



Carson City Chamber of Commerce
1900 S. Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701
Telephone: 775-882-1565
www.carsoncitychamber.com

Dear United States of America:

Happy 250th Birthday, America!

On this milestone birthday, it is fitting to reflect upon those who made your birth possible and the revolutionary belief upon which you were founded: that citizens should have the right to govern themselves.

Carson City and Nevada were not present at your birth. We were not among the original thirteen colonies, nor did our history begin on the battlefields of the American Revolution. Our chapter in your story began nearly a century later, during another defining moment—when the Union itself was in danger.

When your 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, needed the loyalty and resources of the West during the Civil War, Nevada answered.

Carson City's beginnings can be traced to Eagle Station, a small trading post established in 1851. In 1858, Abraham Curry and his partners purchased the surrounding land and laid out the community they named Carson City, after the Carson River. The river itself had been named by explorer John C. Frémont in honor of his guide, Kit Carson.

When Nevada Territory was created in 1861, Carson City became its capital. President Lincoln appointed James W. Nye territorial governor and Orion Clemens territorial secretary. Orion traveled west with his younger brother, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, who chronicled territorial government, mining life and the colorful personalities of the West. During his Nevada years, Samuel Clemens emerged as the writer the world would come to know as Mark Twain.

Carson City's importance grew during the Civil War. Just 24 miles away, Virginia City's Comstock Lode produced enormous quantities of silver and gold, bringing people, commerce and national attention to Nevada Territory. The region's wealth and strong support of the Union helped strengthen Nevada's case for statehood.

On October 31, 1864, President Lincoln proclaimed Nevada the 36th state in the Union. We became known as "Battle Born" because we entered the Union during the Civil War. Our state motto, "All for Our Country," continues to express Nevada's devotion to the nation.

Carson City soon became a center of government, commerce and transportation in the developing West. Congress authorized the Carson City Mint in 1863 to process the region's gold and silver. Its first coins were struck in 1870, and those bearing the famous **"CC" mintmark** remain treasured pieces of American history. The former Mint still stands in downtown Carson City and today serves as the Nevada State Museum.

The Virginia & Truckee Railroad began service between Carson City and Virginia City in 1870, carrying passengers, freight, timber and ore and helping northern Nevada grow. Today, the Nevada State Railroad Museum preserves locomotives and railcars from that remarkable era, while excursion trains once again travel a portion of the historic route between Carson City and Virginia City.

Our historic downtown continues to tell the stories of those who came West. Here lived governors, merchants, pioneers and dreamers—including a young George Washington Gale Ferris Jr., who would later invent the Ferris wheel, and Orion Clemens, whose home was frequently visited by his brother Mark Twain.

Carson City continued making history long after the mining era. In 1969, Carson City and Ormsby County consolidated their governments, creating Nevada's only consolidated municipality and establishing one government to serve the community.

Today, Carson City remains the seat of Nevada government. Here, laws are debated by the Nevada Legislature, decisions are rendered by the Nevada Supreme Court, and citizens continue to participate in the democratic process envisioned by America's founders.

Each October, Nevada's admission to the Union is celebrated in Carson City with the Nevada Day Parade, a treasured tradition dating to 1938 and a joyful reminder that Nevada history is also American history.

Yet Carson City is more than a place where history is preserved. With more than 60,000 residents, it remains a regional center for government, employment, education, health care, commerce and community life. In many ways, we continue the role Eagle Station began so long ago—a place where people gather, conduct business, exchange ideas and prepare for the journey ahead.

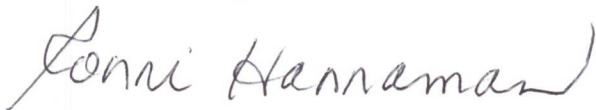
Those whose families have deep roots here, along with those who chose Carson City as their home, can take pride in the role our early residents and leaders played in shaping Nevada and contributing to the story of the United States.

So, America, as you celebrate your 250th birthday, Carson City proudly remembers when Nevada answered the call of the Union. We honor those who came before us not simply by telling their stories, but by continuing their commitment to service, self-government and community.

From Nevada's capital—where Nevada history was, and is still, being made—we wish you many more happy birthdays.

May future generations continue to enjoy and protect the vision handed down to us: liberty, equality, opportunity, justice and government of, by and for the people—while never forgetting those who came before us. We believe strongly it is important to be “proud of our past and confident in our future.”

With pride and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronni Hannaman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the phrase "With pride and gratitude,".

Ronni Hannaman

Executive Director

Carson City Chamber of Commerce