

# U.S. Independence Day Special

## America at 250: Celebrating the U.S.-Japan partnership

**GEORGE GLASS**  
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN



The United States was founded on bold ideas and radical thinking. Ideals that have fueled America's success ever since the Second Continental Congress voted to declare independence from Great Britain on July 2, 1776. That decision could not have been more audacious — or perilous.

Founding father John Adams understood the significance of that resolution and wrote that it would be celebrated "by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" with pomp, parades, bells, bonfires and illuminations.

Adams' prediction proved correct, and the first festivities took place a year later with fireworks and cannon volleys in Philadelphia and Boston. By marking the day the Declaration of Independence was for-

mally adopted on July 4, Americans are saluting the aspiration and vision that gave birth to the United States of America.

As we commemorate America's 250th birthday this year, we can feel proud that our nation's drive to challenge, innovate and push boundaries remains undimmed. In fact, President Donald Trump is injecting a new level of energy and intensity into the United States, its economy and its partnerships.

On day one of the president's second term in office, he set about reinvigorating American industries, strengthening America's national security, and introducing policies to restore or ensure American dominance in everything from the technologies shaping our societies to the energy powering them.

In Japan, we have a partner that shares our determination to strengthen our alliance and unleash a new era of economic prosperity for our countries and the Indo-Pacific region. That's why this year's 250th anniversary in Japan is both a celebration of an American milestone and a recognition of the contributions of the U.S.-Japan

partnership to America's enduring success as a nation.

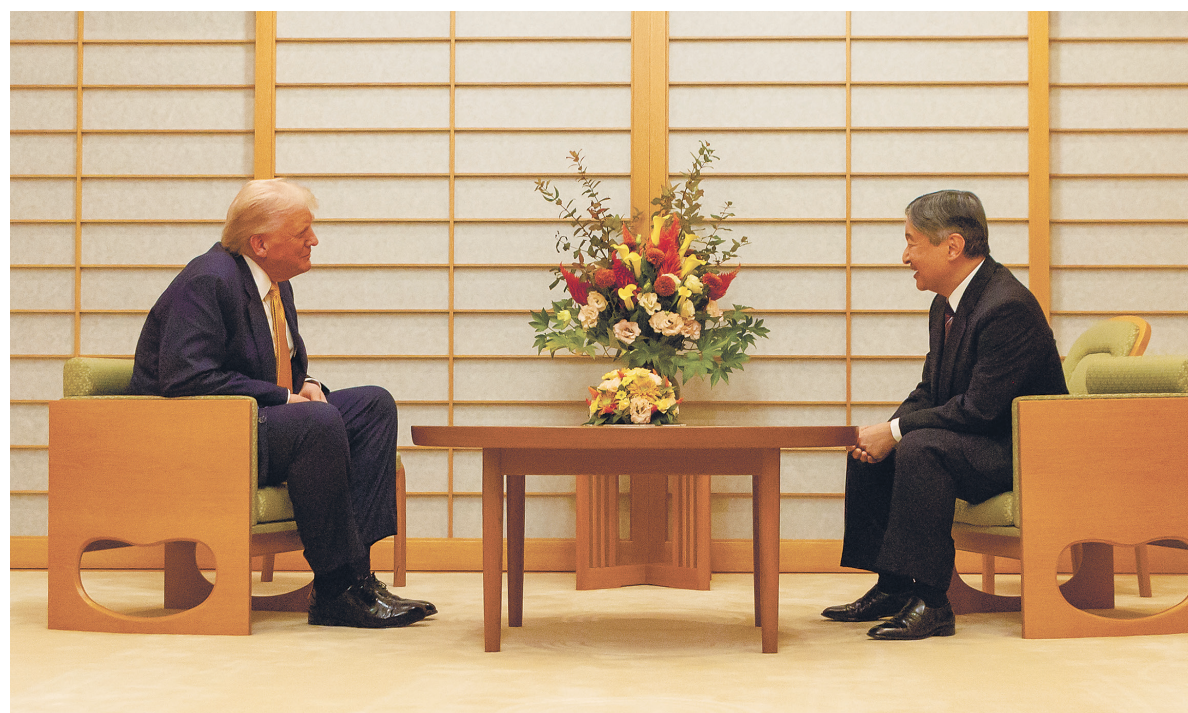
Since the launch of our year of America 250 events and programs in January, we have taken our celebrations on the road. From Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south, we have paid tribute to the organizations, communities, partners and people that animate and sustain the extraordinary U.S.-Japan partnership.

We have much to celebrate. Our partnership is stronger today than at any time in its long history. And in the president and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, we have two leaders united in their belief in the enormous potential of our nations' alliance.

During the president's hugely successful visit to Japan last October, he and the prime minister signed landmark trade and investment deals, including Japan's \$550 billion U.S. investment commitment, that update and recalibrate our bilateral economic relationship and deepen our collaboration in key sectors, including advanced technologies, energy, critical minerals and shipbuilding. These are agreements that leverage our industrial leadership, innovative prowess and economic might to build a future of possibility and prosperity.

With Japanese companies already investing in America at record levels, Japan's additional efforts to focus on energy and critical mineral projects in the U.S. further demonstrate our ally's belief in our mission to prioritize economic security. If we are to protect American and Japanese industries and lead the way in this age of artificial intelligence and quantum computing, we must strengthen our supply chain resilience in energy, critical minerals and the raw materials essential to our modern economies.

In an increasingly unpredictable world,



President Donald Trump speaks with Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward on Oct. 27, 2025. U.S. EMBASSY

we are working together to advance investment and innovation initiatives and expand our network of reliable suppliers and partners. The global economic center of gravity is shifting rapidly to the Indo-Pacific, and making sure this region is free to flourish has never been more important.

With this in mind, we are applying the same level of urgency and investment to the U.S.-Japan security alliance as our economic partnership. The two are inextricably linked.

For more than 70 years, our alliance has preserved peace and protected freedom across the region. Now, in the face of new and ever more sophisticated threats to the stability of the Indo-Pacific, we are upgrading our defense systems, bolstering our deterrence and deepening our security partnerships. With so much at stake, safeguarding every area of our collective security, from cyberspace to missile defense, is imperative.

In just 18 months, the United States and Japan have accomplished an enormous amount on every front. We have refocused our partnership and infused it with purpose. And this is just the beginning.

As I said at the inaugural meeting of the



Left: Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Glass and Trump pose aboard Marine One on Oct. 28, 2025. Right: Glass presents the President's Cup to 2026 Summer Grand Sumo Tournament winner Wakatakakage at Ryogoku Kokugikan stadium in Koto Ward on May 24. U.S. EMBASSY



Liberal Democratic Party's "Japan is Back" group in May, if 2025 was the U.S.-Japan partnership's year of agreement, 2026 is our year of action. We have the road map, the resources and the resolve of two single-minded leaders. We must not let this moment or momentum slip away.

For all his passion for independence 250 years ago, John Adams knew it could never be taken for granted.

"I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and

defend these States," he wrote in a letter to his wife, Abigail. "Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory."

We must be just as determined to shape the U.S.-Japan partnership for tomorrow's challenges — and opportunities. Happy Independence Day!

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



Ambassador George Glass and Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. Shigeo Yamada shake hands after signing a memorandum of cooperation on the U.S.-Japan partnership for America 250 in Tokyo on Oct. 27, 2025. U.S. EMBASSY

# Happy 250th Independence Day

from



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Above: Trump and Takaichi depart their summit at Akasaka Palace on Oct. 28, 2025. Left: Takaichi greets Glass at the Prime Minister's Official Residence on March 10. WHITE HOUSE/U.S. EMBASSY



Glass (back row, center) and his staff pose with officials from the U.S. Consulate at the Sapporo Snow Festival on Feb. 5. U.S. EMBASSY



Glass participates in the Akasaka Hikawa Shrine Festival in Tokyo's Akasaka district on Sept. 21. U.S. EMBASSY



Glass waves to the crowd during a celebratory event at the Japanese Grand Prix at the Suzuka Circuit in Mie Prefecture on March 29. U.S. EMBASSY



Glass and his wife, Mary, pose for an America 250 reception at the Bankoku Shinryokan convention center in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, on May 9. U.S. EMBASSY

**Congratulations to All Americans in Celebrating Their Historic 250th Independence Day**



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