

C-SUITE NETWORK™

A Birthday Letter to America: The Freedom to Build

Dear America,

On your 250th birthday, I find myself thinking about one word: **opportunity**.

I grew up with humble beginnings. Nobody handed me a seat at the table. I had to earn it.

Like millions of Americans, I had to work, take risks, make mistakes, get knocked down, get back up, and keep moving forward. Along the way, I learned that success is never guaranteed. But in America, we are given something even more valuable: the freedom to pursue it.

That freedom has taken me from my small-town roots in South Dakota to some of the largest boardrooms in the world. It has allowed me to build businesses, lead major organizations, advise CEOs, serve on boards, write books, host television and podcast programs, and help other entrepreneurs turn their ideas into enterprises.

My story is uniquely mine—but it is also unmistakably American.

America is where an idea can become a company, a company can become a movement, and a dream can become a legacy. It is where people from every walk of life can create something bigger than themselves—not because the road is easy, but because they have the freedom to travel it.

As Chairman of C-SUITE NETWORK™ and a primetime television and podcast host, and as a business executive, I have had the privilege of meeting thousands of business leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, creators, and risk-takers. They come from different industries, communities, cultures, and political viewpoints. Yet the best among them shares something important: an unwavering belief that tomorrow can be better—and that they have a responsibility to help build it.

That is the real power of American business.

Business is not simply about profits, markets, or boardrooms. It is about people. It is about creating jobs, solving problems, strengthening communities, advancing ideas, and opening doors for those who come next.

Business, at its best, turns possibility into progress.

But freedom and opportunity also carry responsibility. Those of us who have benefited from the American system must do more than celebrate our success. We must help protect and expand the conditions that made it possible.

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We must build businesses worthy of trust. We must lead with courage and integrity. We must invest in people, mentor the next generation, strengthen our communities, and ensure that the ladder of opportunity remains firmly in place for others to climb.

America has never been perfect. Its story has always included struggle, disagreement, hardship, and unfinished work. But it has also been a story of reinvention—a nation continually challenged to live more fully by its founding promise.

For 250 years, Americans have built, experimented, sacrificed, failed, learned, and tried again. Farmers, laborers, immigrants, inventors, service members, teachers, small-business owners, corporate leaders, and entrepreneurs have each added something to the country we inherited.

Now it is our turn.

As we look toward America's next 250 years, I hope we never lose our belief in the extraordinary potential of ordinary people. I hope we continue to reward hard work, encourage bold ideas, welcome responsible risk-taking, and give every person—regardless of where they begin—a genuine opportunity to succeed.

Our greatest asset is not our markets, our money, or even our institutions.

It is our belief that anyone, from anywhere, can achieve extraordinary things—and that when they do, they can create opportunities for countless others.

Happy 250th birthday, America.

Here's to the next generation of dreamers, builders, leaders, and entrepreneurs. May they inherit not only the freedom to pursue their dreams, but also our determination to leave this country stronger, more united, and filled with even greater opportunity than we found it.

God bless America.



JEFFREY W. HAYZLETT

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