

Upfront

We're celebrating two important milestones in this issue of The Skinnie. The birth of our beloved nation and high school graduations. Every year at this time, we feature young people from our core constituency – Skidaway Island – who have recently received their diplomas and are about to begin the next chapters of their lives. It is also the run up to July 4th, the commemoration of the ideal of American independence.

Both occasions symbolize new freedoms for their celebrants, along with significant responsibilities. As citizens and beneficiaries of our founders' courageously forged legacy, and as young adults, we hold the promises of a bright future in our grasps. We also face the potential perils that will follow if we forsake those promises.

It's summer. The pace slows a bit. The sun lingers. The humidity doesn't relent. We rest and recharge so we can meet tomorrow's challenges...next season's challenges...the challenges of the next gen-

eration. So that we can do so with the energy and attention and diligence that these challenges deserve. As our graduates will as they head off to college, or start a new job, or volunteer to serve the country we love. As we will, as co-authors and stewards of the American Dream.

We have much for which to be thankful. There's nothing better than a backyard cookout to remind us how sweet and simple life can be.

Congrats, Class of 2024, and Happy Birthday, USA!

Scott A. Laurotti



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