

The American Soul: *The Light that Eliminated Darkness Must Shine Again*

Happy Independence Week, Shipmates!

We hope you and yours are well. As we wrap up our annual Season of Freedom, many thoughts come to mind: **this period was beautiful, solemn, full of meaning...and irony...and some apprehension.**

The season starts with Armed Forces Day in mid-May, then Memorial Day, Flag Day and of course, culminates with The Fourth. This year, though, the **75th anniversary of D-Day truly made everyone pause—seemingly worldwide.**

For one brief, shining moment, those of us in the “America First Club” simply enjoyed a smile. (And no offense, Mr. President, but with **this being our 32nd Independence Day card**, we’ve been proud members before you made it cool!) The world acknowledged—virtually in unanimity—what an amazing nation we’re blessed to be citizens of.

The free world held its breath 75 years ago, as brave men—and boys—stormed the beaches or dropped behind enemy lines to **change history**. While many of these fighters came from our Allied countries, we know, as the community of nations acknowledged, the vast majority of **these heroes came from half-a-globe away**: Palo Alto, Duluth, Appleton, Midland, Wilmington, Poughkeepsie...and Jacksonville.

In every Fourth card, we reiterate our Soul’s defining characteristic, truly unique among all the other peoples: **never in the history of**

mankind has one nation been the most powerful and simultaneously the most compassionate. *We sacrifice for others.* On June 6, 2019, the rest of the world recognized this fact.

The irony? Even those who cringe at our cards and see the President’s America First policy as jingoist xenophobia—even those **who spent most the last decade saying they were embarrassed** (embarrassed?!) by the USA (because we weren’t perfect?)—even *those* naysayers acknowledged on that one day **the sheer splendor of The American Soul** and those who carry it in their heart.

Why was getting to that point so hard...and so fleeting? It surely didn’t last. We won’t cast judgement here. We learned the hard way the incorrect conclusions of others can be so wrong and cut so deeply. **We pray for our fellow Countrymen** and hope someday they understand how incredibly blessed we—and the people of the world—are that **243 years ago** another group of **heroes put the judgement of others aside to forge this amazing nation.**

But those of us who cherish and celebrate The American Soul can’t let a one-day victory lull us into complacency. Sadly one **of the evil tenets America was fighting 75 years ago is raising its ugly head again: anti-Semitism.** Growing up, Steve’s intuitive sister would say, “What happened in Germany can happen here,” and he would adamantly protest. Of course anti-Semitism has always been a part of the left and right fringes—**our American Soul, like all souls, isn’t perfect—but it’s never been permitted to enter mainstream political dialogue...until now.**

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Hitler was first elected before he seized complete power. We now have elected **Democrat members of Congress who freely express anti-Semitic** sentiment without fear or repercussion; in fact, it seems to *add to their power.*

Wow...those words: unimaginable...and in the same year as the first-ever fatal attacks at two American synagogues. Our American Soul has learned much tolerance in two-and-half centuries...but **when does tolerance morph into acquiescence...and then into full-fledged support?** 75 years ago we brought light to the world’s darkness. Now **we must shine that light at home.** We know it *does* still burn bright.

On a personal note, we witnessed the spark of a radiant, life-long glow when **Lindsay graduated the University of Florida** in May. Watching and listening to her and her fellow graduates gives us much hope.



But **hope without action is merely a daydream.** Let us fan the flames of freedom that still burn within The American Soul. Let us never forget. And let us speak out to bring this **creeping darkness** into the blinding light of reason—showered by the **fireworks of Liberty**—as if every day is **D-Day** and the **Fourth of July.**

May God continue to **Bless America.**
May God continue to **Bless our American Soul...**

Happy 4th!

Steve & Lisa



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