

Message on the Birthday of President William McKinley

January 29, 2026

Today we celebrate the birthday of the legendary President William McKinley, a true American trailblazer and titan of American greatness, who protected our people, expanded our blessings, and secured unprecedented growth, prosperity, and sovereignty for our beloved Nation.

Born and raised in Niles, Ohio, McKinley learned as a child the virtues of faith, duty, and respect, which would go on to define his storied career. Following his service in the Union Army during the Civil War, he was elected to represent the people of Ohio in the United States House of Representatives, where he famously authored and passed the McKinley Tariff of 1890, a bold legislative effort to protect American workers against foreign exploitation. He later rose to serve as Governor of Ohio, emerging on the national stage as a leading voice for the forgotten men and women of America: our great workers, laborers, and tradesmen.

In 1896, McKinley ran for President and won decisively, becoming the 25th President of the United States. As Commander in Chief, President McKinley was a fierce advocate for American greatness and heroically led our country to victory in the Spanish-American War, advancing the blessings of freedom beyond our shores. He was also an unwavering champion for the American worker, and his historic use of tariffs fueled an economic boom that made our country stronger, wealthier, and more prosperous than ever before.

Tragically, President McKinley's devotion to "America first" principles ultimately cost him his life when, in 1901, he was viciously assassinated by a deranged left-wing anarchist. To this day, he lives on in our hearts as a martyr of American freedom.

In honor of President McKinley's historic legacy, on my first day returning to office, I proudly restored the rightful name of Mount McKinley to America's highest peak. Guided by his vision, my administration is also reestablishing a trade policy that promotes American investment and productivity, enhances our Nation's industrial and technological advantages, defends our economic and national security, and above all, puts American workers, manufacturers, and industries first.

On what would have been President McKinley's 183d birthday—and as we celebrate 250 years of American freedom and independence—we honor his memory, we remember his courage, and we renew our resolve to protect our workers, to reach further, aim higher, and achieve the full promise and glory of the American Dream.

Categories: Letters and Messages : President William McKinley, message on birthday.

Subjects: Geographic names, efforts to restore American greatness; President William McKinley, birthday; Tariffs.

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