



WELCOME TO THE 234TH ANNIVERSARY OF
**THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA**

24 JUNE 2010

**“VILLA OTIUM”
AMERICAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE
OSLO, NORWAY**



A Greeting from the Ambassador and Eleanor White

Eleanor and I welcome you to the magnificent Villa Otium, owned by the American people, and located in one of the most beautiful places in the world. We are here to celebrate the national day of the United States, marking our independence as a nation with the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

We are a young country, certainly in Norwegian terms, and one built by and for immigrants. Except for our Native American population, ALL Americans come from immigrant stock. So the early Americans had to build a country and a society through trial and error, keeping traditions that worked and incorporating traditions from new Americans all the time. We continue to be a nation that values education, creativity, innovation, and flexibility; and we continue to be a society where hard work and motivation can lead to success, regardless of where one was born.

Because we embrace our diversity, we also respect those countries that have contributed so much to our own development. As former Vice President Walter Mondale reminded me at a dinner in Minnesota last January, there are more Norwegians in Minnesota than in Oslo, and more Norwegians in the United States than in all of Norway! You have helped to make us what we are today. And the continuing ties between our governments and our people, especially in terms of mutual defense and NATO, education, culture, business, and commitment to democracy and human rights around the world make both our countries stronger, for each other and for the world.

Eleanor and I have been overwhelmed by our welcome to Oslo and to Norway, beginning with the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to President Obama shortly after we arrived! We love your country, your people, and—yes—even your climate, which (coming from Boston) has made us feel very much at home. We look forward to seeing even more of Norway and meeting more of your people in the coming months and years, and pledge to you that we will do everything possible to strengthen the ongoing friendship and alliance between our countries. We thank you so much for joining us in this Independence Day celebration!

Ambassador Barry B. White and Eleanor G. White



PROGRAM

Welcome – Rodger Deuerlein, Consul, U.S. Embassy

Presentation of the Colors - U.S. Embassy Marine Security Guard Detachment

Norwegian National Anthem - Statoil Big Band

American National Anthem – Statoil Big Band

Remarks - Ambassador Barry B. White and Eleanor G. White

Closing Remarks - Rodger Deuerlein, Consul, U.S. Embassy

ENTERTAINMENT

Statoil Storband – Statoil Big Band

A tasting of American food and beverages



The American Embassy deeply appreciates the generous support of our contributors for helping to make this year's celebration possible.

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Boeing Company

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PepsiCo

Radisson Blu Hotels & Resorts

Strøm AS / Fetzer Vineyards / Bonterra Vineyards

Torres & Partners AS / Marimar Estate

Unilever / Ben & Jerry's

Vinetum AS / Cloudline Cellars

In addition, the work done by the Residence and Embassy employees to organize and execute this year's celebration is greatly appreciated.

PROGRAM PRINTED ON ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PAPER.