

## 2020 Photo + Caption Winner #2

The Writing Initiative Award of \$100  
2020 Photo + Caption Contest  
Friends Category

Joshua Letourneau, 2021



Amidst times like these, I have been gifted more time allowing me the freedom to wonder my own thoughts. More frequently than ever, I find myself looking back on my life; When I held a smile on my face, not a single worry dared cross my mind. With the chance of sounding poetic or melodramatic, times were simpler then. I never worried about the next time I would be able to leave the house, or the next time I would even be able to walk the halls of school to hear the loud banter of my fellow peers.

This photo is from a collection of photos from a weekend of my freshman year. When I said earlier not a single worry dared cross my mind, I meant it. I need not worry about

the difficulties of sending my SAT scores to my college selection after they met their second delay, I never worried about whether or not I'd meet an exceptional grading of my AP exams. Furthermore, the idea that I would not be able to leave my house because of A global pandemic would seem like mere science fiction.

In the moment captured in that photo, I was alive. Not stuck in my own thoughts reliving the past, not stuck in time hoping for a future, I was in that moment and that moment was one of the best moments of my life. I believe I laughed and smiled more in the span of that weekend than in the entirety of my life before it.

Looking at this photo I can't help but think, "take me back to the days where the roads were empty because of the snow, and not because of a global health crisis." That day when the roads were empty (due to snow) we took advantage of it, we engaged the night and embraced the world. We would find patches of black ice and slide on them like we were in a bootleg NHL.

To Me this photo resembles a feeling. A feeling of freedom, life, and true joy. It's a feeling I haven't felt in a long time. The freedom to be with friends without worry, the freedom to run under the stars without stress, the freedom to laugh and smile with ease. The freedom to Live. Because life isn't about closed doors and missed opportunities, it's about seizing the moment and pushing forward.

I can't wait for the day I will no longer have to look back and reminisce, but to look forward and live. I can't wait for the days I don't have to worry. For the days I can finally live and embrace this beautiful world. I can't wait for the day I don't have to wait, I don't have to sit and hope the future will come.

When this is all over, the storm subsides, the snow melts, and life continues on, I promise myself the first thing I'm going to do when this all blows over, is go and see my friends. Because by then that's all that will ever matter.