



Happy Birthday America!

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

Abraham Lincoln

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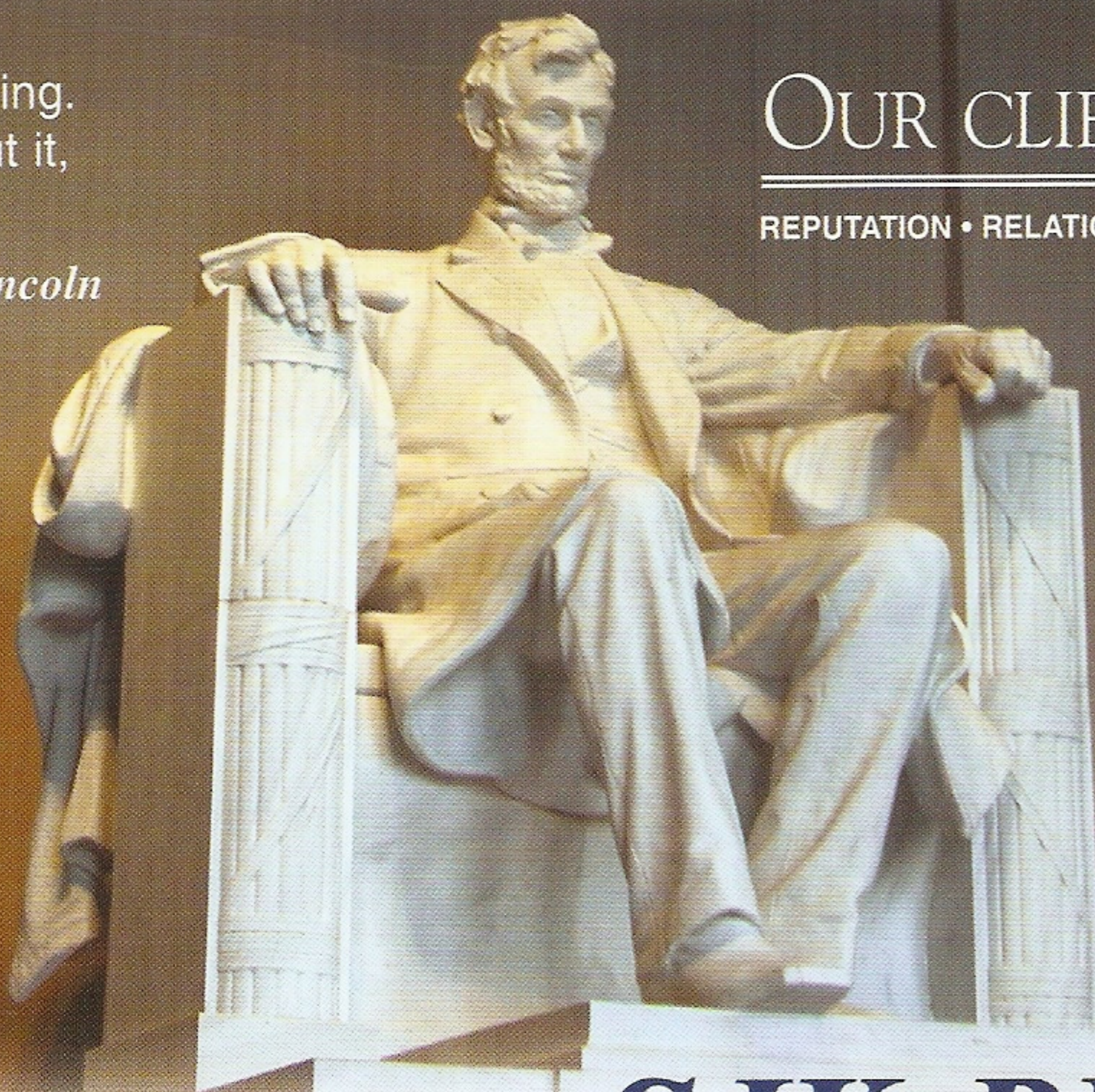
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The American Soul: A Winner...Despite the Split-Personality

Happy Birthday, America! We hope this annual greeting (now sent for more than two decades) finds you doing well — and *celebrating*...your lottery winnings. **Didn't play the lottery — or think you didn't win? Well, you're luckier than you know.** We *all* won the greatest lottery of life: we were born (or became) Americans. Today is *our day* to cherish and enjoy our great fortune.

Of course this jackpot of freedom comes at a high price. A cost that was predicted by Founding Father John Adams, July 3, 1776:

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... that posterity will triumph...

As we know, but sadly some of us forget, posterity *did* triumph. Our early winnings enabled us to create a nation truly unique in world history: A sanctuary of liberty, individual opportunity, and above all, hope. **A country that is simultaneously the most powerful and the most compassionate.** A place — *and a people* — like no other...*ever*.

And throughout our relatively short history, our pay-out in this lottery of life has been the envy of those who sought to destroy us. They tried to rig the table and steal the game, but we still held the winning ticket. **Our American Soul beat back European imperialism, Nazi fascism, and Soviet communism.** So we really shouldn't be surprised that we're fighting in this century to preserve our lump sum of liberty against the beheadings of totalitarian Islamic fanatics.

Yet some among us don't want to defend their winning ticket. **The game we've played and won for 230 years is now simply too high stakes, too bloody...too hard. Well, too bad.** How dare this "America-embarrasses-me" crowd trivialize the courage and sacrifice of all who fought — and continue to fight — for our American birthright? **They know they're free to dissent, but they've conveniently forgotten the price of that freedom.** *No one* gets a free ticket in this game.

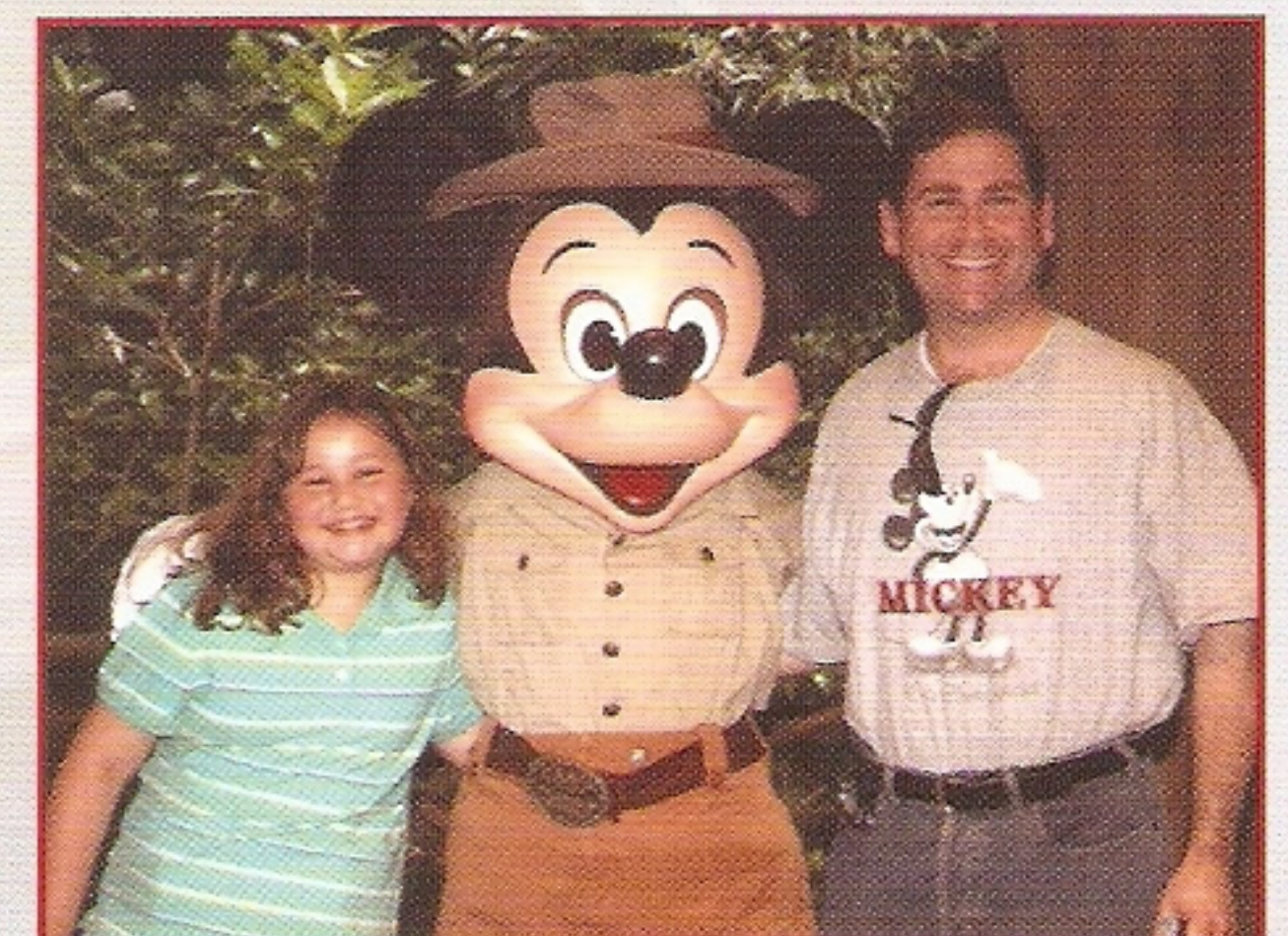
God-willing, we'll heal our split-personality soon. And everyone will see that, while we're far from perfect, we're the closest thing to hope and promise the world has ever known. Risking life and limb, the hopeless around the world come to America to play in *our* lottery.

Most importantly, our misguided countrymen fail to acknowledge the one right they don't hold: **the right to quit.** It's our unspoken covenant with those lost — on 9/11, in Iraq, Afghanistan and the other fronts in this Global War on Terror, and at Pearl Harbor, Midway, Normandy, Inchon, Hue City, and on all battlefields past and present: **your sacrifice was not in vain.** We will continue where you bravely left off. **We can still see those rays of ravishing light and glory.**

So enjoy your great fortune this special day...*our day*...Freedom's day. **May God always bless our country...may God always bless The American Soul.**

Happy Independence Day!

*Polly, Lindsay, and Steve Kaufman,
with Ariel the Feline Princess*



Lindsay and Steve visit an American Icon, while Polly, off camera, holds back Ariel — who only sees a well-dressed lunch!