they feel the same optimism that has carried our country through challenges and triumphs for two and a half centuries.

May this letter serve as a small reminder that in 2026, Sarasota's business community believed deeply in America's promise – and in the responsibility we all share to strengthen it.

Sincerely, and with respect and gratitude,



Heather Kasten
President and CEO
The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce