



THIS PATRIOTS' WEEK...

Remember, Reflect...and Rededicate to Honor America!

Remember, Reflect, Redouble Your Efforts to
Honor America

Our Patriots' Example & the American Soul: *Calming the Torment Within*

Happy Patriots' Week! Last year, we replaced our 33rd Fourth-of-July card to recognize the week between **9/11—Patriot Day—and 9/17, Constitution Day, as Patriots' Week.** We hope our new custom finds you safe and well.

This 9/11 brought a cascade of conflicting emotions...the **20th anniversary of unimaginable loss and terror...and thoroughly inspiring heroism.** Truly, the American Soul at its best.

Then our **disastrous exit from Afghanistan opened our collective wound,** made worse by losing another 13 brave American Souls. Sadly, our long war against radical Islam didn't end Aug. 31; it just entered a **more dangerous phase.**

But Afghanistan anger can't detract from the compelling legacies left us in Septembers past.

From our Founding Fathers to the Heroes of Flight 93, the Twin Towers and Pentagon, **they trusted us to carry on, protecting and nourishing the American Soul.** So...*what would they think of us now?* Would they wonder if *E Pluribus Unum*, "Out of many, one," still represents the USA?

For us, civic involvement runs in our blood. **We've loved the passion and debate, the battle of each campaign,** knowing win or lose, we'd get another chance to espouse our beliefs in the next election.

But now? Honestly, it's exhausting...and not very enjoyable. **We've never seen such vitriol.** We know historically a few other periods were worse—but not by much.

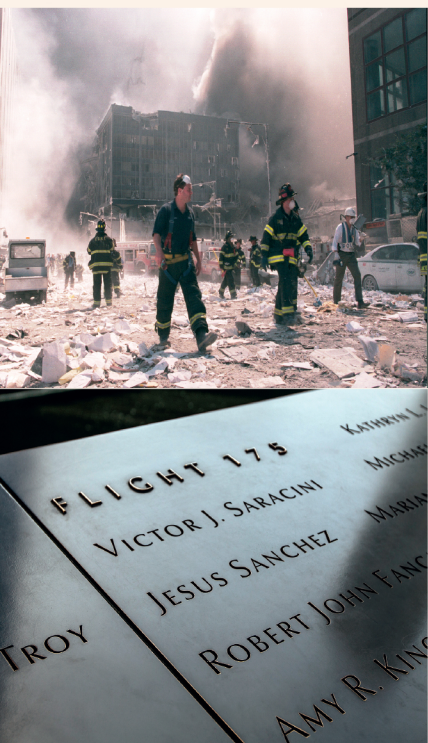
Can we help heal our American Soul? Can we push through the distractions, accept some risks, and find a way to work together?

The Federalists and Anti-Federalists clashed, sometimes violently, but found a way to move our nation forward...and the Heroes of Flight 93—a quintessential American **melting pot of different religions, races and backgrounds—became a beautiful team of strangers.** According to telephone accounts of their discussions, not all initially agreed with what to do. But eventually, **they decided to "roll" ...together.**

Let's honor those who united "...to form a more perfect Union..." and those who gave their all to protect their fellow Americans—both on 9/11 and throughout history—*by simply trying harder.* Really, **the end state of continuing down the current path is...unthinkable.** And un-American.

Consider taking our 'Patriot's Challenge:'

- **contact someone you know with a different viewpoint,**
- **ask him or her to explain the position held,**
- **in return for you doing the same...**
- **and then just listen to each other.**



You already know you **won't agree.** That's OK—**agreeing to disagree is part of America's DNA!** It's the first step forward. In that discussion, you both win...and in that small moment, *the American Soul wins.*

We'll still fight the good fight—our disputes are genuine, and the future character of our American Soul remains at stake. But we're competing in the arena of ideas *with fellow countrymen.* Except for left and right fringe elements who actually hate America, **our enemies aren't here; they're out there.**

In addition to the fight against radical Islam, the **dual cold wars with both Russia and China are raging.** America already proved it can emerge victorious...but not when we're fighting one another.

234 years of our remarkable Constitution...20 years since witnessing breathtaking heroism. In both events, our **September Patriots showed us the way—the American Way.**

Let's seize their example to change the course we're on. The words of President Reagan's "Rendezvous with Destiny," can guide us, as **we strive to "preserve...the last best hope of man on earth,"** so future generations "...should say of us...**We did all that could be done.**"

We *can* do more. In America, we always reach higher: **so stretch...extend your hand.** Let's start talking *with each other again,* and embrace the spirit of our heroes—**the spirit of America.**



Happy Patriots' Week & God Bless America!
Lisa & Steve

