

00:00:02:11 - 00:00:05:29

Speaker 1

Nominee. Our first speaker.

00:00:05:29 - 00:00:14:06

Speaker 2

Is going to be our you chief of police in the feel that.

00:00:14:08 - 00:00:18:06

Speaker 1

What? okay.

00:00:18:09 - 00:00:22:01

Speaker 2

okay.

00:00:22:03 - 00:00:43:01

Speaker 1

I wanted to introduce Bill you because of the fact that, the way I became familiar with Bill is, about a year ago, I was watching the show and it was watching a TV show, and, they were doing a show on Richmond. And, the show was a reference to how they were dealing with, with, with, unions and that sort of thing.

00:00:43:03 - 00:01:03:28

Speaker 1

And at that time, I did not know that Bill was chief of police at that time in that vicinity. But I watched the whole show and it was very interesting. The way we all got people together to work with you. And, before that show, I recall that we used to be a lot of time in Richmond, but after that it just seems to have come down to a point that we ever hear of any big crimes in Richmond anymore.

00:01:04:01 - 00:01:35:29

Speaker 1

And then the next thing, of course, I didn't know Bill, at this time either, but, the city manager had a meeting with, asking the public what kind of a sheet we needed. We wanted in San Jose. So I attended one of those meetings and I told the city manager, Hey, I got to, I was able to tell city manager that if you, if you would hire somebody for somebody that comes from a city, more or less like San Jose.

00:01:36:01 - 00:01:57:24

Speaker 1

And I kind of pleaded her to her not to get somebody from Rhode Island or, one of those eastern states, because certainly the diversity over there is not like it is here in San Jose. And then soon after that, I read in the paper that Bill was hired and then I found out that he was from Richmond or what have you, and I was kind of glad to see that.

00:01:57:27 - 00:02:22:27

Speaker 1

So then, well, after that, I was driving my car and listening to a radio talk show, and here's Bill on KGO talking about the sentiment to the whole peninsula calling in. And, I don't think I heard, one bad telephone call and good buddy had any questions. Real answer. Pretty, pretty smooth. And I thought he was doing real good job.

00:02:22:29 - 00:02:45:19

Speaker 1

And then the way I finally met Bill was, despite the great, this gentleman, this policeman walking, walking by, and he was walking, kind of walking towards where I was at, and he was dressed pretty fancy, I think, for his policemen, really dressed for that. But anyhow, he came up and he introduced himself and told me the news of the police.

00:02:45:19 - 00:03:09:18

Speaker 1

And of course, we shook hands, shook hands, and we talked for a little bit. I took his picture and, I gave his picture to Dave so I can put it in the newspaper. And, hey, it's. It's great to have him. So, I like to have you. Welcome, Bill. Lots of to Thank you very much.

00:03:09:24 - 00:03:32:29

Speaker 1

It's a pleasure to be able to introduce myself and and I'll give you a little history of how I got to be the chief of police. and I can tell you from the bottom of my heart, it is the proudest moment of my life to be able to stand in front of the city council and everybody in the city and raise my right hand and say that my my responsibility is to provide the best service we possibly can to the community and protect you and your children.

00:03:33:01 - 00:04:01:07

Speaker 1

I started in law enforcement in a while back it up all life because I talked to so many high school kids, in the mentorship program that we had within the city. And the real reason I got involved in, in law enforcement is because when I was 16 years old, I stole a car and I got caught stealing the car and there was a sheriff's deputy in Alameda County and, a very gracious gentleman that took me back home and realized that I come from a broken home.

00:04:01:07 - 00:04:20:12

Speaker 1

And I and my my real need for the car was to really get a little peer acceptance within the group that I had and came back several times over a period of a year that got me interested in the Sheriff's reserve program. And I and I started to go there and I had no male figure in my life at that particular time.

00:04:20:14 - 00:04:44:16

Speaker 1

the sheriff's department provided and law enforcement seemed like a very positive occupation that I could have in and really give something back to a community. I went down to San Jose State. They had the only law enforcement academy school in Northern California at the time back in 1962. and then when I turned 21, I was a reserve police officer.

00:04:44:16 - 00:05:04:09

Speaker 1

And again back in the 60, 65, when you were a reserve, we wore a different kind of uniform, which we weren't looked at at the same level or stature with the regular San Jose police officers. But there was one person in the police department, a regular officer that always allowed me to ride with him. And it was always very kind to me as an individual.

00:05:04:09 - 00:05:26:26

Speaker 1

And we kind of mentioned that we would go over and we've been best friends for 32 years now since we've been together. And when we started to ride together, who would have thought that at one time or another we had that honor within the city? I was one Saturday for 28 years, and I was the assistant chief for the program, I guess for a year.

00:05:26:26 - 00:05:50:18

Speaker 1

And then the opportunity came up to go to the city of Richmond, California, and I and I jumped at it. Richmond, if you're not familiar with it, is a city, very diverse city, has a lot of poverty and unemployment, high crime rates, and a lot of problem with what our youths, when I got there, they were averaging around 62 homicides a year, a city of about 94,000 people.

00:05:50:21 - 00:06:17:08

Speaker 1

and we, we took a hard look at what we were doing within the police when I and I brought all these wonderful ideas that we have here in San Jose with their concept of community policing and started to instill that into the city of Richmond. And the thought process was the number one effort of the police department should really be investing in the youth within the community and getting kids to school in Richmond, the dropout rate in schools 50%.

00:06:17:10 - 00:06:34:19

Speaker 1

And then the real numbers, half the kids dropped out of school. And when they drop out there, they just can't get real jobs because they have a lot of difficulty with reading skills. So if you can keep kids in school and then you can make everybody safe, then you have a real long term solution. The other effort we went after was domestic violence.

00:06:34:22 - 00:07:01:12

Speaker 1

Violence within the home. real clear that a lot of violence is learned in the home. And the sooner you intervene in that and the sooner you have a prevention program, the more successful you can be for

reducing the overall amount of violence The department of Justice has reported about two months ago, it says the children you graduate from high school there, their propensity to be involved in any crime or serious crime is reduced by 65%.

00:07:01:14 - 00:07:27:17

Speaker 1

You think we do in a city is more important than making sure your kids are safe in school and if they graduate, they need good role models to be able to do that. in Richmond and the city, look at the schools as a separate entity. The schools are run by the county. It's not a city. Problems. So we change the process and then we change the process of how we police the city instead of a lot of specialized units doing a lot of special jobs.

00:07:27:19 - 00:07:46:27

Speaker 1

I move 80% of the police officers back to uniform and then we put them out into the streets and we put them on bicycles, we put them on horses and we got them out of the cars and they started to build that most important relationship to a one on one relationship. It's the people that make things work. It's not technology or machines, anything.

00:07:46:29 - 00:08:13:13

Speaker 1

And the most important thing that we can steal community into a police department is compassion and understanding those that come with it. And there's another ingredient to make a department really successful, and that's understanding the role of diversity. That is to be successful in department has to do two things. One, it has to truly represent the community for diversity and have the language skills capable of really providing service to the community.

00:08:13:16 - 00:08:34:28

Speaker 1

Then the other things you have to do is you have to look at the department so that all of the ranks structure from the chief on down really represents the diversity within the community too. It does a little good. You have a lot of diversity at the officer level. If you don't have it at the command level and the people that are really making the decisions and how you're going to really police the city, that is another thing we did.

00:08:34:28 - 00:09:01:07

Speaker 1

We began to open the police department up, take the mystery out of it, so that everybody understands that there needs to be honest and sincere dialog back and we need to be able to talk any and you should be able to say at any time that you want to see the chief of police and you want to find out what's going on and why, or you need to see some of the other command people within the police before so that there's understanding.

00:09:01:11 - 00:09:24:03

Speaker 1

And we put together Citizens Academy. You'll see that happen in the city of San Jose, a youth academy where we're taking kids in high school or a middle school and allowing them to go through a regular training process. A little bit change, but similar to what police do, because another ingredient in the process, if you want to police the city, well, you should hire from within the city.

00:09:24:05 - 00:09:41:10

Speaker 1

You should really look at law enforcement as a very viable career and then you hire from within the city kids who grow up in the city of San Jose. They have a better understanding of the culture of the needs of the city. And they bring as a yes is a quality they bring with them. And they come from the city.

00:09:41:12 - 00:10:08:27

Speaker 1

They have that compassion because they grew up in the very same circumstances. They understand that if someone dresses a little bit different than another doesn't, it doesn't mean that the committing a crime or they're doing anything wrong and there's no necessity to, to really stop and search or harass people because of the way they're just comes with that diversity and the hiring process, a true understanding of what really law enforcement needs to be.

00:10:08:29 - 00:10:26:08

Speaker 1

The word is paper. It's not enforcement, it is really prevention. I think that we need to really put our energy into it's easier to prevent the crime than to try to deal with it after work in the in the way that we're going to do that, you're going to see some things that I very much want to do.

00:10:26:11 - 00:10:52:15

Speaker 1

I want to open up the substation. I do want to see one on the east side of San Jose would kind of look at the story. That seems to me that the place and that's one of the reasons, is they're offering some free space to be there, too. And that's an important ingredient. The against the the the public private partnership that we want to for those substation that substation will be open for 4 hours a day, five days a week because they're labor intensive.

00:10:52:17 - 00:11:13:10

Speaker 1

But they're also available for the officers on a 20 for our basis. The officers can write reports there and they can have community meetings there and they can do interviews there. They can meet with parents and youth there that need to, whether in the youth, need some counseling. All those process is going to happen right on in in the can story area, which is between two council districts.

00:11:13:10 - 00:11:33:01

Speaker 1

That's a plus but it yes, it's a it's a hub. You don't have to go to city hall. We would like to expand it. It'll take us about a year and a half to two years. So instead of going to city hall, if you need something from the city, you can go to the substation and they can access with it and the computers and pull up code enforcement issues, business permits.

00:11:33:01 - 00:11:56:29

Speaker 1

You can pay bills through that process. All of that is very possible. We did it in Richmond and worked very well at building another I call it a precinct, but another police department, something like this down at city Hall, down in the South Valley, because the city is 194 square miles now and you can't really manage a city of this size and this complexity all out of one central location.

00:11:57:01 - 00:12:21:19

Speaker 1

I invite you to come down and look at the building in Boston at the scene. They're crowded shoulder to shoulder. I've gotten them from out of room and they just need a police department right now. So we

need to expand that concept a little bit. I'm looking at actually more special substations because there are four areas the city is divided into, and they'll come become 24 hour hubs for the rest of the city so that we can provide better services.

00:12:21:21 - 00:12:47:12

Speaker 1

I'm looking at opening up to the department, to the officers themselves, and some of the opportunities for volunteers to come into the organization. And just as important, the right loan program, the Citizens Academy, wherever, where anyone in the city will be able to come to twice a year. and you can go through a 16 week training program where you learn all of the nuances of arrest, search and seizure.

00:12:47:12 - 00:13:15:23

Speaker 1

You understand how our communication systems work, how we distribute the personnel, get the ride in the police car several times. If you want, you can ride in the helicopter and take a tour around the city, and look at some of the specialized enforcement. Ride the bikes with us, bicycle, out on the street. But the advantage of doing that, when you take the time to come ride with us with a police officer is far more beneficial for the police department than it really is to you.

00:13:15:25 - 00:13:42:02

Speaker 1

Because the officers, to be effective, they need to listen to the people that really live in the city on a one on one basis for a ten hour period inside that car. So they have a better understanding of the things that they do and how it affects the community, why service is the tool for why you really need to become a listener and understand what people are saying to you instead of cutting them off and trying to tell them what they're supposed to do.

00:13:42:05 - 00:14:18:01

Speaker 1

Their real problems of bad police officers. And I need to know that information. I have open hours every other Monday in the city. If anybody in the city comes down to the police department, they can have 15 to 20 minutes of my time. So I listen to everybody. I just you take 20 people every other Monday. in the biggest complaint that I get is the frustration with the bureaucracy that this city has the right person, somebody that can listen to you and somebody can fix the problem that has been working very well.



00:14:18:03 - 00:14:40:01

Speaker 1

When I did have I know that my officers were terrified that I would allow anybody to come into the police, the building that needed the opportunity to speak to the chief of police. They wanted metal detectors. They wanted to serve people. not necessary at all. people need to know that you can get to the right people.

00:14:40:03 - 00:14:59:18

Speaker 1

There's a program now, every other Tuesday, I'm sorry, Thursday you're going to have on Channel 11 where they're going to allow me to go on and accept questions. And each every other week there will be one question I'll answer that comes from the public of the city of San Jose. And we did it on the Wrap the other day.

00:14:59:21 - 00:15:34:15

Speaker 1

there are some other issues. The Citizens Academy is one they very much want to know about, in the, the process when we have secondary employment where officers work and of course the, Cinco de Mayo and second September, are those issues that you can bring up or we can deal with inside of those forum? I, I can tell you that I, I'm excited to be here and I think that my responsibility is not only for my sister and to take the San Jose Police Department and get it ready for the next 50 years.

00:15:34:17 - 00:16:05:22

Speaker 1

We need to expand a little bit to do that. We need to change the philosophy a little bit of how we provide service when we talk about community. What do you mean? expand that concept so that we're really, as an officer go That's my, my goal. I would like officers as they go out into their beats that they understand when they get there for that 10 hours, that's their neighborhood that they should and they should do everything that they can to make sure that neighborhood is like the neighborhood they live.

00:16:05:25 - 00:16:29:24

Speaker 1

You know, they don't have abandoned cars in their neighborhood. They don't have wild parties in their neighborhood. And if they did, they would do something about it. I would like to take that philosophy

and instill that into our officers and put them out there. let me touch on one of the things that is important. I see all these young ladies who I am really pushing very hard to hire a woman in law enforcement.

00:16:29:27 - 00:16:49:29

Speaker 1

people talk about this concept of community policing, and they got guys like me all over the country taking credit for the idea. It's good. It's a wonderful thing to do, and it works exceptionally well. it's not cheap. They came up with the idea of community policing where we open the organization, where we allow people to help make decisions.

00:16:49:29 - 00:17:10:04

Speaker 1

The single most important thing was going to be a lot of women coming to law enforcement. They changed various aspects of what we do in the business. They put on heart that it doesn't take a six foot five Marine to do the job. What we hire you for is common sense, you integrity and the ability to work with people.

00:17:10:11 - 00:17:38:27

Speaker 1

That's what we're looking for here. This young lady that have brought that to the police department and yet you also have this statute, if you want to do that, driving a police guard, turn on the red lights and pull someone over now and then the dispatching is another job that we have. We have the other wonderful job. I can tell you that for me personally, law enforcement has been rewarding, has been exciting, and it's been good for my family and I.

00:17:38:29 - 00:18:02:07

Speaker 1

I need to keep telling people to do that. That is the job that I would have wanted to look for and just hired yet another academy. We had three officers go in hiring. We had five and the one before. And that speaks well when the organization that the parents, officers, family are willing to let their children follow in their footsteps within the process is good.

00:18:02:07 - 00:18:25:03

Speaker 1

It's just an awful lot about the organization that we have here. And I think we're on the cusp of greatness in the city of Dallas. And I wanted to be part of that. be thankful that my other 1610 has been wonderful for the city. Everybody that I don't think they give you the credit that you deserve because understand all the hard work that's involved in that.

00:18:25:06 - 00:18:43:17

Speaker 1

When I talk about dialog, I think there were a certain some of us and understand you got to get the right political people to do those things, but I think there's some good things happening. I think the politics are going to change in January. There's a real opportunity and you got to work to really have some opportunity to really discuss some of these issues.

00:18:43:18 - 00:19:08:26

Speaker 1

So that's kind of an overview. and I'm Bill Lansdowne. it is the most exciting time in my life as I watched this city grow in four years. I think you got, I just been astounded and like, I was shocked with the price of housing again, and they kind of in that kind of a market. But I have moved back to the city of San Jose now, I live down a lot of Blossom Hill, and where, you just walk out.

00:19:08:26 - 00:19:20:27

Speaker 1

Wonderful for me. I, you know, I, I, I, I can't tell you how gracious everybody is in my being able to go to another city. San Jose was wonderful. And I've seen other cities.

00:19:20:27 - 00:19:31:11

Unknown

Now and I know what they use when they go to get the energy in this business and there is no better time to.

00:19:31:14 - 00:19:36:01

Speaker 2

Open it up. The questions for you. Any questions?

00:19:36:04 - 00:20:08:10

Speaker 1

Yeah. Yeah. when the term of office is over, how long I would really like to be remembered as somebody who prepared the department for the next 25 years, I would like to be remembered for somebody who really took the level of the bar and raised it to a higher professional standard. I would like to be remembered that somebody was available with compassionate, and I'd like to be remembered as someone with an ability that was willing to think outside the box and try some new ideas.

00:20:08:13 - 00:20:30:16

Speaker 1

And I think there are also lots of things that we can change. Really stand up enforcement prevention should be the key. Instead of community policing, there should be community prevention. All of those, I think, are very, very positive. How long can achieve last because of the politics? And it's just the politics alone, not five years, as long as we can laugh and then things begin to change.

00:20:30:23 - 00:20:51:00

Speaker 1

And that's not a bad thing. You know, I work at the will of the city manager and but the truth is, I work for the will of the community if I'm not doing the job right, you know, if some of them really does as well. And I mean that, surely you have a right to expect good decisions in law enforcement in the city of San Jose.

00:20:51:02 - 00:21:06:20

Speaker 1

You need to hold me personally accountable. Know, you said you have an open door policy on Mondays. What is the procedure for that on the, get a countdown. and they don't put you on the list, and then we'll come in and we do it the first 20. So if you want to be sure, you get in.

00:21:06:24 - 00:21:30:02

Speaker 1

But no, not mine. You need to call Norma, my secretary. Or have you call Victor after we get you in right away? It was number one to the that that may be an easier way. People can probably get you real quick. You know, 4:00 started four and I end about 730 8:00 o'clock. But I'll tell you this, too.

00:21:30:04 - 00:22:23:21

Speaker 1

I'm there every single day without fail. Monday I get there 530 in the morning and I suddenly in the morning. So there's a there's a large window like, yes, you are decentralizing. I don't want her to be north. You're working on your watch. But there are multiple services for you because.

00:22:23:23 - 00:22:34:16

Unknown

Well, the real.

00:22:34:20 - 00:22:47:19

Speaker 1

Difference, of course.

00:22:47:22 - 00:23:01:25

Unknown

Right? So the problem is that.

00:23:01:27 - 00:23:23:07

Speaker 1

You know, I'll tell you one part of my heart and still on that for me and for the officers is what makes law enforcement I mean, no one else. So we make outgoing we make out for 24 hours a day. If you call, we come out. It's like it's like doctors or medicine. You have to be there to treat the patients.

00:23:23:10 - 00:23:50:09

Speaker 1

You know, the person who lived in the home. Then he can provide the best possible medicine appointments. And that means, you know, we're in the whole the great story of the last one of your whatever you do, someone like you, it's 3:00 in the morning, we get a call that you had him for. We got there, he answered the door and got a Christmas tree, all that out.

00:23:50:11 - 00:23:53:24

Speaker 1

So she got it from our coffee shop or something.

00:23:53:25 - 00:23:58:22

Unknown

And for me it was an airplane. It was no problem. We were the.

00:23:58:22 - 00:24:14:07

Speaker 1

Only person to call. And she was offered good advice. We looked at all the pictures of a family doctor because it's hard for me to know those things don't happen. That's what you're like in the cell. After the officers.

00:24:14:09 - 00:24:19:12

Unknown

Were one year.

00:24:19:15 - 00:24:21:14

Speaker 2

And then you.

00:24:21:14 - 00:24:23:18

Speaker 1

Mentioned the bathroom. I was just.

00:24:23:23 - 00:24:38:28

Speaker 2

Okay. And that's my wow. And I personally like that idea. However, my question would be, would you be willing to go on a ride along with other community organizations such as COP Watch Under.

00:24:38:28 - 00:24:40:02

Speaker 1

Do observe your.

00:24:40:03 - 00:24:42:20

Speaker 2

Officers in action without their knowledge?

00:24:42:23 - 00:24:47:20

Speaker 1

Absolutely. I I it won't affect me. You know, you ride with me, ride with everyone you want to.

00:24:47:20 - 00:24:49:24

Speaker 2

I see you riding with the community means.

00:24:49:26 - 00:25:10:22

Speaker 1

yeah, absolutely. You're in their own vehicle. You know when I said that I need their own people? Absolutely. Here's the other thing that I've been doing, because I've opened up the police department myself on Monday. There have been some people who are invalids and they can't. So I've gone to the house. and I have one offer that they would like me to stay overnight is to listen to the gunshot.

00:25:10:24 - 00:25:15:23

Speaker 1

I'm trying to work that out.

00:25:15:25 - 00:25:17:28

Unknown

You can understand the problem, not you're.

00:25:17:28 - 00:25:35:25

Speaker 1

Here because your officers aren't telling you the truth. But I would be delighted to do that. And it's very much so. And we've got some secret cars out there, too, that you can come in mine and questions. I can only question about going.

00:25:35:28 - 00:25:37:05

Speaker 4

Back to where the money came.

00:25:37:05 - 00:26:00:17

Speaker 1

You know, and what did law enforcement they learn something out of that. A lot of them were very much so that that that one incident. Yeah. Because of video cameras has changed. Law enforcement across the country has made us more professional. An unfortunate incident that's like thousands of times, but it's really created the opportunity for review boards throughout the country.

00:26:00:17 - 00:26:25:14

Speaker 1

We have an auditor system. I got a review board in the city of Richmond. They're both exceptionally effective. my, my own personal opinion is mine alone, not all of which you share, but there should be civilian oversight. Of what? Effective. It should not change the way we do business. And if you look at the right, doesn't matter what you do, but if you're not doing it right, then you'll see em pull back and say, No, we don't want anybody watching.

00:26:25:16 - 00:26:30:13

Speaker 1

And I'm into over law enforcement. Very much so.



00:26:30:16 - 00:26:34:22

Speaker 2

Any other questions?

00:26:34:24 - 00:26:40:27

Unknown

What do you think about having non.

00:26:40:29 - 00:27:11:27

Speaker 1

there there are lots of theories on that. I think it's a wonderful question. the statistics numbers say this. Most people who are injured in, in the residence, because of the possibility of suicide and accidental shooting because of the gun in the house. And unless you are and you have done a little bit of training and that's all you really gain and then have the ability to lock that gun out at certain times so children can get to a you know, I don't think it's a bad thing.

00:27:11:29 - 00:27:42:17

Speaker 1

I, I live in a community where it's really violent and I would never comfortable I could not tell you. I just say, let's get some training and I'd be happy to provide that. Responsible weapon ownership is probably there's a myth out there that holding the gun and the criminals taking over. A lot of reports out last week mean we had approximately two or three, they said.

00:27:42:17 - 00:27:45:06

Speaker 1

And of course, we don't have the right environment.

00:27:45:08 - 00:27:51:15

Unknown

For backing that they give you, first of all, that they.

00:27:51:17 - 00:28:17:03

Speaker 1

Certainly can't build very much. And I think the you're welcome in a meeting. Well I've got one more meeting is usually, one of our state workers is retiring today. So I said, I get that, but I will come back anytime it's comfortable. You information on that If we go on with right or wrong others around a lot.

00:28:17:05 - 00:28:37:13

Speaker 1

We love to do that. I, I get better views if I'm with someone else. That's true. Okay thank.

00:28:37:15 - 00:29:02:26

Speaker 2

Okay. We have some other speakers, and they're from the, the Blind Veterans Association. And, of course, the flight center in Dallas. I don't pardon me. It's got to be a,

00:29:02:29 - 00:29:24:02

Speaker 2

Okay. let's see. But if they call me here a couple of times, almost a month ago now, I remember that he was talking with, Richard Martinez, and he had called me up and that if I would like to go to the mine and take a look at the center in Colorado, that's what should I be interested in?

00:29:24:02 - 00:29:47:27

Speaker 2

You know, And, I am in, Martinez to kind of get together and kind of work together and, you know, and, and, and so we started talking, you know, and, and then you come down there, and so we started kind of reminiscing about some of the things in that room and at the start of getting to know, you know, over the phone, he had asked me to come meet and I said, sure.

00:29:47:29 - 00:30:12:17

Speaker 2

You know, I think it's really important that we find out a little bit more about our plans that are going. We have a better in mind as you get older. And I kind of close away and, and, you know, you never know what we might need, you know, And so, you think that he's the president and that he, you know, you get up and give me something information about a possible time, okay.

00:30:12:20 - 00:30:55:14

Speaker 1

I'm always thinking I'm president of Northern California. We have about 357 members that are from Santa Cruz County and more and more pretty well spread out. We have three chapters of Northern California. One is in Sacramento, one is in the Greater Bear Bay area of San Francisco and in the South County where we our primary job is to help the blind and visually impaired.

00:30:55:16 - 00:31:35:22

Speaker 1

And it's very important that as we get older, I start to feel that a lot of us, as we get older, do not want to admit that we are losing our own time. And as a result get slower to do things that we do not want to give up and driving our own selves to say, Well, I've lost all my independence and you almost want to give up and say, What the heck is life for all that's worth a lot.

00:31:35:24 - 00:32:05:27

Speaker 1

I am legally inclined, I can't see you out. You're that's the only thing that is wrong with my own body. I can do anything else that any of you can do. Exactly. I mean, you don't even have, I have a device that I can read by now. I want to tell you all great anecdotes. I'm going to.

00:32:05:29 - 00:32:39:17

Speaker 1

I don't drive. I have a friend that drives great and my wife drives, so I. I really have not lost very much. You know, with our organization, we help all that primarily blind and visually impaired. But, you know, they have a problem with getting access to the blind center, getting access to somebody to talk to about going back to work.

00:32:39:19 - 00:33:14:05

Speaker 1

We work with the people. We want to work with. Your organization so that the majority of the folks in your organization are not aware of the blind center. Probably is an excellent center, and I've gone through it. Flores has gone through it several times and has helped us tremendously and has helped quite a few veterans about 200 sessions for a year.

00:33:14:07 - 00:33:37:18

Speaker 1

They go through the blind and say, you know, 28 regimen residential facility where the families live right there, five days a week for seven days a week. If they're from out of town or local, they can go home on the weekends. And it's just like a home atmosphere where.

00:33:37:21 - 00:33:41:23

Unknown

They have their own room, their own home.

00:33:41:26 - 00:34:08:20

Speaker 1

And facility. When they're in the way, they get the money for our nursing staff. We take care of them. We get quite a few veterans through there that are diabetic and living 24 hour care while they're going through the training that they get. There is a one on one basis with the instructors. One instructor does not handle two veterans at the same time.

00:34:08:22 - 00:34:45:27

Speaker 1

It's a one on one and that's this is great for the for the president. He doesn't have to sit there and listen to the doctor talk about one on one patient at least the veterans say the time period that they're in, they're very or weeks is 18 weeks. That depends on what their needs are and how they get down to the training process.

00:34:46:00 - 00:35:27:24

Speaker 1

And they can be slower. But the instructors, they're very kind of take your mind off the discussion. These veterans are, whenever they come into the mine center, they are indoctrinated in there for the first

week. So they get familiar with the psychologists. They're coming through their living skills, you know, low vision training. And the main reason why the psychologists determine what the individual is capable of doing.

00:35:27:27 - 00:35:59:29

Speaker 1

How do you determine what I say that he has left and how they can adapt devices for that individual be going back and recruiting optometry. And psychologists read the information for the rest of the instructors so they know what type of training that and don't waste time training him on something that he really does not know through all the training.

00:35:59:29 - 00:36:15:27

Speaker 1

There is not training to get a man ready to go back to work. The main goal of that facility is to get the veterans back into the mainstream of life, get the building management.

00:36:15:29 - 00:36:21:18

Unknown

Working to move things out the door.

00:36:21:20 - 00:36:49:01

Speaker 1

Some of the some of the things that is coming down and I'll go through them very quickly because I know you have to get on with your training, strength and mobility, orientation and mobility as to get the veteran training so that he's independent. You just travel on his own, ride the bus just so he can travel and he can move around in his house without getting injured in this community.

00:36:49:03 - 00:37:25:05

Speaker 1

He can go shopping. He can go involved without anything other than the devices that get me out of my freshman class when I am. We all met. Long came and we did extensive training with them on one thing so that we can protect ourselves. We have no depth perception if you have a seminar in Vermont and a

lot of them are expected to get excellent training on the other training that they get, there is on location, on the location.

00:37:25:07 - 00:38:23:16

Speaker 1

There's devices that are given to the veterans at no charge. So very expensive. To learn more about my home and our people, but it helps them with their vision. And one of do I don't know if you ever heard of it served the military television screen with a video camera. You can put a book to the magazine and get a summary and you can enlarge in the 40 time we can make normal newspapers read in large enough to amount to a lot of people version of not being able to read that the different methods designed by guess putting that where you can understand that what they have is a device you can take and put

00:38:23:18 - 00:38:52:01

Speaker 1

a document in the machine or a camera, take pictures of it and go through the machine and it will automatically react to daily, daily living skills that you train the back end to take care of itself. And that's how keeping out, because there are a lot of people.

00:38:52:03 - 00:38:54:16

Unknown

That are alone, you're going to be monitored.

00:38:54:16 - 00:39:23:05

Speaker 1

So and again, the independent travel outside the home manual is still the same. Teach him to do that sometimes. And then when I went through there, I thought not, wait a minute, but what are you showing me masturbating for? What I'm going to do the rest of my life or convert to another world? And after I was there, I found out they were not teaching me today.

00:39:23:07 - 00:39:57:18

Speaker 1

They were teaching me how to use my hands with a little bit of sight that I have left to do things without looking. And then they bring back your other senses. I'm just telling you, have your finger dexterity and how that and your brain works together when they have their in their manual skills. They have a huge woodshop.

00:39:57:20 - 00:40:04:02

Unknown

With all the wood making wood tools that was filled in room.

00:40:04:04 - 00:40:35:03

Speaker 1

And we have a quiet environments that can operate that we need that equipment for our lives and they are trained on each machine for the safety part of and what the machine feels like. They can take what's left over there. And when I came down to the garden on their contractor, they know how to do it, which brings back to, you know, you lost your vision.

00:40:35:05 - 00:41:02:22

Speaker 1

But through this training, you're going to be very productive in your life. You don't have to depend on your wife or friend to take care of you all the time. It's very easy when you need when you first took your eyesight and you wanted to see what life was like. This is just information that we came in here in the regular.

00:41:02:24 - 00:41:35:26

Speaker 1

Your life has not ended when you lose your eyesight. You just took a detour down the road of life and from there changed your life. We just went from doctor. Was anybody you know in a blind center? They often take a little maintenance like nickel or my favorite equipment of all their location, everything human and very important. Very, very small things that you've done before.

00:41:35:28 - 00:42:04:20

Speaker 1

A person have us around. So the person that they're concerned with can get back and they can do that with them because they don't know. We have a what they call a cancer program which is computerized them training. And we have to let your mind effectively sit down and operate a computer. Just call with something a little bit.

00:42:04:22 - 00:42:36:11

Speaker 1

You have a backup device and I know need computers. They don't understand that we operate in a Braille computer that will every time you put your key, it will tell you where it'll be at the end of the sentence. You can hit another key and it will read back what you had back then or so. Completely blind and veteran really does not have to have a monitor to look at.

00:42:36:14 - 00:43:08:19

Speaker 1

You can do everything with all the It's an excellent program up there and it's one of the best kept secrets in the system because Mr. Lawrence and I, he goes up there about four times a week when I'm on there talking about I've seen 90% of men interviewed, did not know that the VA Medical Center ready for them.

00:43:08:21 - 00:43:47:29

Speaker 1

They heard it by word of mouth with other veterans. And they've gone through another golden hours. And I have to work with your organization. We all we work with the VFW. You know, American Legion to help them identify veterans that have deteriorating V.A. And I work for that background. And until we can get them through the mindset of this is primary purpose, that we go out to each organization and try to talk to them and make you aware what is available.

00:43:48:02 - 00:44:23:24

Speaker 1

And if you have a veteran that we would like you to contact us and we can probably help them and everything. So I understand your organization is nationwide. It's very much like I write a newsletter for Northern California through, but I'm also going to put an article on it to our national in Washington, and I'm going to write to them about the GI Forum.



00:44:23:26 - 00:44:53:24

Speaker 1

I'm sure that they they do not know anything about the United War. I didn't know that your group probably didn't like our group. There's nobody here or some of the from that. So we would very much like to work with you any time that you want us to come back, let us give a speech. Or if you want to sit down and talk one on one and to a visually impaired veteran will provide that.

00:44:53:25 - 00:45:07:18

Speaker 1

Do we have any questions? Thank you very much for more and more of the money. So I do hope that.

00:45:07:20 - 00:45:12:07

Unknown

We would like to offer something like that.

00:45:12:09 - 00:45:13:16

Speaker 1

I want to you.

00:45:13:16 - 00:45:20:21

Unknown

To want me.

00:45:20:21 - 00:45:46:12

Speaker 2

To go to the Black Banner next week. Come back with more soon as we can for anybody who would like to go with me, we'll take a look at it. Please contact me. So this way we try to get the states together. I think it is important to go to the veterans hospital in Baltimore. And now that we are, we're a chartered organization with the veterans.

00:45:46:14 - 00:46:19:27

Speaker 2

I think maybe families are kind of getting more computerized. Some that the veteran administration that we have in the area. So I I'm going to be going next week and if anybody wants to go, please feel free to call me and let me know if then we have another group. last year when I was at the school, I met the young lady and she had we had was kind of discussing something that I grew up with that woman.

00:46:20:00 - 00:46:43:20

Speaker 2

And then she told me that she was then one of the teachers for the ESL program, having never been and never had heard about it, I didn't even know about it. So we kind of we talked for a little while and she had asked me if I could get her some information on the scholarship program. But at that time on the panel and it was a it was not the program really had finished until this year.

00:46:43:25 - 00:46:59:06

Speaker 2

So this year together again. And we talked some more and I got the information and she asked me to come in and bring some of the people that have never been on the so on or what it is. So they actually.

00:46:59:08 - 00:47:06:10

Unknown

Have a position to bring that to you about.

00:47:06:13 - 00:47:07:27

Speaker 2

Okay, well, why don't you get up again?

00:47:07:27 - 00:47:18:18

Unknown

You know, hello, my name is and then reason that I am here and they were trying out for you and.

00:47:18:21 - 00:47:53:01

Speaker 4

I said, I'm going to college is a program that offers juniors and seniors in the U.S. district. What this program is about is that if you to take college courses and if we don't find one finished in our high school requirements and the benefits and dual credits would be in college units and not at the same time, What it does for us is they provide us experience in college and helping us to get ahead and to motivate the students from higher education, the support that we get from Excel.

00:47:53:03 - 00:48:26:05

Speaker 4

Isn't it inevitable because this is right now though, and this is going to help us in guidance or so provides a lot of information to us compared to being, you know, in a large high school for the college experience helps us to intellectually grow on our potential teacher and aspire for more. I personally feel that I made the right choice.

00:48:26:05 - 00:48:36:09

Speaker 4

I just like joining that program. The reason being that I feel that I have unlimited opportunities out there for me. But most importantly, I feel that I am ready for any challenge.

00:48:36:10 - 00:49:06:25

Unknown

I feel and it is one of the things that.

00:49:06:27 - 00:49:07:21

Speaker 4

People in my high.

00:49:07:21 - 00:49:49:21

Unknown

School, in my life, Yeah.

00:49:49:23 - 00:49:50:18

Speaker 4

That sounds good.

00:49:50:20 - 00:50:16:07

Unknown

And that's okay, because if you're my plan, I think that.

00:50:16:10 - 00:50:32:22

Speaker 4

Only so much of my.

00:50:32:24 - 00:50:43:03

Unknown

Hi, my name is I'm ready, but I just want I'm 17, I'm in a program, a senior.

00:50:43:05 - 00:50:44:12

Speaker 4

Graduating.

00:50:44:15 - 00:50:49:29

Unknown

And I'm applying for the same kind of.

00:50:50:01 - 00:50:51:24

Speaker 4

Business and like so it's definitely.

00:50:51:24 - 00:50:56:25

Unknown

Something that happens a lot. So and I want to make that. I know that.

00:50:56:28 - 00:51:31:21

Speaker 4

It's important to me to be able to concentrate. I have a lot of time in and I don't I really just barely graduated high school. I had a brother 111 months ago and it seems like we to make it from high school graduate class and say, yes, I know how I got it. I have know my dad, on the other hand, like that it came down to those three.

00:51:31:21 - 00:51:36:13

Unknown

And they kind of like, you know, they can have tried to do that.

00:51:36:16 - 00:52:00:01

Speaker 4

But it's not really what college job and some everything is. I think it to good but he hasn't gone so now I'm trying to make something I mean like okay you know forget them now you know you're going home, you go to college, you know, that's okay. And it's weird because when I was little, I always thought about going to college.

00:52:00:01 - 00:52:28:17

Speaker 4

And after that will be my friend. But my goal when I was little and then I want to be a does like, you know and I think that I guess maybe you're smart you say a lot of people a lot of people I think what have you done in the past? Like I don't know. My dad. You know, he's saying, you know, to whatever, you know, you want to be a lawyer to take everybody crazy about you seem to do that to us.

00:52:28:19 - 00:52:50:09

Speaker 4

So and think reason seen that. I mean, what I'm saying are moving to one of, you know, kind like, okay, yes, I'll fill the house. I don't care. But you know money you're going to Stanford and this and that. So I think that kind of stuff like that, you know, I went to.

00:52:50:11 - 00:52:56:21

Unknown

Independent because I just want to get some. So like, better.

00:52:56:23 - 00:53:01:03

Speaker 4

So I went there and I had to get up inside every day school.

00:53:01:04 - 00:53:04:28

Unknown

My oldest one, 17 and.

00:53:05:02 - 00:53:29:19

Speaker 4

17. I didn't want to take the list, but then I heard about it, so I got to college the same time and I was like, we spent. And so I said, No, I'm going to do it anyways, and I don't care. And, you know, I get all frustrated about it. But anyways, and when I got in and I walked into the program and I seen all these people, it's like, Look smart.

00:53:29:21 - 00:53:46:27

Speaker 4

my God, I'm waiting on an interview that I'm going to go back. And my dad said, If you want to do a program, you're taking the bus. And I'm not taking it. I'm asking, how is it that I told you? And now I was like, yeah, because you have to. She's in college and I take her every single day.

00:53:47:03 - 00:54:07:06

Speaker 4

I think I do this every day. And my dad was working to wake up again at 6:00 in the morning and I go again, It's all for me time and we going to go to college. It was all exciting that it makes me feel. And in high school I was always interested in Mexican American culture and my family and my mom.

00:54:07:06 - 00:54:32:01

Speaker 4

My dad always talked about how important everything. And I took the class and what stood out about him was not only the weight, but the kind of person he was because when he was teaching, I knew he wasn't one of the people that he. That's when you say Easter, by the way he dressed. He was always a professor and he wasn't always the same person.

00:54:32:03 - 00:54:50:28

Speaker 4

I didn't come from a family where everyone grew up to be doctors and lawyers and teachers, professors. So when I got to talking with my dad when I was younger, I was just like I decided to turn my life around. I knew I wasn't in. Everyone said I wasn't. You know, I've seen professors and teachers and I, I don't know.

00:54:51:01 - 00:55:16:24

Speaker 4

But I think when he asked me, you know, you know, we're going to have something. And I asked, excited. And that was a way of getting reasons, you know. And I think another reason why I like it was because even after the class, I was about every single time I'm like, hey, how are you doing it? All the other teachers say that.

00:55:16:27 - 00:55:35:02

Speaker 4

yeah, right. Yeah, yeah. I mean, I just know that because I know he had a lot on me that he always remembered my name, so I kind of, like, made a bigger relationship. Him So when you actually have this problem and yeah, I had much more at home, but it was nothing about my parents or nothing.

00:55:35:02 - 00:55:53:28

Speaker 4

You know what? You know, it's okay. It's it's perfect in America. It's like any kind of not okay. You have to do that. And it was nice when I was like, I had a form. I'm not going to be plugged. And I think I hated doing the things on the net. So I was sitting.

00:55:53:28 - 00:55:57:12

Unknown

There and I'm sitting there with myself.

00:55:57:14 - 00:56:17:22

Speaker 4

And this time and all the time before I saw it sound like I know what you're doing, but you're writing a poem and you're trying to make it sound like a poem and you just don't know if you like a poem. And the roses to that. my God, what do you think? So I started thinking about growing up with all my aunts and uncles that always have kind of, you know.

00:56:17:24 - 00:56:39:21

Speaker 4

Yeah, you guys have. So you really have to work in the field. no. You know, to be able to work, we can go ahead and work on the farm and everything, including all the things my friends and my best friends, my friends and all that. You know, maybe I just instead of writing a poem to try to write a poem.

00:56:39:23 - 00:56:53:01

Speaker 4

So I don't think that, you know, it's not I mean, take it exactly.

00:56:53:04 - 00:57:04:02

Unknown

Because you're like, I can't think of anything, you know? No, I mean, have you.

00:57:04:02 - 00:57:19:10

Speaker 4

Seen my major? That is. I mean that when you say, What do you think? Do you see myself? You haven't see all of my children.

00:57:19:12 - 00:57:34:18



Unknown

And I'm like, You see, my name is catching the Spanish language in my head to see it.

00:57:34:21 - 00:58:13:06

Speaker 4

And I haven't gotten past my studies. And you got a tough question. I just ask one way. If I was writing, I guess I would be if I went back to the in my life that California has always been my sister and my whole life because I know what happened when I was an animal. I just I can't seem to get maybe.

00:58:13:09 - 00:58:27:19

Unknown

But I my.

00:58:27:21 - 00:58:28:19

Speaker 1

Daughter.

00:58:28:22 - 00:58:30:04

Speaker 2

I thought that was great. Yeah.

00:58:30:06 - 00:59:02:08

Speaker 4

And that this program, what is it, 16, 33 years, 36 there in college. All that in my basement. College classes in the afternoon. They have a high school teacher. They all and we have students from, from Oakland to all the high school. I think at my program. That's right. You have to pay for the access to me.

00:59:02:08 - 00:59:40:01

Speaker 4

So you have to get around the recommendation. They they have to take a placement and every for at least two which the able to do college work. And then they sit down with their students and parents like you have do we ask them questions And then we select and look exactly what it is. As the program offers excitement for kids, kids who may be high school baby class, you know, in one town.

00:59:40:03 - 01:00:12:27

Speaker 4

So the college, they take college classes. So it's not second year with a college within a national program. This is this is it is set in New York City for ten years. This is our time of year. Every grade. And we're very detailed, three of many how to work on. So so, David, this year we have how many as we pass them out of high school.

01:00:13:00 - 01:00:14:08

Speaker 4

So we have a.

01:00:14:10 - 01:00:26:04

Speaker 1

Week and after that, sometimes I say.

01:00:26:06 - 01:00:30:28

Speaker 4

Yeah, and we have a never ending list.

01:00:31:00 - 01:00:34:25

Speaker 1

Is next now that something like eight.

01:00:34:28 - 01:00:47:19

Speaker 4

Well yeah you have to count them they is a lot of our students. What Gates identified in elementary school.

01:00:47:23 - 01:00:48:26

Speaker 1

Are.

01:00:48:29 - 01:01:12:03

Speaker 4

But they don't have to be get to their gate. So what now? Is there going to be a new program? And with closed courses, they have to take at least eight colleges. And why? I. So here we have to compete. Yeah. Yeah. Very good, man.

01:01:12:05 - 01:01:15:11

Speaker 1

I tried to for.

01:01:15:13 - 01:01:22:05

Speaker 4

And they are no they probably some of them why so you don't have to be you just exclude you.

01:01:22:10 - 01:01:33:10

Unknown

Not And so. Yeah right.

01:01:33:12 - 01:02:04:24

Speaker 4

No, as a matter of fact we start in February. What really, if we go to them, we send out letters to her sophomore class, whoever is out of school. And we start with. Yeah, we send letters, have to have a three day or that last year we sent out 3000 letters and that was the first thing we got.

01:02:04:26 - 01:02:31:14

Speaker 4

And the letters and the letters and say in February, this third day we go out and all kind of high school and it's on the bulletin. And when we're there and we take students and then we get the application, then we have two parent night meetings. In March, I had to call it went in a letter, but we basically said, don't talk to parents and we have deadlines.

01:02:31:14 - 01:02:39:05

Unknown

But they say they will direct the column.

01:02:39:07 - 01:02:42:09

Speaker 2

And the other questions.

01:02:42:11 - 01:02:55:24

Speaker 4

Okay, be we have a curfew.

01:02:55:26 - 01:03:02:17

Speaker 2

Then you I think that a really bad for your health and I really appreciate you going to the school.

01:03:02:22 - 01:03:09:03

Unknown

Okay. I want to talk.

01:03:09:05 - 01:03:12:26

Speaker 2

Okay. Let's do the approval.

01:03:12:26 - 01:03:37:19

Unknown

Of a minute for 10 minutes to open it.

01:03:37:21 - 01:03:43:13

Speaker 4

November six membership meeting was called Order at 812, 19 minutes.