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Oral History Interview

with

Elwood Todd Stubblefield

Interviewer: Francesco De Salvatore

Narrator: Elwood Todd Stubblefield

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Transcriber: Robin Reeder, Reeder Transcription Services

Summary:

E. Todd Stubblefield reflects on growing up in Alexandria's Jefferson Village housing development, part of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA). He recalls his parents' move to Jefferson Village in the 1960s and discusses attending Alexandria schools in the 1970s and 1980s. He also describes his participation in sports, including tennis and football, and reflects on the racism he experienced during his school years, as well as school integration and busing in Alexandria public schools.

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General	Alexandria Sheriff's Office; ARHA (Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority); Basketball; Boys & Girls Club; Football; Integration; NJTL (National Junior Tennis League); Tennis
People	Ashe, Arthur; Delgado, Mary; Meekins, Leamond, Sr.; Williams, Glenn
Places	Alexandria City High School; Boyle Street; Cameron Street; Cameron Street Recreation Center; Commonwealth Avenue; Del Ray; E&J Carryout; Earl Street; Francis C. Hammond School; George Mason Elementary School; George Washington High School; George Washington Junior High School; Jefferson-Houston Elementary School; Jefferson-Houston Hill; Jefferson-Houston Pool; Jefferson Village; Minnie Howard Elementary School; Moss's Corner Store; Mount Vernon Elementary School; Mount Vernon High School; Parker-Gray School; Princess Street; Reed Theatre; T.C. Williams High School; West Side; West Street; William Ramsay Elementary School

Francesco De Salvatore [0:00:12.0] You could state—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:00:12.0] Yes. My name is Elwood Todd Stubblefield. Everybody knows me by E. Todd Stubblefield. Today's date is May 19, 2026. Currently living in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and this is being recorded on Zoom.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:00:31.0] Great. My name is Francesco De Salvatore. We are recording on Zoom with Mr. Stubblefield, and today is May 19, 2026. It's really good to be with you, Mr. Stubblefield, and I would like to kind of start with talking about where you grew up. So yeah. Let's start there. Can you describe where you grew up?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:00:59.4] I grew up in the Alexandria—the city of Alexandria, Virginia, mainly in the Old Town area.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:01:08.2] Great. Yeah. And so, what are some of your earliest memories growing up in the city of Alexandria?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:01:16.4] Well, when I was born if I'm not mistaken, we had just moved into what is called Jefferson Village, which is right there on the corner of West and Princess Street which is now an ARHA [Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority] property. That's where we were living when I was born. Prior to that, my family was in the Fredericksburg and in another part of Alexandria area. But when I was born, I was raised—started being raised in the Jefferson Village community.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:01:49.6] Great. And so, yeah. Can you describe where Jefferson Village/was/is located?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:01:59.4] Yeah. So again, it's located on the corner of West and Princess Street in Old Town, Alexandria. It is a housing development that is comprised of small townhomes and apartments.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:02:14.5] Okay.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:02:15.6] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:02:16.4] Yeah. And so, like what are your—yeah, like what are some of your early memories there growing up there?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:02:22.6] Yes. [Laughs] So, Jefferson Village was kind of its own community. I like to believe and think that anyway growing up, because it was kind of the hub for the area. I mean so we were between Boyle and Earl Street, West Street, of course, we're on Princess Street. On the back end of us would be Cameron Street, but that was separated by a school. And it was kind of the main hub of where people a lot of times congregated and gathered. We would have a lot of activities there, such as the kids would be playing "Hide-and-Go-Seek." We would have racing games where we're racing down this long part of Jefferson Village in a courtyard. We would play a game that's called "Hot Bread and Butter," where you hide in the building. Oh, my goodness! We

would roller-skate through there. And again, it was just a real great community where people again gathered—had a great family time and friendship.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:03:20.1] Yeah. What like what are—like who are some of those specific people that come to mind when you think about that time?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:03:28.7] So, there was Mr. Meekins and his family—Mr. and Mrs. Meekins, and he was the manager of Jefferson Village. He also used to work for the government. There was his—Robbie was his youngest son. Mickey was his oldest son, and Sandra—she was the middle daughter. And so, Robbie was closer to my age, but he's a little bit older than me—just two years older than me. And then there was Sandra. Then there was Mickey, if I'm not mistaken, as far as the ages. And so that family was the manager of Jefferson Village. We had the Dillards there with Yvette. We had the Wares—there Rodney was my age. We had the Cook family there. There was two sets of Cook family, and the Wares were a family of those. We had the Smith family there. We had Darnelle and her mom. I cannot believe I just forgot Darnelle's mom's name. Wow! Let me see. We had the Gaithers there. There was Mark and that was Jackie. Jackie was the oldest. We had Sandra and her brother that was living there. We had Brian and Lisa which was the Millers. They were living there. We had the Murphys living there. Michael Bowers and his family lived there. We had Pam—I'm trying to think of Pam's last name. I grew up with—her family was there. Wow! On the backside—I mean on the frontside of Princess Street—oh my gosh! I cannot believe I just forgot his name. I can see his face as clear as day. But yeah. It was a very strong community of people there that was just mixed—mixed families—not mixed families as far as culture but just the dynamics who have a lot of kids. Very growing and strong family community that was there. The Williams were there. Who else?

Francesco De Salvatore [0:05:31.0] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:05:31.3] I cannot believe all these people just escaped my mind. [Laughs] As soon as you said that. Oh my gosh?

Francesco De Salvatore [0:05:31.3] [Inaudible 0:05:35.8]?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:05:36.0] Yes.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:05:36.4] Well, don't be hard on yourself. For one, it's been a long time. And two, you just named like a dozen families. [Laughs] So—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:05:44.1] Yeah, yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:05:45.0] That's a lot of people.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:05:45.2] Oh I'm sorry. My mom's best friend, Liz Jones and her daughter, Sabrina Jones was there. The Johnsons were there with—I'm sorry. Things just kind of popped in my—the Johnsons were there. They had [inaudible 0:06:01.8]. Dang! They used to live right beside us. There was also—I cannot let Michelle and her family go. They were there as well. Michelle and Wendy, they were my age. They were sisters. They were part of that big family. [Talking to child] She said she's gonna cook me in Connect 4.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:06:37.3] Oh, that's what she said. Okay, okay.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:06:40.2] She says [inaudible 0:06:40.3] Yeah. She says she's gonna really cook me in Connect 4. I'm sorry. [Laughter] Yeah. That's my heart right there, good lord.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:06:50.6] Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's—yeah. It's interesting to see you remem—like just start remembering these people. I can kind of see on your face just—yeah, it's—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:07:02.6] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:07:02.8] —it really did seem like a special—it seems like a really special place for you.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:07:08.2] It was because we—when I think about the courtyard, the courtyard itself was mainly all concrete, of course. Had a little bit of grassy areas in front of the apartment complex with little hedges separating that grassy area. So, you would have little hedges—low hedges in that little grassy area. Then you have an apartment complex. But in front of the townhouses which were directly facing the apartments, there was no grassy area in front of those. Then you had these concrete blocks that were specifically for sitting. And it was just pretty interesting on how they were arranged in the courtyard. Because again, people would gather, and the courtyard was pretty big. I mean it was a pretty huge courtyard. People would gather there and sit and talk—families and people coming through. And again, as I said, because most of it was all concrete—I'm talking about probably the courtyard was probably 80 to 90 percent concrete. All kinds of activities would go on there. No cookouts or things like that happened or barbecues in the courtyard, but certainly a lot of them happened in people's backyards. And so, for the townhouses a very unique setup for the backyards. It was all brick. It was no fence. It was all brick backyards. So, you had a brick wall that may have been like four feet—maybe five feet tall—a brick yard with a gate that let you into the brick yard patio. You may have had a very small little patch of grass back there, but most of all it was concrete. And you'd just look over from neighbor to neighbor to neighbor. All of it was the same size with no one bigger than the other. There were no decks. Everything was ground level—two-floor townhomes, and you could look over from one neighbor's yard to the next neighbor's yard who lived in townhomes. I suppose we did and just see people over there grilling, talking, laughing, and all those other good things. It was just really—in the end like an alley—a concrete alley walkway in between the backyards that were facing each other. So, we had townhouses on one side, townhouses on the other side, patios—I mean, yeah, patios facing each other with a concrete walkway between those. And, you know, it was just a great place to be during my childhood.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:09:13.0] Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, and where—so just so I get the year, like what—do you remember what year your parents moved there?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:09:26.2] Probably in 1965 or 1966, cause I was born in 1966. I think it opened in 1965 or 1966. I know Jefferson Village had just opened when my mom and them moved there if I'm not mistaken.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:09:36.6] Okay.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:09:36.6] So it would have been probably around 1965 or 1966.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:09:39.1] Okay. And just so—and where did they move from?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:09:45.1] My mom is from I say Tappahannock is the main area for people to just kind of get an understanding of where it was. But I think her original place is [inaudible 0:09:58.0]. Which is right there at Tappahannock. My father is from Spotsylvania/Fredericksburg area. And so, they moved from there—cause my mom and dad met at Mary Washington Hospital where my mom was working at.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:10:10.8] Oh, okay. And then they moved to Alexandria and moved to Jefferson Village?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:10:14.9] Mm-hmm.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:10:15.9] Okay.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:10:16.3] They moved to Alexandria. I think my mom and them may have lived with my aunt for a little bit in Alexandria. Not my dad. I think my mom and my sister did. And I think when I was born, that's when they had moved to Jefferson Village. My father had relocated in [inaudible 0:10:32.6], and that's—yeah, and that's how that happened.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:10:37.3] So like yeah. Maybe yeah—walk us through like cause obviously I mean I have never seen where you lived there.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:10:45.9] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:10:46.5] So like walk us through the house a little bit. Like what did it look like? What was the layout?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:10:52.5] So when you entered the house where we were living, our first house was 1526 Princess Street. And the second time, cause we moved out and we moved back into 1422. I don't know how [inaudible 0:11:03.4] two addresses. But they were up on the same row of houses, there's townhouses apart, but when you walked into—I can remember at 1422 probably a little bit better than 1526. But immediately when you walked into the house of, I think 1422, the stairway were immediately to the left right there. The kitchen immediately to the right. You walk into a dining room/living room area, and then from there you would walk right back to the sliding glass door. And then that would open up to the patio. So, these were not extremely huge townhomes, but they were large enough for the time. And they were moderate, and they were the latest things happening at that moment. You would go upstairs. If I recall, there was only one bathroom in the hallway. I think we may have had three bedrooms. Some of them were two bedrooms and some I believe were three bedrooms, but these were not some large bedrooms either. And so, there's one bathroom there. The front room was my mom's, and around the back would be ours overlooking the patio area.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:12:13.6] Okay. What was—I mean did you have like a spot that was your—like was it like a favorite room or you know like—as a kid, like was there a place in the house that you gravitated towards?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:12:29.1] No, not at all. Because so many things were happening out in the—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:12:33.4] Right.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:12:33.4] —courtyard, you didn't want to be in the house. [Laughs] You just didn't want to be in the house. You wanted to be out there where all the activity. When I tell you—you got jump rope going on. You have people playing jacks—the girls up—they're playing jacks. Again, you're playing these games: Hide-and-Go-Seek; Hot Bread and Butter. You got races going on to see who's the fastest. Now I'm not talking about a short little distance race. It would be a little distance people were running against each other. And here's what I really loved about the races. Most times people didn't have on shoes. They took their shoes—and you're talking about on concrete—they took the shoes off, socks off. Cause you got a better grip to the ground—better than your shoes did. You know. And it was a very clean. Jefferson Village was spotless, and they kept it that way. They made sure that that courtyard stayed clean. It was very welcoming and inviting. They would be a little strict sometimes with too many people from like outside would come into the community and a lot of noise was being made. They would, you know, start shutting that down. But again, it was a great gathering place for the ages—for everybody—for their dogs, for teenagers, and then for the kids. Everybody was there. So being in a house there was no favorite space like it is in the houses that we have again here. Because these are—all these townhouses probably maybe 1,400 square feet, maybe? 1,500 square feet? So, these were not super large townhomes, but they were very nice, well put together, all red brick townhomes, and very solid. Man, it was just a great community to be in. So, there was no favorite room for me or favorite place to be in there. It was all about being outside with all of your friends cause you knew everybody was gathering in that courtyard. After school, on weekends, and then attached, of course, to Jefferson Village was Jefferson-Houston Hill. Now Jefferson-Houston was the elementary school right there behind Jefferson Village. So, it was between Jefferson Village and Cameron Street—Jefferson-Houston Elementary School. And there was this huge hill. And so, if we weren't gathered there, then a lot of times on the hill they had a huge playground structure towards the end of it which was facing the West Street side of the hill. And but at the other end was tennis courts. And in the middle was just all open space field. We would play football—all kinds of games out there as well. So, when I say it was a place that was gathering, and a lot of fun and activity, it really was.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:15:12.8] Yeah. Can you—yeah, I'm just curious about—can you talk more about the hill? So, like what did that playground look like?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:15:23.6] So, it had a—it had a—man, my mind just went—a gaze—not a gazebo. But it was a covered space, and it was bigger than a gazebo. And, you know, people would be gathered underneath of there if it was raining or would have activities up there. Had a playground with swings and all of that other good stuff. There's one huge tree. I can remember this one huge tree that was right between the playground and the open field that I got tied up one day. This guy, and I love him, they used to call him "Babe [inaudible 0:16:00.0]." He was an older guy, and part of his workout routine was to chase the kids through the community. He knew he'd get in shape. He would have on this sweatsuit. Man, it's hot outside! And Babe [inaudible 0:16:11.0] just trying to lose weight. Like I say? He was older than we were. And then if he caught you, he would rough you up. And sometimes he would tie you up [laughs] to a tree and leave you. And so, we—but nothing tight. I

mean it wasn't nothing tight, but he would leave you at the tree and he'd go chase the other kids. And then he'd come back and let you go. You'd go run and hide. He'd grab other kids, tie them up, and so man, it was just such a fun time. And so again, that was just one of the—and if he wasn't out there playing and roughhousing with the guys, he would never do any girls like that. It was always just the guys. And like I said, Babe [0:16:44.0] was probably—maybe seven, eight years older than we were at the time. And at that time, like I said, when I came into Jefferson Village, I was born and raised there. I went to Jefferson-Houston School which was kindergarten through—I think Jefferson-Houston was kindergarten through third grade before they shipped you off to some of the other schools that they were now building, and they had opened up and all these other things. But yeah. We were hanging out there. Also, the tennis court—I loved the tennis court because during that time, [burps] excuse me, during that time we had what was called "NJTL."

Francesco De Salvatore [0:17:24.4] Uh-huh.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:17:24.8] National Junior Tennis League sponsored by Arthur Ashe, and that was a pretty huge program throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area. They had teams, if I'm not mistaken, in D.C. and Maryland. We had nine different locations in Alexandria, with one being the Jefferson-Houston location. The other being G.W. We had Ewald. We had George Mason Team. We had the Ramsay Team. We had—hmm. We had—oh my gosh? I can't remember the—they were mainly program—I mean playground areas in Alexandria that had tennis courts. And so, you had the different age groups. You had like the 9 and 10 age group, the 11 and 12 age group. I might be off a little bit. You had the age group that was 13 and 14, 15 and 16. I don't know if it went up to 17, 18 or not, but each team, Jefferson-Houston would have, let's just say yellow t-shirts that had "NJTL" on them. You may have had a team that was light blue that may have been in like the George Mason Elementary School where they had tennis courts at. You may have had the team over at George Mason—I mean over at G.W. High School—that tennis court over there. They may have had red jerseys on. So when you went to play tennis—and man, it was just such a great [inaudible 0:18:49.1] cause they instructed you on tennis, it was very competitive, you gave kids an opportunity to be exposed to areas that for us most of the time none of us had experienced in those areas because the only major black athlete at that time that was into this that we knew of was Arthur Ashe. Look, that was a big deal. That tennis court was huge for a lot of kids in that area and huge for a lot of kids in the other areas. And so, you would play against all the kids in the Alexandria area. But again, it was more than competitive enough. Oh, you had the Mount Vernon tennis courts, and you had the ones that was down in NJTL down into Mount Vernon. And so, it was more than competitive enough cause each team may have had about 10 or 12 kids on each team with a couple of different age groups in there, and you would play according to your age group. Again, which is a great time for me and just kind of thinking about that, I was one of the top players in NJTL in my age group. And so there used to be this tennis club in Alexandria right off of Duke Street, and it was for—it really was for whites only. But me and another young lady, she was Italian, her name was Mary Delgado. She played at the George Mason—she played at the George Mason Team. And she and I went to high school together before she passed not long after high school. He took her and I into that tennis club and gave us I think like 12 weeks of free lessons on Saturday mornings.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:20:15.1] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:20:15.3] He would train me and Mary [inaudible 0:20:17.2] for tennis, and I don't know how we got selected. I don't know how I was selected. I don't know how Mary was selected, but we were the only two kids selected out of like 9 teams.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:20:28.2] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:20:28.2] And we would meet there. And when I tell you it was a white—it was pretty much a whites only club. Even though that I'm sure they probably didn't have it like that, but there was nobody else in that white tennis club but all white men and white women. And then of course you had—I don't recall seeing any blacks in there. If they were in there, they were workers. They were not tennis players that I can recall, and I could be off, but I was younger at that time. I think at that time I was probably somewhere around 11/12, because I remember playing 14 and under. I was playing the 14 and under age group. I was like 11 or 12 years old. So, I was pretty good at tennis. We had some very competitive tennis players on our team, as well as in the other teams around the Alexandria area, which again exposed a lot of young African American kids to a sport that we ordinarily would probably not have been exposed to. Because a lot of our growing up was basketball and football. That was our main focus, but he got us into that. I had a cousin who had really high hopes for me. He thought I was gonna really take tennis far because he was really into tennis. He was much older than I was, and he would always call my mom and them to check in on me, see how I was doing. "Is Todd still encouraged about tennis?" And I was. I was encouraged up until probably my high school years when I became very discouraged by a little bit of mess that happened on the tennis team that I was allowed to try out for and I made.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:21:47.3] Right.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:21:48.3] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:21:48.3] Wait, didn't you say that you said that something about a mess? Is that what you said?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:21:53.0] Yeah. So, look, I don't want to misrepresent. I really don't, but there were only two black kids on the team for T.C. Williams. And that was either T.C. Williams or G.W. I can't remember. G.W. was the middle school. T.C. Williams was the high school. But I want to say it was T.C. Williams Tennis Team. I could be wrong. It may have been G.W. But in either event, I made the team. There was only two blacks on there, Tracy Edwards and myself. And we were good players, and Tracy was very competitive, a very competitive player, and so was I. But I came up to the team late. And so, I came in on the 12th seed, and if my memory served me correct, the rules for the team was you could challenge for the seed in front of you—whoever was seeded in front of you in your team if you won your match. My coach only allowed me to challenge beyond two players. He wouldn't let me challenge [inaudible 0:22:48.8]. And that became very disheartening for me. And, you know, at that time my dad was not in my life. My dad and my mom had separated, and so I became very frustrated. My family had spent some money into my tennis—my tennis racket. I had gotten at that time what was called a Bjorn Borg ash wood four-by-four tennis racket. Bjorn Borg was one of the top tennis players. He was one of my favorite tennis players outside of Arthur Ashe during that time. And my mom and them paid—I think they got that tennis racket on sale for about $110 at Irving's Sporting Goods which was in Landmark Mall which was one of the main malls in the Alexandria area at that time. Now I remember I cracked that racket. Man, I was so mad at my

coach when he would not let me challenge him. That's when I dropped my racket. I'd stopped playing. I think I was probably in the ninth or tenth grade at that time, and I stopped playing tennis at that point.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:23:42.8] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:23:44.2] Sadly enough. Yeah. And my coach was white. And he wouldn't, like I said, he wouldn't let me challenge beyond two—he wouldn't let me challenge beyond the 11th and the 12th seeded person that was in front of me. Again, I was the 12th seed, 12 players, but I was new to the team. So of course, I had to prove myself and work my way up. But again, he wouldn't let me challenge beyond the 11th—the 10th and 11th—11th and the 10th player—10th seeds.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:24:06.0] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:24:06.4] And so yeah. It became very discouraging—a discouraging time for me.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:24:13.9] Yeah. Can you say more about that? Like what was that like for you and then, you know, during that moment having to deal with that?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:24:22.4] So, of course, you know, like anything else, racism is alive and well. Then, today, and you know, and during that time we're talking about the late 1970s going to the—we're talking about actually the 1980s—the early 1980s. And but you're not thinking of it in that capacity, even though you see it. You know it. You're young. In your mind there is racism in this aspect of it, but also at the end of the day I'm not pushing anybody's buttons. My cousin, again, his name was T.J. Jackson. He was older than I was. T.J. was probably about 12 to 15 years older than me, if not a little bit more. He may have been a little bit more than that—older than I was, but he tried to keep me encouraged. This was during the time with Tracy Austin years, when she had made pro. And, you know, my mom and them was having hopes and dreams that I would probably go off to junior nationals and tryout there and see if I could make it, which would then could lead during that time to the pro circuit. But again, I lost all taste for tennis at that particular point—discouraged by the fact that I was not allowed to play beyond there—again, my mom tried to encourage me. My dad and my mom were separated. My father was at that time living in Fredericksburg. I think was he—yeah. During that time my father was living in Fredericksburg at that time. Then he and my mom were not together. And certainly, even if he was, I don't know if my father was in shape enough to really encourage me at that point to make a better decision and continue on in tennis. I wish I would have listened. Love the sport—had an awesome serve. I cannot remember who that guy was that took us into that tennis club during that day, but he developed a serve. He helped me develop a serve that was like a rocket. Man, I'm telling you right now. And I was known for that serve at the [serve noise]. It was hard to return that. That was my—I could be losing the match, and every time it was up for me to serve, I would find myself right back in the match. Because kids my age were not able to handle that serve, and that serve was something vicious.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:26:35.9] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:26:36.6] And so it gave me a lot of advantage. I took that even now—and I know we're gonna get to this later, but I even took that into the Sheriff's Department. Because when

I first got hired as a deputy sheriff and I'm just going back—rest for a second, I'll jump back—even—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:26:47.9] You're good, yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:26:48.4] —this is about the tennis—this is a tennis part. Because when I had gotten hired at the Sheriff's Department, there's was a lot of tennis players there then. And we end up setting up a tennis competition between the employees at the Sheriff's Department. And we would always go out and play. I would play against the [inaudible 0:27:07.5], a couple of lieutenants, and like a couple of my co-workers. Then again, we had a tennis tournament set up, and that was at Oakwood Apartments. And I would always get them on that serve. Man, I remember a couple of them would cheat too. "That serve was not in bounds, Stubblefield." "Yes, it was, and you know that serve was in bounds. You just couldn't handle that"—I mean that serve was a rocket! Even up until my adult years when I picked tennis back up for a very few minutes just because they were talking a lot of stuff at the Sheriff's Department. I said, "Well, I can play. I just haven't played in years. Give me a chance to get my head together. I'll be back [inaudible 0:27:41.1] like nobody's business, and I did. We played very [inaudible 0:27:44.6]. But let's get back to where we were.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:27:46.7] Yeah, yeah, yeah. No. This is good. No.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:27:48.0] But that was a missed opportunity. I swear as a young African American, and we had some tennis players better than me that was African American. Sean Shepherd and his brother Mike Shepherd—they were two tennis players. They didn't live in Jefferson Village. They lived right there. So, in the parking lot I can't remember that little street right there. I think that may have been Boyle? I could be wrong, but that may have been in Boyle Street that led right to the parking lot of where Jefferson Village was. And Sean Shepherd and them, they're like the first or second corner—yeah, the second house. Cause Peter and them lived in the first house. Sean Shepherd lived in the second house—or it may have been vice versa. But yeah. Peter played tennis. I mean it was—I think Babe [inaudible 0:28:33.0] played tennis. The guy that would chase us around [laughs] to lose weight. And so, it was just a good time, but man, I wish—I truly do. If there's anything that I could probably go back in time and undo would be me breaking my Dion—my—I said Dion—my Bjorn Borg tennis racket. And just staying the course and fighting through the adversity of the challenge. Because certainly I know beyond—I know beyond a shadow of a doubt if I would have stayed in tennis in high school, I would have at least made it to college. I would have gotten a scholarship for tennis as a scholarship. Because first and foremost, African American again, very quick reaction time, speed, everything—loved tennis. Man, and I cannot believe, you know, here it is I'm looking at this 59 years—I'm at 59 years of age today that I gave up something that I loved because I allowed what was honestly in my heart of hearts racism to stop me from moving forward. I hate to do that, cause the coach actually was my basketball—I think my coach was my basketball coach as well. And he really was a good guy, but in tennis he just didn't let me challenge beyond the 11th—I mean beyond the 10th seed. I got up to the 10th seed, and that was it—didn't let me challenge any more.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:29:51.4] Yeah. I'm sorry that you experienced that. I can see it, you know, it still impacts you.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:29:58.7] Oh, yeah. Man, because those are things you can't get back. Once that time is spent, it's spent. I'm beyond it really as far as any ill will or hurt or any of those. That's long beyond me. But again, when you look at opportunities that could have made a difference or changed the course of direction of your life that were not taken advantage of for various reasons, you just kind of wonder where you would have been had you done those things?

Francesco De Salvatore [0:30:27.4] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:30:27.4] May not have been anyway. Still may be where you are today. But never know when those opportunities are thrown away.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:30:35.6] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:30:36.8] So, again, love tennis. Oftentimes enough was a young lady that lived in Jefferson Village at the time. Her name was Wendy. I mentioned her earlier. Wendy and Michelle—Michelle knew Wendy was about a year older than I. Michelle was about two years younger than I, and Wendy played tennis with us. She played on a NJTL team, and I could always see. I could see Wendy now. Wendy would come, knock on the door. "Hey, Todd. You're playing tennis today." And Wendy was very good—excellent tennis player as well. And so out of all the times that we would find ourselves on a court playing tennis. But whether Wendy—she'd admit it or not, I would beat the brakes off her. Man, that serve would come at her fast! [Laughs]

Francesco De Salvatore [0:31:17.4] And now—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:31:18.2] But we had a good time.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:31:19.5] —I really want to see this serve.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:31:21.8] [Laughs] You know can I tell you this? This is funny. That serve I don't know how, but that serve has actually transitioned into a great ping-pong table serve.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:31:35.8] Okay. All right. [Laughs]

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:31:36.8] I play ping-pong today. I play ping-pong. I play a—I play an excellent game of ping-pong. I have a nice ping-pong table in my garage, and me and my son would play a lot. Cause I keep telling him all the time. I'll be playing with him nice and slow, nice slow serves and all that stuff. And every once in a while, I'll get to slam one. He was laughing. And I said, "Hey man, watch this serve. That serve is coming." And he knows it's coming, and that serve would come lightning across—and I'll challenge almost anybody on a ping-pong table. I don't care who they are to return that serve of mine. I'm not saying I can't be beat—that I can be, but when it comes to that serve on that ping-pong table, it is something to behold and to watch.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:32:15.5] That's funny.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:32:16.1] But yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:32:16.5] That's cool. That's cool.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:32:18.3] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:32:20.0] Yeah, man. As you're talking about these memories, I'm just—yeah. I'm curious if you can talk more about your odyssey, your growing up under integration in Alexandria? You know. So, you're attending schools that are, you know, being integrated during this time. So yeah. Can you describe like some of those memories during that time?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:32:43.6] Yeah. Absolut—oh man. Wow. So, I went to Jefferson-Houston from kindergarten to second grade. Third grade I spent my years at Mount Vernon Elementary School cause we had moved from Jefferson Village down to Del Ray. My father had acquired a house on Commonwealth Avenue, 1801 on Commonwealth Avenue. He had acquired a house down there, so we went to—they transferred me to Mount Vernon Elementary School. And I was only in there for one year. And I don't know why my mom and them took me out of Mount Vernon Elementary, but they took me out of Mount Vernon Elementary and sent me to Saint Rita's Catholic School, which was probably from Mount Vernon maybe a hot mile at the max. It was on Glebe Road.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:33:32.8] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:33:33.5] And so I went there for fourth and fifth grade. I do remember when I went to Mount Vernon Elementary School one of the incidents I had there that probably led to me being moved out of that school at third grade was that I had a teacher smack me. And she smacked me because I was laughing at a young lady who was stuttering through her—oh, man. I'll never forget that. She was stuttering during the [inaudible 0:33:57.0]. So, we had reading time around us. Looked around the table in the classroom. And this one young lady was trying to read, and she was stuttering reading. And I was at the table cracking up laughing. Man, the teacher smacked me.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:34:09.8] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:34:10.0] I went home and told my mom and dad. Man, my dad came driving up to that school. I remember he threw his—I felt like he was punishing me when he threw me in that car so fast. And we got up to the school. He wanted to get his hands on that teacher, but she was gone. And the school—and that probably led to my demise at being at Mount Vernon Elementary School beyond my third grade year and end up in Catholic school for a year—fourth and fifth grade. Stayed there fourth and fifth grade. My mom and dad separated after my fifth grade year, and my mom and them end up moving back into Jefferson Village. And that's when I was sent off to William Ramsay for my sixth grade year. So, I spent my sixth grade year at William Ramsay on the West Side. You know mind you, we're living in Old Town. William Ramsay Elementary School was on the West Side. So, they bused us from there up to William Ramsay Elementary School, and they were starting—this is when they were starting to bus kids to different places to make it a little bit more diverse. Cause the West End was predominantly white if my memory serves me correctly. And so, they start busing us up to that area—well Old Town was predominantly white. [Laughs] So I don't know why they sent us up to that particular school, but that's where they sent us to William Ramsay. And I spent my sixth grade year there. Once we came out of William Ramsay still living in Jefferson Village at this particular point in time, I was supposed to go that next year to Parker-Gray, but Parker-Gray closed. And they changed—they had changed G.W. from if I'm not mistaken—they had changed G.W. from a ninth and tenth grade school to a seventh, eighth, and ninth grade school.

Yeah. Because Minnie Howard at that time was a—yeah. So, it was eleventh and twelfth at T.C., ninth and tenth at G.W. and Hammond, seventh and eighth was at Minnie Howard and at Parker-Gray, and then you had kindergarten through sixth grade at various different elementary schools.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:36:24.2] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:36:25.6] And so it was my year to—when I graduated from sixth grade to go to middle school, they closed Parker-Gray. They made G.W. a seventh, eighth, and ninth grade school. They made Hammond a seventh, eighth, and ninth grade school, and they made T.C. Williams tenth, eleventh, and twelfth. So, I didn't get a chance to go to historical Parker-Gray. I wanted to go there, but I didn't get a chance to go there. And so, I end up going to G.W. Junior High School at that time, which was a real treat too. Cause that was a good—that was a time where they was integrating, mixing, and busing kids together. And so that was—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:37:03.7] Yeah! So, I've heard a lot of stories about that—about G.W. during that time. So, I'm just curious. Like what are your memories of going—like going to G.W.?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:37:18.3] I had a lot of fun. Had a great—had some great teachers at G.W.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:37:22.8] Right.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:37:22.9] But I can remember this one instance. I'll never forget it, man. We were picking on this kid. It was a number of us. He was a white kid. And I don't necessarily believe he was special needs cause we didn't have that at that particular time—not that I ever recall. But he was not—he was one of those kids that was kind of like isolated. He had a real big head, and we were always teasing him. You know kids are very cruel and very heartless when it comes to making fun of other kids and not considering their feelings. And so, it was a bunch of us around him, and we were teasing this kid one day, man. And he got so mad! We were on the hallway that led from the classrooms to the cafeteria. And there was a bathroom on that hallway. We was right outside that bathroom area, and we were picking on him. I was the smallest of them all. He grabbed me, and he and I got to tussling. And I mean when he grabbed me, we got to tussling in that hallway. It was him who started it. And he hit me, and I hit him back. And Mr. Marsh, I'll never forget him. There was two Marshes there. There was a Randy Marsh who was my football coach, and he was a great guy. There was this other white guy, just kind of stocky—kind of stocky [inaudible 0:38:39.8] fat white guy. His name was Mr. Marsh, too, I think, if my memory serves me correct. Man, he grabbed me and slammed me against the wall. He didn't do it to the white kid. He grabbed me and slammed me against the wall, and I mean all the other kids took off down the hallway. Wasn't gonna get in trouble because they weren't the ones that was in the tussle. That kid grabbed me. Took us up to the principal's office. Man is shoving me down in the principal's seat, man. And went in the principal's office. So, I told the principal what was going on. Well just low and behold a family friend worked in that principal's office who was the secretary administrator. She called my mom immediately. And she said, "Ms. Stubblefield, you got to get up here. This guy is [inaudible 0:39:18.0] your son really bad." Man, my mom came storming up to that place. Man, she laid him out. [Inaudible 0:39:23.5] never ever had a problem with him again. I remember my mom telling that guy, she said, "Next time you put your hands on my son, I'm gonna cut your fingers off." [Laughter] Now whether she would have did that or not, I have absolutely no idea. My mom was a very sweet woman. But when it come to her kids, she didn't play. And so, I remember my mom telling him to apologize. He apologized right

in front of the principal to me. She said, "You ever put your hands on my son again, I'm gonna cut your fingers off." But it was a good school. I had a lot of friends there, white and black. I enjoyed being at G.W. It was close to home. We had good athletic programs—football. Like I said, Randy Marsh was my football coach—a great football coach, man. He led us to—I think it was a 7-1 record. We only lost to Hammond one game and everything else we won. Basketball was Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell was a great coach, man. We had great basketball years over that time. We played in Chuck Taylor tennis shoes [Laughs]

Francesco De Salvatore [0:40:22.7] Oh wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:40:23.7] But, you know, we were the Prexies. We were the G.W. Prexies, which was short I guess for presidents and all those other good things. Had, like I say, you had racism there too. I don't know how blatant it was. So again, sometimes you're just kind of oblivious to it. You know racism exists, but at that age you're just really kind of oblivious to it. I mean it's just not really your mind. You talk about it here and there, but it's just not your focal point. You're just a kid. You're in school. You're having fun. When the time raise up, you say something about it. You know. Hopefully you get some attention to it, but also at the end of the day it was what it was. One of the great things I did love about G.W.—one of my favorite classes was home ec. Where, you know, we cooked. Part of the class is that we learned how to sew. We went to Reading, Pennsylvania for a field trip. Learned about fabrics and all that stuff. Brought your favorite fabric back, made clothes in the class. I remember I made some chino pants. They were tan pants that you pull up. They had the waistband, and it was Simplicity Patterns. That was the name of the patterns at that time—Simplicity. And you would lay the pattern, and you would pin the pattern down to the fabric. And then you would cut it out according to the pattern—the Simplicity Pattern. And then you followed the pattern, and you stitched the clothes—where it would show you to stitch the clothes at, and then you made yourself a pair of pants. Stitch in the elasticity around the waist and then the drawstring. Yeah man. I made some tan chino pants. Oh, man. Did I make—and I enjoyed sewing and cooking in home economics—a great class—I don't even know if they offer that any more. But it was a great class. I had shop. That was great. My areas of greater interest was math. I loved math. I enjoyed science, but I had some real great days playing base—I mean playing basketball and playing football at G.W. Junior High School. It was a great time there.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:42:28.1] Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And what about T.C.? So, like so from G.W. you went to T.C., right? Or I am missing—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:42:35.6] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:42:36.1] Yeah, okay.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:42:37.2] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:42:37.3] So like, yeah. What are some memories from T.C. Williams?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:42:43.3] Well of course, I'll start backwards to forward. Of course, we were the state champions in my year—my senior year, 1984/1985. It was the 1984 season, 1985 graduation year that we won the state championship. We were number three in the country, number one in the state of Virginia. We went, I think it was, 14-0. I think we only had a total of like 54 to 58 points

scored on us out of the 14 teams. We scored somewhere around 300/400 points—very fast, great team. That time we were merging—that was the year that we were merging G.W. and Hammond together. And Hammond had a great football team as well—and a great basketball team as well. So, you're taking two junior high schools and merging them together in one high school trying to make the basketball teams together, making the football teams, where people fit. And it was a—it really was a perfect situation—a perfect storm in that we had so many talented athletes. There was already a lot of talented athletes at T.C. Williams anyway, and now you have all these ninth graders merging into the high school tenth grade and trying to find their place in athletics and everything else as we're growing and developing. And so, it was really a great and awesome time there. I remember the red carpet. It's kind of funny cause yesterday we had at the Sheriff's Department senior experiences. And that happens each year where you have seniors from T.C. Williams, but now Alexandria City Public School, who will come to the Sheriff's Department and Police Department and Fire Department and spend some days there learning about the different agencies and departments and offices. And so yesterday I had an opportunity to talk to the kids—the seniors that was there. There was only four of them there at the Sheriff's Department, and I was just kind of telling them—they was asking me, "What did the old school look like?" And the old school was I think three levels, if I'm not mistaken, the lower level. Then you had the main level where the administrative offices and all that stuff was. Cause on the bottom level you had lockers. You had maybe a couple of classrooms down there if I'm not mistaken. Athletics area back there with the football lockers and all that other good stuff. The cafeteria was down there. When you come to T.C. Williams, you pull up out front. You go up sets of stairs on either side. The stairs in the middle went down to the lower level. But the stairs at the top, you get up to that top right there, and you were going to what was the red carpet area. That's where the main basketball gym was. So, the red carpet area was right there. Everybody congregated to the red carpet area when school first started. Or during lunch time, people would just kind of congregate there and meet up. Of course, they wouldn't let you stay there too long cause you had to move off the red carpet and go to your respective places, whether it would be class, whether it would be the lunch room, or, you know, just when people coming through there. And it was just kind of a hangout [inaudible 0:45:43.8]. Awesome experience there. Loved it. Played football and basketball. I played basketball up into my eleventh grade year. Of course, I got a scholarship playing football as a wide receiver at T.C. Williams. Oh man! The games—football games—T.C. Williams—I don't know if I should be saying it this way, but we were the shiznik! Everywhere we went, T.C. Williams, I mean—man, people would talk about us. We were fan—my senior year we were fantastic. My junior and my sophomore year we lost regional playoffs both years to Mount Vernon High School. But my senior year, man, we crushed them. My junior year and my sophomore year we crushed as the JV team. We went undefeated both years as JV teams. And then my senior year, we were undefeated. But and that was on the Varsity team. But like I said, my sophomore or my junior year, I played on Varsity, but I didn't get any playing time. But I was a starter on the JV team, and we went undefeated down there. Had some great players down there as well. But it was just an awesome time, man. Everywhere we went, everybody just kind of followed. Our T.C. Williams lettermen jackets, they weren't your traditional jackets. They were—for the football team, they were like this satin finish. And we had our letter over the heart. They were red. They had the red and blue little lines around the wrist area of the sleeve, and T.C. Williams was on the thing—Titans. And everywhere we went, man, I mean people would just talk about [inaudible 0:47:15.8]. Because we were vicious. T.C. Williams was the—yeah. We were it. As a matter of fact, I got my hall of fame ring in the room. I should have brought it in here, but—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:47:29.8] Yeah, well I'm just cur—you clearly were really good at so many sports. You know. I'm just curious like how does, you know, like tennis, football—like how did all of these sporting experiences for lack of a better word—like how did it—how do you think it shaped you as a person?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:47:50.9] I think it gave me great discipline. One thing I can say about sports that I love, it gives an area of focus, an area of maturation, and an area of discipline. And even though I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt I was not gonna make the Varsity basketball team, I was good, but I wasn't gonna make it. It was just too much competition and a lot of talent. And so, I knew I was not going to make the Varsity. I made the JV. I played on it till my junior year back then. Of course, I told you I became very discontent with tennis because of the—discontentment, I mean, might not be the right word. Became very discouraged with tennis because I would not be—I was not allowed to challenge beyond—and I was in tenth grade I think I was at that time—ninth or tenth grade. But I was not allowed to challenge the two people that were seeded ahead of me, number eleven and number ten seed. And so, I'm sorry that I gave those things up, but the football team—woo. Yeah. So, I was a wide receiver and playing at T.C. Williams. We had—I did not—now this is the interesting part. You're talking about my senior year. We had eleven of us go off to college for football and one go off for basketball.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:49:15.0] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:49:15.5] And our quarterback—our starting quarterback, he—Glenn Williams. He had an opportunity to go football or basketball. He took basketball. And the rest of us went on scholarship for football. Twelve of us went on scholarship in football my senior year.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:49:30.5] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:49:30.5] It was—I believe they really played a major part in just being able to deal with the challenges of life. I mean I didn't make the best decision with the tennis. Again, I made a I believe what was a best interest to not try to make the football—I mean the basketball team. Because again, the talent was just so awesome, and it was so much of it. I just knew with me being at average height—being 6 feet 2 inches—6 feet 2 inches and a 1/2 inch—me playing forward on the JV team was [inaudible 0:50:04.9], but not at the Varsity level. And my ball handling skills were good, but not that good that I would be a guard at 6 feet 2 inches. Could I develop those skills and better focus on it? Absolutely I could. But it was not my—and so what was my next option? Well, I had speed. I had great hands, and 6 feet 2 inches was not a bad height for a wide receiver. And yeah, man, I did very well. Again, I did not—I lettered at T.C. Williams, but I didn't make like districts, conference or regionals or state [inaudible 0:50:39.0] when it came to [inaudible 0:50:42.0] was a concern. Other people on the team did, but at the end of the day, I still was able to acquire a scholarship where I went off to Virginia Union. I ended up meeting my wife there. But sports were the thing that kept you focused, kept you out of trouble. It was important. It was the highlight. It gave you a sense of belonging. You were a family with friends. You spent a lot of time with each other. You watched out for each other. You covered each other. Man, that I don't recall it was any really any individuality. Like a lot of what we see today in sports, me personally, I look at it from the perspective of there's just a lot of individuality. It's really about the person more so than it is about the team in the concept. Don't get me wrong, there are just athletes today are just awesome. I love them and support them, but I just think, you know, sometimes that it's more about themselves than it

is about the team. And I think that's what hurts the individual sometimes, but at T.C. Williams it wasn't that. Man, we were a close-knit family. We watched out—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:51:46.1] I think it's—yeah. I think it's interesting you say that in some ways I feel like that's—that can be applied to Jefferson Village. You know. Like that—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:51:57.0] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:51:57.4] —like there's just a way you described it earlier in the sense of, yeah, it felt like a collective, you know.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:52:06.6] It was. Because there's just a—cause you made that point. I'll just like bring us back to this point here. In Jefferson Village all the neighbors watched out for each other. If a kid did something wrong, truly back in that time if a kid did something wrong, your neighbors could spank you. And your parents would be alright with it. Because the neighbor was not trying to kill you or hurt you. They were disciplining you cause they knew that your parents weren't around, and you were making a bad decision. Did that happen all the time? No. But one thing that did happen all the time, they would always look out for each other. And if your kids were getting in trouble, they were automatically notifying your parents. People had each other's phone numbers, and if the parents were not near, cause they may have been at work, you were always in someone else's home. You were never left to your own. And so, and if you did get disciplined by a neighbor, your parent didn't come home talking about, "I'm gonna kill you or beat you up—put your hands on my kids again." No! No! They encouraged it because again, it was a great community looking out for one another. And so, at—I'm not saying that the parents may not have ever did that, I don't know. But I know it was always an open door in Jefferson Village. That if your parents were not home for some reason or another, that someone in that community would watch out for you till you got home—until their parents got home.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:53:27.6] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:53:27.6] I And it was great. We loved it, man. And you're right. It was a collective.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:53:31.5] Yeah. Well, I just want to end this first part with one last question. But before we get to that point, is there anything I haven't asked you that you want to share?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:53:50.5] I'm probably sure there is—that there's just probably not crossing my mind at this moment, but I just miss—I can honestly tell you I miss that family like atmosphere.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:54:05.9] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:54:06.5] I do. People there were very close.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:54:11.0] Yeah. Yeah, I mean just kind of think, you know—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:54:14.0] Yeah, you get it.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:54:14.7] —and I think building on that—I'm just curious—like if there's a memory you could live, you know, like you could hold on to forever from those first 18 years of your life, which memory would it be?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:54:31.5] Wow, man. That's a pretty heavy—the memory I could—if I wanted to hold on to the most would probably be just Jefferson Village. I think when you and I talked the first time just about, you know, what the layout and what this would kind of look like, I have very fond memories. I told you I was gonna write a book. I'm not gonna put that out there right now cause I don't know where I'm gonna be at on this particular point in time another about the—I'll say this about the village. In my mind even talking with some of my friends now and having done—and what I did not say of course is I, you know, outside of being a deputy sheriff or a pastor. And not knowing where life will take you, but I've had the fortunate—the good fortunes of officiating the funerals of some people who lived in Jefferson Village and has gone on. You know. Parents that and here I am in this capacity and position have been blessed and thought enough of as an individual to be asked to do these funerals. And even some of the weddings. I'm getting ready to do a wedding tomorrow of Mark Gaither. I'm getting ready to do his 20 year anniversary wedding tomorrow evening in Old Town Alexandria. And I said, him and his sister, the Gaithers grew up there. I just did their father's funeral a couple of months ago and did their mother's funeral a couple of years ago.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:56:04.3] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:56:04.6] And so, yeah. And so, to have that blessing, but memories I would—memory I would want to hold on to would not be singular. And it would be the collective of Jefferson Village. Man, it was an awesome, an expressible and full community. Man, it just—it was life. It was a community within a community. It was life.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:56:31.0] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:56:31.3] And it was a very embracing community for other people who came in. Again though, certainly when people came in and they got too loud and rowdy, Mr. Meekins would tell them, "You all got to go." Or my father who was an assistant manager there as well for a little short period of time, would put people out of the area where they were out of control. But ultimately Jefferson Village was the happening spot, man. And what I did not mention what was in that time—and I'll say this and I'll let you go—right below Jefferson-Houston Hill was the school who was connected the two, a recreation center that was called Cameron Street Rec. And right beside the rec was Jefferson-Houston Pool. And right behind the pool was Jefferson-Houston Basketball Courts and another playground. And everybody congregated at the pool, Cameron Street Rec, and congregated at those basketball courts. We would have basketball games against communities. So, Queen Street would play against your Cameron Street, against these other Del Ray. I mean kids would come from different—and we would meet up on that basketball court, man, and we would play. We were at the Boys Club. Oh my gosh? I forgot about the Boys Club. I forgot about which was a block up the street. Everybody was there at the Boys and Girls Club. Oh man! I'll throw these two things in there too, cause I know you said was there anything I could remember about places. Across the street was E&J Carryout. The hamburgers and french fries were off the charts! And then around the corner was Moss's Corner Store. Down the street was the Reed Theatre where every—it

was a black theater where all the blacks were. They showed all the black movies, Blacula, Black Frankenstein. Yeah man. I'm telling you, Alexandria was lit! But it had its problems racism wise, but I wouldn't trade it, man, for anything in the world. But if any memory I would hold on to more than anything else, man, was the—as I'll use your word, the "collective" of Jefferson Village.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:58:32.4] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:58:33.4] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:58:33.8] Great. Well, I—yeah. I just want to thank you for doing this first part. And yeah, I mean I get it's—yeah. Like it really, I can't think of—I guess the only word I can think of it's just really an honor to be able to listen to your memories and stories. I know we've just met recently, but—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:58:53.8] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:58:54.3] Yeah. Just hearing with Jefferson Village and, you know, going through tennis and, you know, later football. I mean you've—yeah. Just your first 18 years of life are just filled with so much.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:09.2] [Inaudible 0:59:09.4], man.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:09.2] Yeah. So yeah. Thank you. Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:12.3] Yeah. And creativity, man. We used to build stuff. Man, we were builders.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:16.4] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:16.4] Oh? I got to give you this ball. You can have this to take this with you. And we used to have football clubs. You remember the iron football sets? With the little football teams?

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:29.0] No, no.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:29.0] Well, you may be too young for that.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:30.9] Could be, yeah, yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:30.9] So you could find with these—they don't make them today, but part of Jefferson Village and that community, that area, a lot of the boys my age—we had the football sets. And you had your favorite team. I was the Dallas Cowboys. I had the Cowboys. People had the Redskins. They had the Falcons, and we would play leagues against each other, man, on those electric football sets.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:47.8] Oh wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:49.0] Look it up. Look it up when you—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:50.0] Yeah. I'll look it up. Yeah. Okay. Yeah, yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:52.7] Oh, man! You turn it on, and the football men are playing against each other. And you got to throw the football. And men about that tall. Oh, my goodness, man! That—and you'll be at each other's houses playing that, and that's—shortly after that, that's when Atari came out. Okay, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Francesco De Salvatore [1:00:08.4] No, no, no. Don't apologize. No. Yeah. And I, yeah. I wanted to keep, you know, we'll keep this rolling into the next part too so that yeah—

E. Todd Stubblefield [1:00:16.0] Okay.

Francesco De Salvatore [1:00:16.0] —don't feel like, yeah—

E. Todd Stubblefield [1:00:18.8] Okay.

Francesco De Salvatore [1:00:18.8] —we're finished by then.

E. Todd Stubblefield [1:00:19.9] All right.

Francesco De Salvatore [1:00:20.9] But yeah. I'll end it here for now, but yeah.

[End of interview] [1:00:25.0]