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I am from Guaynabo, Puerto Rico and at first, when I was told that I would have to finish out the rest of the semester in Puerto Rico I thought to myself that I was in a win-win situation. A total of five months in Puerto Rico was the ideal situation until it wasn't, I thought that going back home to Puerto Rico would be like every other time going to the beach, seeing friends and family, going to the movies, etc. but in reality being back in Puerto Rico felt as if I was trapped in a simulation. On March 17th 2020, the Governor of Puerto Rico at the time, Wanda Vázquez, instated a stay at home order as well as a curfew that stated that people must be in their homes from 7:00 pm till 6:00 am of the following day. The only places that were allowed to be open were hospitals, laboratories, grocery stores, gas stations, and any other place of work for those who were considered to be essential workers. After two months in quarantine with not much to do except study and exercise I had created a routine and found myself enjoying my time until I realized that I was not going to be able to do anything for my 20th birthday. When complaining about the fact that I wasn't going to be able to do anything for my 20th birthday I felt a pit in my stomach, as I was being selfish and not taking into consideration the thousands of lives that have been lost during the pandemic. I was only thinking about myself, and how it affected me instead of being grateful for those who have put their lives at risk to ensure my safety as well as the safety of millions of Puerto Ricans. Despite the fact that I complained everyday leading up to my birthday it turned out to be one of the best days of my life and quite frankly my best birthday ever. I woke up on the

morning of May 23rd, 2020 feeling anxious and unmotivated for the day ahead of me, but shortly after waking up I was greeted by my mom which told me to hurry up and get dressed because she wanted to show me something. I was very confused and very intrigued about what she needed to show me, and as she dragged me out the front door I began to see a number of cars honking driving up and down past my street. I then came to the conclusion that in the cars driving up and down my street were my family members grandma, grandpa, aunts, uncles, cousins as well as all of my friends from high school, middle school, and even some from pre-school. When I was able to recognize everyone I immediately began to cry, I could not believe that everyone took the time of their day to come and visit me on my birthday. It was a moment in my life in which I felt extreme happiness and joy. I waved and blew kisses to everyone who came, and after catching up with everybody from 6ft I said my goodbyes and continued with my day just as I would any other day in quarantine. Towards the end of the day my mom sat next to me and said that she had another surprise for me, she pulled out her computer and showed me a video that all of my family members and friends including my friends from Puerto Rico and Pittsburgh had made wishing me a happy birthday. As I watched the video I began to reflect on all the amazing people that I have in my life and how extremely grateful I am to have each and every one of them in my lives, and despite my whining and complaining my family members and friends were still able to make my 20th birthday the most memorable to this day. As the pandemic continued I still had days in which I questioned my self-worth as well as my mental health, and on those days I would watch the video that my family members and friends made and it never fails to put a smile on my face.