

From the Desk of Chris Quackenbush

Independence Day

Independence Day is a day we reflect on the past and what it means for us as a nation. Our independence and freedoms, and so many rights that we may, at times, take for granted. It also is a holiday that allows us to get together with family and friends, grill burgers, play yard games, go boating, take kids fishing, and of course watch fireworks light up our sky in celebration. Thinking back on the 4th of July's over my life, a few stand out...

- As a child, my parents took me to Washington D.C. to visit a friend of the family. We visited the typical points of interest, the aquarium in Chesapeake Bay, the battlefields of Manassas, the Smithsonian, the Air and Space Museum, and of course the White House. However, the most memorable event of this trip was on the 4th as we sat on the lawn near the Washington Monument with family and friends in anticipation of the show in the sky. Watching the explosion of color over the reflecting pool at the Lincoln Memorial made the day much grander, I was mesmerized. It was a sight I will never forget and was the first moment when I truly realized how small we are in the grand scheme of things.
- Independence Day 2006, I spent with my best friend. This was a typical 4th of July full of twenty somethings being silly at a buddy's house and listening to music far too loud for the neighbors! A photo, forever capturing that moment in time, was taken of the two of us. Even without the picture, I remember every detail of that day down to what we were wearing. As I think back on this memory it is a good reminder to truly enjoy every moment as if it were your last. Sadly, this July 4th was my best friend's last, and I am forever grateful that I was part of it.
- Everyone had a very different 2020 and it probably changed us all in some way. It was a very difficult year for me as well (too many details to list here). But as I gathered over the holiday in 2021 with a group of friends, the feeling of a nation gathering back together again after being separated and distanced for what felt like far more than 6-12 months (depending on where you live), was enough to again make me feel small but a part of something bigger. I felt how lucky we all truly are to have made it through all our worst days and look to brighter days ahead.

I hope everyone will take a few moments this holiday to put our differences aside and reflect on how fortunate we are to be in the place we are in (wherever that place may be). To appreciate our friends, family, and freedom.

It is a privilege to do something I love for people that I care deeply about. Helping our clients build, protect, and manage their wealth and doing so by most importantly being there for them through all life's transitions, planned and un-planned. A humble thank you to everyone for having the freedom to choose who you work with but choosing us to be your team, we never take that for granted. We thank you for your continued trust, confidence, and friendship. We hope that your Independence Day celebration is one filled with laughter, joy, and memories to last a lifetime.

All the best today and always!