

Good evening past and present members of the Borough Council and ladies and gentlemen. I would like to wish everyone a happy new year and hope for good health and happiness in the upcoming year.

The military holds a change of command ceremony which is a time-honored tradition to have the outgoing commander relieved by the incoming commander in front of the entire unit. This is done so all of the troops see their new commander and for their commander to see all of those he or she is now responsible for.

What you witnessed tonight is the same event for elected officials. Our fore fathers wanted to ensure a smooth, seamless and peaceful transition of power and responsibility in public from the outgoing elected leader to the incoming leader.

Amazingly for Peapack & Gladstone there are quite a few residents present to see what our nation's founders had framed more than 243 years ago. All of us are part of this Nation's amazing story.

As I embark on this journey as the Borough's 15th Mayor I have to thank a number of people.

Please join me in recognizing Mayor Muller, Councilmen Lemma and Simpson for their service to Peapack & Gladstone.

Their dedication to serve our residents is greatly appreciated.

I would not be standing in front of all of you tonight if it were not for my parents Elizabeth and John Skinner. Thank you, mom and dad, for all of your hard work and sacrifice while raising Sarah and me. I can't even begin to tell you how proud I am of both of you.

To my sister Sarah and brother-in-law Keith. Not only are we neighbors, but you both have been my sounding board and are always there when I needed you.

To my 3 best friends who never wavered in their support and encouragement when I decided to run for Mayor. I am sure all of you are thinking thank goodness it's over, he's in. I hate to tell you, it's just beginning. Please don't change your phone numbers.

To the residents of our great town. Thank you for placing your faith in me to be your Mayor. You have given me a huge responsibility in your trust. I do not take that responsibility lightly and promise I will do my best to make the right and proper choices no matter how difficult they are.

Finally, thank you to my wonderful children, Abigail and John. It is difficult to have a parent in the public eye. They have both lived with this burden for years, but have handled it with class and dignity and have been my biggest cheerleaders. Thank you, kids. I am so proud of the both of you.

All of us here know how special our town is, whether you are a lifelong resident or a new transplant. Everyone has their story on why this is the greatest place to live and raise a family.

If you talk to people across the country or even around the world, if they have been to Peapack & Gladstone, they will tell you it is an amazing place.

We all joke this is the closest place to Mayberry, but that is the ultimate compliment. This is all possible because of our great Borough employees, our residents and everyone who serves their neighbors on the many varied committees and organizations. Thank you to all of you.

Thank you everyone for coming out to the 2019 Borough of Peapack & Gladstone Reorganizational meeting to support your Borough Council. I promise you all of us will work very hard to keep our special town the great place we all call home, safe, secure and efficiently run. I am honored to be a part of it.

I look forward to working for all of the residents, business owners and visitors of our Borough and I am excited to be working alongside of the Councilmembers sitting up here on the dais.

Thank you.