

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

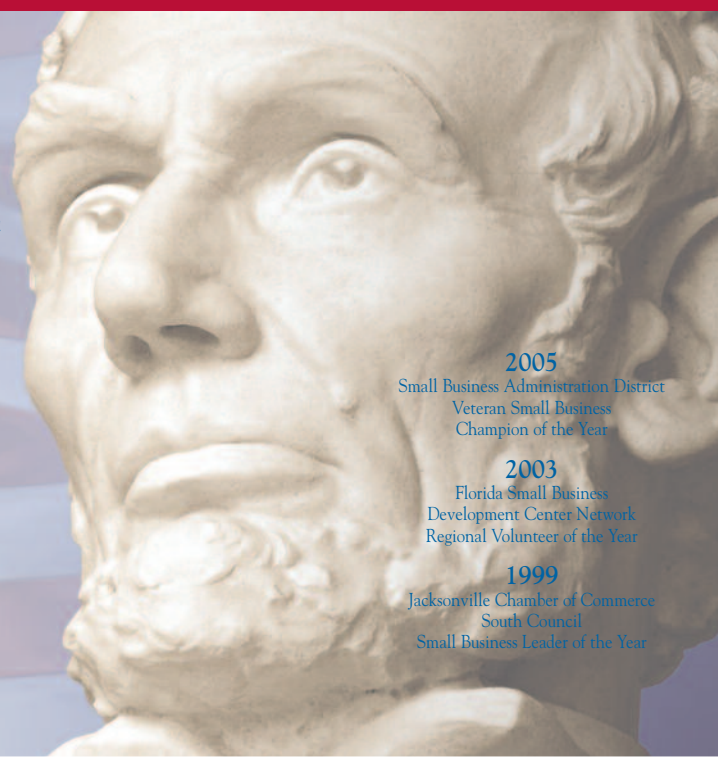
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

Happy Birthday, America!

"I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illumination, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more. You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. 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. Yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means. And that posterity will triumph..."
John Adams, July 3, 1776

"Public sentiment is everything. With it, nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed."

Abraham Lincoln



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The American Soul Celebrates The American Graduate:

Hope, Grit and Determination Prevail!

July 4, 2010

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

Ok...right now—STOP—and thank God. Thank Him for one of the greatest blessings you could ever receive—you're an *American*.

Moreover, you're an American whose country is fighting for its survival—its very identity...at home and abroad—**so you've got another blessing that comes with the first: the chance to make a difference.** As we write our 24th annual greeting, "Government of the People," is alive and well, and stepping out with a little attitude at a young 234...so celebrate!

It's been a year of milestones for America and the Kaufman Crew. Lindsay's letter will talk more about our family, but here's the executive summary: our "celebration meter" is well-primed as our one-year active military recall ended, Lindsay became a Bat Mitzvah, and her cousin Marshall graduated high school.

Meanwhile, America redoubled its fight against an enemy who's sworn our destruction and we've experimented with new healthcare and stimulus policies.

So many endings—and associated beginnings—and so much hope...and apprehension. **Made us realize how ironic it is, or destined perhaps, that America's annual Season of Freedom coincides with graduations around the country.** We start celebrating The American Soul with the gratitude and solemnity of Memorial Day, then we honor the glory of our flag and all it's stood for on Flag Day, and, of course, culminate Liberty's season with the "pomp and parade" John Adams so eloquently predicted.

At the same time we're acknowledging America, each year's graduating students mark new milestones in their lives. **The Season of Freedom is also our future leaders' time of hope, challenge and aspiration—how incredibly American.**

This year offers just as much hope—even more—as seasons past. Of course, you wouldn't know it from the political discourse. Whether it's from the Right or Left, America is seriously wounded and on the verge of being lost.

What rubbish! And what little faith in our fellow Americans. It's an insult to our American Soul and the patriots who defend her. **With its fierce spirit and proud heritage, our collective grit has seen us through infinitely harder times.** Moreover the evidence of our internal strength and greatness is right before our eyes: regardless of occupation, political orientation, race, or socioeconomic standing, our people are thoroughly engaged, some even enraged, and the level of involvement is inspiring.

Much has been written of the "new normal"... in our economy...and the world. In business, just as our military did in the War on Terror, there's a more focused view of where we are, and then a willingness to adapt where we can—and **create change where we must.**

Nine years ago, the heroes of United Flight 93 taught us this tough lesson as they valiantly created change and won the first battle of this fight. **And after 9/11, our leaders warned us that this new war would be The Long War.** For the Islamic extremists who want us and our way of life murdered are plotting and patient, and counting on our lack of focus. They're counting wrong. Whether in war, business, or life, *Americans always find a way to win.*

Sometimes we're lucky, as we were with the Christmas Day bomber in Detroit, but luck rarely just happens. As a business mentor once said, **"The harder I work, the luckier I get."** America and her proud servicemen and women, military and civilian, are working harder every-

day to keep this barbaric enemy on the run till free man everywhere is safe. We'll keep working hard, and when those inevitable set-backs occur, they won't mean our luck's run out; rather, **they'll be our cue to push on even harder...and get luckier.**

Now the business and political worlds are learning the same lessons the military was forced to master. **"Change happens" is not just a cliché, but a fact of life.** And our new graduates get it—an ending also represents a new beginning.

The American entrepreneur may be a bit battered and bruised, but he or she is the epitome of the change-maker, working harder everyday, creating the "luck" that will move us all forward. As President Obama told one graduating class, "...what ultimately makes us American, **quintessentially American, is something that can't be taught—a stubborn insistence on pursuing our dreams.**"

So the American Soul digs in and tackles the issues of the day: borders...healthcare...free, private enterprise...the environment...preserving our American heritage.

We fight on the battlefield of ideas and in political campaigns across the country. And as those battles wage, we all win. America's on the verge of being lost? Hardly. **She'll never be lost as long as we're free to wage that fight.** In fact, regardless of the elections' outcomes, we're guaranteed victory every two years.

As the President said at another commencement, "Our nation's destiny has never been certain...**What is certain—what has always been certain—is our ability to shape that destiny.** That is what makes us different. That is what makes us American—our ability at the end of the day to look past all of our differences and all of our disagreements and still forge a common future."

Lindsay's Bat Mitzvah theme was "It's America," and singer Rodney Atkins' song of the same title includes these lines: "...Now we don't always get it all right, but there's no place else I'd rather build my life. **Cause it's a kid with a chance...**"

That's her. And Marshall. And you. And me. **That's the force that drives The American Soul.** In this Season of Freedom, let's all graduate to a new understanding—and appreciation—of this spirit. Let's celebrate the *challenge*. Let's celebrate America!

May God always bless America...may God always bless The American Soul.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Polly, Lindsay & Steve Kaufman with Ariel the Feline Princess and Minnie the Magnificent Chi-Mutt

