



Remember, Reflect...and Celebrate America!

WE CHANGED-UP OUR 33RD INDEPENDENCE CARD...

Patriots' Week and Our American Soul: Bruised, Battered...and Blessed

This passing week got us thinking: September... once felt like the second New Year, as normal activities resumed after summer. The tragedy of 9/11 forever changed that upbeat feeling.

Yet with awe, we immediately saw **Americans take the fight right back to the enemy** with our incredible **Flight 93 Heroes**. Ordinary people...*beautiful American souls*...sacrificing all to save others and the next targeted symbol of America.

Combined with the heroes of the Twin Towers and Pentagon, **we rightfully call 9/11 Patriot Day**. But we seldom hear that reference. **Recognized even less: September 17, Constitution Day**, commemorating the signing of our passport to liberty in 1787.

Let's do better. **Let's create and light up this 'Patriots' Week' in September as we do the first week of July**. In each case, our American Soul burned bright, a true beacon of exceptionalism, inspiring the world.



(Perhaps even pop-culture will help: with the remarkable popularity of the musical, "Hamilton," a new generation might learn what's rarely taught: the unyielding character of America.)

Unfortunately, this year our American Soul is absorbing lots of blows. The pandemic is real—just as real as the **pandemics in 1969 or 1957, which killed more than 100,000 Americans**...but neither of which stopped people from living their lives. Nothing closed; life, with some precautions, went on.

What exactly is our generation thinking? Much of the population will get the virus; sadly, a tragic, but small, percentage will die. Thankfully, **COVID-19's recovery rate remains 99%...**

Yet we deliberately destroyed our economy—and untold lives and livelihoods—to avoid getting sick. Worse, we enabled our leaders to step on **our Constitutional right of free assembly**. *Never again.*



Never again is actually **agreed upon across the political spectrum**—as abolish-the-lock-down and anti-racism protesters showed.

We were reminded some causes actually ARE more important than the possibility of becoming ill.

THAT's The American Soul who **won our independence, survived our Civil War, built a vibrant economy and country, saved the world from Nazi, Soviet and radical Islamic tyranny**...and sadly, will eventually need to **combat the Chinese Communist Party** in the next great clash of civilizations.

Of course, our work's not finished. Painful racial disparities persist; **justice and equality *must* be the birthright of ALL Americans**. While racism and "The Talk" Black Dads hold with their sons should disgust us, **the ideals of American freedom and free enterprise**—our 'system' of individual liberties, economic opportunities and personal freedoms and responsibilities—**abhor ALL the -ism's**.

'Systemic racism' is a canard used to keep our American Soul in turmoil. **It corrupts the real story of our growth and evolution** as a people. **That's *not* the story being told today**—yet *stories possess power*. As a leading UK rabbi explains: **"The story we tell affects the decisions we make. Get the story wrong and we can rob an entire generation of (its) future. Get it right...and we can achieve greatness."**

The American story is awe-inspiring—singularly unique in history. **It's the story of a resolute nation and good people**—*not demigods*—with all our human foibles and flaws. Born blessed from Above, with a passion for equality and liberty, we've strived through time to ensure that bequest is enjoyed by **all** our citizens.

Let's make Patriots' Week a time to uplift the legacy left us. **Let's honor our love of freedom... pursuit of justice...and character of compassion**. Let's understand our **WHOLE** story, staying inspired by our successes and *smarter from our mistakes*, always reaching higher.

Ultimately, let's keep doing what we do best: **staying strengthened by—and acting worthy of**—the blessings of America...especially our September patriots.

*May God continue to bless The American Soul...
and may we continue to celebrate America!
- Steve & Lisa*

