

U.S. Independence Day Special

A pioneering partnership of trailblazing change

GEORGE GLASS
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN



It's not often I get to wear cowboy boots and a Stetson as part of my job as United States ambassador. Last month, however, they were the dress code for the annual Independence Day reception

at the ambassador's residence.

Since my wife, Mary, and I are huge country music fans, we couldn't resist hosting a Western hoedown for our first Independence Day party in Japan. There's no greater social icebreaker — and leveler — than a mechanical rodeo bull. While I avoided the embarrassment of being thrown from the "robobull," I did my bit for our nation by leading the line dancing.

The evening was about celebrating our American heritage and traditions, but also about paying homage to the frontier spirit

that is associated with the western expansion of the United States in the 1800s.

Drawn by the promise of a better life, the early pioneers and settlers endured disease, extreme weather, unforgiving terrain and constant uncertainty. Around 1 in 10 emigrants who traveled along the famous Oregon Trail, which stretched for more than 3,200 kilometers from Missouri to the Willamette Valley in my home state of Oregon, died along the way.

The Oregon Trail and others like it are much more than historical routes that enabled one of the largest mass migrations in human history. They embody the determination, resilience and innovation of a people. That same fortitude and unyielding resolve is a thread that runs through the history of the United States, from the fight for independence and the drafting of a groundbreaking constitution to the country's leadership in a multitude of fields and business sectors today.

The frontier spirit is deeply ingrained in who we are as Americans. It is the force that drove our ancestors westward more

than 150 years ago and the impetus that has fueled every pioneering pursuit, daring quest and against-the-odds accomplishment since. We are a nation that embraces the audacious, the adventurous and the ambitious. We are, in the words of the 19th century American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson, "the country of tomorrow."

"To boldly go where no one has gone before" — to paraphrase the memorable line from the title sequence of the sci-fi TV series "Star Trek" — neatly encapsulates the American ethos that gave life to the Apollo program in the 1960s and continues to inspire our entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers and business leaders to keep challenging the status quo and pushing the boundaries of human understanding and discovery. It imbues our world-class technology hubs like Silicon Valley and the companies that have revolutionized industries and transformed the way we live and work.

All of that is celebrated at the USA Pavilion at the Osaka Expo. I've been lucky enough to tour the exhibits devoted to American excellence four times and find

something new to mesmerize me during each visit. In a nod to the moon rock that drew thousands of visitors to the USA Pavilion at Osaka's 1970 Expo, this year's pavilion features a lunar sample from the Apollo 17 mission in 1972, the last time astronauts walked on the moon.

Expo '70 was also a showcase of the pioneering spirit that powered Japan's post-war economic miracle and gave rise to the companies that became household names around the world. I have seen that drive to innovate and perpetually improve on display in my meetings with Japanese executives and my visits to companies here.

The U.S.-Japan partnership harnesses the creativity and ingenuity of both our nations. Over the decades, our collaboration has led to significant advancements in fields as diverse as health care, engineering and space exploration. Now, as we look to lead the way in the global technology revolution, our cooperation is more critical than ever. Ours is a pioneering partnership that fosters trailblazing change and inspires it. Happy Fourth of July.



Ambassador George Glass leads the line dancing at the 2025 Independence Day reception at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.
U.S. EMBASSY

Congratulations to the American People on Their Independence Day



Since 1954
SUN REALTY
& INSURANCE CORPORATION
PRESIDENT: SATOSHI IHARA

VISCOUNTESS SUITE 110, 1-11-36, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052
Telephone: 81-3-3584-6171 E-mail: sun@sunrealty.co.jp
<https://sunrealty.co.jp/>

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.