



THIS PATRIOTS' WEEK...

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Remember, Reflect...and Celebrate America!

The American Soul: Summoning Its Strengths

Shipmates,

Happy Patriots' Week! Those who received one of our previous 34 annual greetings know we once sent Independence Day cards; then a few years ago recognized **the week between 9/11 and 9/17, Constitution Day, as Patriots' Week.** We hope our note finds you well and thriving.

Every year at this time, **we're simply awe-inspired as we recall the selflessness and heroism** of our first responders and Flight 93 patriots. They **embodied American grit**, determination and compassion, and we will forever be in their debt for their **example and sacrifice.**

Unfortunately, most Americans have **lost that same sense of reverence for our founding.** They forget—or worse, were never taught—how **incredibly audacious** and uncertain independence and an elected, constitutional government would be. No one knew then they were creating **the most stable, enduring democracy in history.** A nation whose very name is synonymous with new beginnings.

The story of America has always been one of faith and hope. It kept the delegates to the Constitutional Convention committed, and fortified our 9/11 heroes. We know faith and hope can **sometimes be hard to summons**, especially after years of officials and so-called experts—either accidentally or intentionally—getting *so much wrong.*

So let's reach farther, **stretch if we must, into our inheritance, that sustaining well of faith and hope.** We must act as if our future depends on it...because once again, it does.

The Russia-China alliance will likely make the 20th century's Cold War pale in comparison. **History shows we won that battle through military strength AND a commitment to capitalism**—a combination agreed to by generations of leaders on both sides of the aisle. *Now even that consensus is in doubt.*

Current policies, especially at the federal level, **threaten America's economic strength and vitality by neutering** what's supposed to be our free market economy. History also tells us state-run economies always fail—*always.*



Years ago **SJK•PR** created a lapel pin, **"America Works: Thanks to Business."** *We ignore that fact at our own peril.* As columnists in *The Wall Street Journal* recently wrote, "Government didn't build America. Thomas Edison, Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, Bill Gates, Warren Buffett and millions of investors, innovators and small-business people you've never heard of did that."

Debating the power of our central government is as **old as our founding**, so let's make our case and engage *enthusiastically.* But let's not step into the trap easily set by others of **demonizing the opposition.** If there's one lesson our September heroes—on 9/11 and 9/17—taught us clearly: **we're all in this together.**

From the first responders at the Twin Towers and Pentagon to Todd Beamer's "Let's roll," to the words of Benjamin Franklin years earlier at the Declaration signing, "We must, indeed, all hang together or assuredly, we shall all hang separately," **they understood: if we're to move forward, we must find the way to move as one.**

Dissent doesn't survive in Russia or China; they ARE moving as one. **Nothing would serve their ends more than** to see us collapse from within. Political discourse isn't easy. Sometimes it *does* get personal. But **let's strive to debate proposals and policies...**not motives and characters.

Recall that awe and pride we feel towards our September heroes. They were diverse and opinionated, accommodating and stubborn, conciliatory and cantankerous. But **in the moments that mattered, they became amazing men and women** who *came together to do what needed to be done.*

Would *they* be proud of us now? **Will our children admire us later?** This Patriots' Week, let's **honor the courage** of Septembers past and recommit to America's innate strengths:

New Beginnings. Faith and Hope. Free Enterprise. E pluribus unum (out of many, one).

And let's do it *together.*



*Happy Patriots' Week & God Bless America!
Lisa, Steve ...and Bonjee*



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