THE ALEXANDRIA ORAL HISTORY CENTER
OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Oral History Interview

with

Elwood Todd Stubblefield

Interviewer: Francesco De Salvator

Narrator: Elwood Todd Stubblefield

Location of Interview:

Zoom

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Transcriber: Robin Reeder, Reeder Transcription Services

Summary:

In this second interview, E. Todd Stubblefield reflects on his family, beginning with his parents. He discusses how his father was a World War II veteran who later dealt with alcoholism. He describes how his parents would eventually divorce, and how his mother would care for him and his sister in Alexandria. Stubblefield talks about how he met his wife, and about his children and his involvement with their sports and activities. He discusses in depth working at the Alexandria Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff under three different sheriffs. Stubblefield discusses working with Sheriff Department staff on various programs, as well as with prison inmates. He also talks about his service as a pastor and how that dovetailed with his work as a deputy sheriff in the Alexandria Sheriff's Department.

Table of Contents and Keywords

Minute	Page	Topic
0:01:05.8	3	E. Todd Stubblefield talks about his parents and his sister.
0:09:13.4	5	Discusses his children and not making mistakes his father had. Reflects on supporting them playing basketball through high school and college.
0:18:16.2	8	Talks about how he met his wife and when they got married and his wife's health battles.
0:23:20.6	10	Reflects on how religion has shaped his life and on becoming a pastor, as well as his activities in the Sheriff's Department and with prison inmates regarding religion.
0:31:06.3	12	Chronicles problems in the Sheriff's Department regarding his religious work there and with inmates.
0:36:10.7	13	Discusses how he began his career in law enforcement and his work in the Sheriff's Department with three different sheriffs.
0:46:04.7	16	Talks about different educational programs he implemented in the Sheriff's Department, including an African American history course and other courses with the Northern Virginia Community College.
0:47:51.8	17	Reflects on programs organized with the business community to help inmates readjust to society called "Operation Step Out."
0:57:20.6	20	Talks in more depth about his mother and her influence on him regarding religion.

General	Alcoholism; Alexandria Sheriff's Office; Basketball
People	Casey, Sean (Sheriff); Dunning, James (Sheriff); Lawhorne, Dana (Sheriff)
Places	Beulah Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia; Dean Divers Baptist Church, Manassas, Virginia; Jefferson Village; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Northern Virginia Community College; T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria, Virginia

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:00:08.9] Yeah. Elwood Todd Stubblefield. I'm in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and yeah. [Laughs]

Francesco De Salvatore [0:00:18.2] And today's date?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:00:19.3] And today's date is June 30, 2026.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:00:23.5] Nice. My name is Francesco De Salvatore, and today is June 30, 2026. I'm talking to Pastor Stubblefield today. So yeah. This is part two of an interview. We did your first one a couple of weeks ago, and so this is kind of a second part to your life. And I'd like to start this interview with, you know, talking a little bit about your family. And so, you know, can we talk, you know, can we maybe start with your mother and father? What are some of your memories that come to mind about your mother and father?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:01:05.8] Oh man. So, I'll start from the part that—my father and mother separated when I was young ended up eventually divorcing. They separated, came back—this is just a part I know through a part that I was—that I experienced, of course, and that's what you said. But my sister is older than I am, and so certainly she has that portion I don't have. But being reared in Alexandria, my father was an assistant manager at Jefferson Village. He was well-known in the community, and I don't want to—I don't want to make—I don't want to stretch that too far and say he was well-known, but my father was—he was pretty known in the community. But my father was a very hard man. My father served in a war. I don't know to what capacity—World War II. I don't know if that had an impact on his life as it related to him becoming an alcoholic, but he did become an alcoholic. That alcoholism led to some very abusive times mentally and physically, not for me but for my mom and my sister experienced it too. It wasn't until I was married—late in my marriage, it was not in fact probably several years ago, and my wife asked a question to me and my sister. Did we think that what happened to my father could be from mental health? It could have been mental health as far as the—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:02:45.3] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:02:46.3] —having whatchamacallit from the war—having trauma from the war. And then it was he suffered from PTSD or any of those things. And so, we say, "You know we never thought about that because you know during that time we didn't know much about PTSD." It wasn't definitely as far as what we know focused on today—if it had been focused on at all during those times. And so yeah. My dad had—when he was not drunk, my father was a great provider. Again, known in the community and all those things, but, you know, my father would at times he would deal with his problems through alcoholism. And that turned into again abuse on my mom and my sister. And believe me when my father would discipline me for things that I did wrong, man, my father liked to beat the lights out of me. Not physically [inaudible 0:03:39.6] his hands, but with that belt, man. It was like my father was trying to take the skin off my back. You know. You can kind of laugh and joke about it now. When you think about it back then, man, and it didn't happen as often as it could have. But when he whipped me with that belt, man, my father would whip me like he was trying to take the life out of me. But my father never punched me. My father never choked me. He never threw me around. He never physically abused me like that, but he did physically abuse my mom. And there have been times when my sister was physically abused. My dad—when my sister was trying to aid my mom and what he was doing to her. And so yeah. That

part right there. My mother—man, my mother was a great provider. My dad provided well when he was not—that was [inaudible 0:04:35.0].

Francesco De Salvatore [0:04:32.2] Can we just—let's just really quick is it okay if I interrupt for a second?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:04:39.4] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:04:42.9] I'm just—yeah. Like what—so I mean I think it's incredible that you can hold both. You know. You can hold that your dad was suffering, you know, and probably went through some form of trauma from the war.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:05:04.6] Right.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:05:05.5] And also, you know, sounds like some of your memories with him are—were quite abusive with your mom, with you, with your sister. How did you—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:05:17.8] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:05:18.5] —[inaudible 0:05:18.5]? How have you been able to kind of get to a place to hold both of those?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:05:23.5] Well, one of the things I could tell you. I remember one time that my mom was being beat up by my dad. And I'm not—when I say beat up, he wasn't punching her and beating her and drilling her to the floor. I don't want to make that—I don't want that to to go out there however be a misrepresentation of what I'm saying. But there were times where—and if I'm not—my memory is telling me, right, my father broke my mother's fingers. Back in the day, I don't know if you remember the old vacuum cleaners, but they used to have these long extended hoses to them with little metal pieces. And then you had the little vacuum piece at the bottom when it was on the floor and kind of drag it along with little wheels. I remember he took one of those cords. He took that tube—the vacuum cleaner tube, the flexy part of it and wrapped it around her neck and was choking her with it. I remember me crying out to my father to let my mother go. During that time my mother was screaming for my help, and yeah. I just remember, man, growing up I told the Lord. I'll never forget this. I told the Lord. I said, "God, if you ever bless me with a family, I'll never be to my family what my father did to ours." Do I hate my dad or did I hate my dad? No, I did not. Did I understand my dad? No, I did not. What I do know is that there were some very painful memories that have kind of scarred me in a sense to where I'm not—I have not been shaped and formed negatively by it, but I can say that I know I did not want to expose my family to such behaviors, actions, and thoughts, or demeaning words and those things. You know when I told you my father was, you know, a good guy at one side, you know, I can remember times when my dad used to go fishing. On a Friday night, and he'd come back on a Sunday from fishing, and he would have one of those red Coleman metal coolers filled with fish. And he would give them to my aunt—to my mom's friends and my mom and them, and my father he would give away nice things. But then when that alcohol really—started drinking that alcohol, he just turned into somebody else, man, like a Tasmanian devil. And so, I do know that I've picked up some good things from my father despite having to see that very bad side of him, and that's I know my ability to create it and have this desire for entrepreneurship and had this desire to provide for my family,

knowing my dad did that. My father used to cook all the time. My father took care of all the bills. He usually let my mom keep her own money when she was working and they were together. But again, when he got into that alcohol, man, and I don't know—and I can't say that was every night. I can't. I would be lying. I can't say how often, but it was more than—a lot more than what it should have been. And eventually I believe that was part of the thing that kind of took him away, along with a couple of elements that he had. Cause when they finally divorced, he moved back to Fredericksburg where I live now. And my mom stayed in Alexandria raising me and my sister, and my mom and providing for us. My sister—like I say, my sister is nine and a half years older than I am. So yeah. But I've learned some good things from my dad when it comes to making provisions, taking care of the home, providing—I love cooking like he did. He loved cooking.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:09:07.1] What would he cook?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:09:08.3] So—oh my father like fry that chicken and that fish. [Laughs]

Francesco De Salvatore [0:09:13.1] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:09:13.4] My father could cook almost anything you want, man. My dad was a great cook, man. But that side—I saw one day, I got to be honest with you. I saw one day, man, that side of my dad come out of me, where I became extremely angry with my kids one day. And I started fussing at them. I wasn't threatening to hit them or anything of that nature. I was fussing at them. I was just yelling, and my wife came in, man. And they were young. And she said, "Enough is enough." And I looked, and I thought about it, man. I said, "Man, that was my dad." That behavior was my father. I said, "Man, I'm never gonna do that again to my kids." And I didn't. I've never yelled at them like that. I've yelled at my kids, but I've never yelled with that kind of anger in my heart towards them over something that was just meaningless. It was just something they did as kids are just kids.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:10:10.2] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:10:11.0] And I got that heated with them. And I said, "Man, I'll never do that again." And I thank God for my wife, you know, "Hey, enough is enough." Cause I was drilling down on them, man. They were crying, and so yeah. It's just not a good thing. So, with that—so as a child of God, with that I tried to extract what was good from the—my father and use it to build up on. And then the bad things I try to take as a point of reference of how we should not live our lives. How we should honor God, and use those as means of by which not to travel down those roads.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:10:56.1] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:10:56.7] Just kind of warning signs. "Hey, this is the road you don't want to be on. This is not the life you're supposed to be living. This is not who we are as fathers. Our kids deserve better than this." Now I'll be honest with you, I miss—I remember growing up getting older as a teenager how I used to want to see my dad, and my dad to be there for sporting events. But he was not. And, you know, I thought about that over the years how that thing kind of tore into me. Because when I would come for my games at T.C. Williams, you know, my mom and my sister may show up for a game [inaudible 0:11:31.1] you're there. But they really weren't into the games like that, not that I knew of. They were just there to support me, but seeing other people's fathers

there, you know, all that other stuff, man, that stuff made a world of difference. And so, I promised my wife, I told my kids when they were young, "I will be there for you for your sporting events. I'll be there for your plays." And that cost me early on in my career, not cost me, it required me to sacrifice for them. Like we are not taking promotion or advance or not even try to advance as far as promotions were concerned. Because I knew if I did that it would require a certain commitment of me where I would not be able to be committed to my kids' school activities and all that stuff. And so, I forwent that early on in my career to make sure I was there. And in fact on Father's Day, my daughter gave me a tribute. My daughter sung me a tribute at church saying they remember I only missed one game.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:12:27.5] Wow!

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:12:27.9] One game of their high school.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:12:30.3] Wow!

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:12:31.1] And I went to all their home games for the college games. I couldn't go to all their travel—away games, but I went to all their home games. And that was up in Northeast Maryland right by the Delaware line. Yeah. It was that important to me because I made that promise to God. I would not do to my kids what my father did to me. And I made that promise that I would be there for my kids no different than I wanted my Dad to be there for me. And that just was—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:12:57.7] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:12:57.9] —[0:12:57.9]. I had to be there.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:13:00.7] And what are you kids' names?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:13:04.1] My daughter is Alexis, and my son is Kamden with a "k"—K-a-m-d-e-n.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:13:11.9] Got it. And, you know, now that we're talking—I'm glad we're talking about, you know, your kids. I'm just curious, what are some of your earliest memories as a dad with them?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:13:25.0] Oh man! Coaching them in sports. I listened—and one time I ran my daughter away from basketball. One day she was [laughs] playing the game and I, and man, I yelled at her in the game. And she quit. She said, "Never play with me"—she'll never play for me ever again. And she kind of just sat—and she was like the Boys and Girls Club, and it was a mixed basketball cause, you know, they were so young. My son and daughter played together on the same team I was coaching. And she made a—she grabbed a rebound and started trying to dribble the ball. I knew she couldn't dribble well. There was a turnover because she traveled with the ball. And I fuss—I say, "Get up on up!" [Laughter] And yeah, I said, "What are you doing? You can't dribble!" And man, that turned her off so bad then. My daughter stopped playing basketball, and she was like in the probably fourth or fifth grade at that time. Yeah. She was about fourth or fifth grade at that time. And she said she would never play basketball again. Then one day—cause I had a basketball

hoop set up in front of the house. My son used to play. One day my daughter showed up, and she just started shooting on the hoop. I knew she said she'd never play for me again. And in Prince William County they would have jv and varsity basketball at the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade level. But they never used sixth graders to play jv, and if you were seventh or eighth grade you played varsity level. That was for that level—that level of school. I had an [inaudible 0:14:54.8] who would go out and try out. And so, I knew I couldn't say anything to her because she—I had scolded at her so bad. So, I started watching her practice out there at home. One day I just set some cones out. I didn't say anything. I just set some cones out for her so she could use the cones and just try to work through and figured out what she'd do with the cones. And she let me back in. She—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:15:18.1] Oh yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:15:18.3] —man, she let me back in, and I started coaching her again. I took a different approach this time. And man, she became a very good basketball player. And then we got her to another coach, Coach Stan King, who was a great guy, man. She started playing with his AAU travel, and he really developed her skills. And she ended up playing college basketball, and so did my son. They started on a [inaudible 0:15:41.6] level, and then my daughter went D2. And before my son would go D2, COVID hit. So, that stopped all that action. [Laughs]

Francesco De Salvatore [0:15:51.2] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:15:51.8] But man, just taking vacations and spending time with them, man, meant the world to me.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:15:59.8] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:16:00.1] And it still does to today.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:16:01.9] Is there a specific vacation that comes to mind?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:16:08.1] No. Well yeah. One does because they were just talking about it a couple of days ago. When we went to Myrtle Beach they were younger, and we'd go to Myrtle Beach—we'd go to Myrtle Beach every year up to the last couple of years. We'd go to Myrtle Beach almost every year. Over the last couple of years, we've been going down to Florida. But this one year we went to Myrtle Beach, and these three guys started playing football in the sand. I said, "Hey, you all want to play 2 on 2 in the sand?" Man, he's like, "Yeah football. We was just playing touch not tackle—touch." Man, I end up getting injured. We were midway through our vacation. They were all going to have fun, and I was laid up in bed—I mean laid up in the hotel room [Laughs] with a pulled hamstring. Because I got injured, and they were just talking about how they were laughing at me, and said, "Dad, you really got messed up, and you couldn't hang out with us and do what you wanted to do with us." But I mean none of them were more special than any other. Just the mere fact that we got to spend time together, and that my kids were always there. Me and my wife were always there, and we had tried to make the best—we tried to give them as many activities as possible on vacation. And just explain to them how important family was, and how being together was the greater part of the vacation. Not how many rides we took on at the amusement park, or not how many times we ate out or any of those things. The things that was important was that we were family, and we were together. And not only our immediate family, but our extended family—

whether they were friends or other relatives who were on vacation [inaudible 0:17:46.3] a lot. Those things were important, and I believe that really built into a strong foundation for who they are today. So, we made sure that every summer we were at least on vacation—one time if not twice a summer.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:18:01.1] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:18:01.4] And it really panned out.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:18:03.7] Yeah. And you is it just and—can you talk a little bit about your wife? How did both of you meet?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:18:16.2] We met in college. I think it's my granddaughter ready to come in the door. We met in college. Yeah. She was a year behind me. We got to talking. We started dating in 1987. I proposed to her in 1990. We got married in 1991, June 22, 1991. Very phenomenal woman. Yeah. She is an incredible woman, and I thank God that he gave me someone as special as her in my life. Because I know that there are times that my moodiness could have ran a lot of women away. [Laughs] But her love for God, and her love for family and all those things, man, really made a difference. Her commitment—when I tell you [inaudible 0:19:05.7] she's gone through pancreatic cancer—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:19:09.2] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:19:09.3] —breast cancer, and about nine other surgeries totally unrelated.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:19:13.4] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:19:14.4] You know her pancreatic cancer hadn't metastasized outside of the tumor, but she had the tumor that was connected to her spleen and her pancreas.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:19:25.6] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:19:25.9] And yeah. She had to have surgery to have that removed. Breast cancer as I said. She had about nine other different surgeries, some minor, some major in her life. And she just has this life and this zest for God, man. And a zest for life. So, I'll put it that way, she has a zest for life and a zest for God. And she doesn't bend. Every day for her is a good day. That's what she's always tells me. "Every day is a good day cause God didn't have to allow me to live."

Francesco De Salvatore [0:19:55.2] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:19:56.0] Things could have gotten outside that tumor, and it could have been the end of her life. And so, that was in 2008. And then the breast cancer 2013 or 2014.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:20:06.2] Wow!

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:20:06.9] Yeah but—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:20:08.7] What was that like for both of you to navigate those two cancers?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:20:15.9] The first one, man, was scary. That was only 17 years into our marriage in 2008. And man, I cried like a baby. I did. I said, "Lord why? Why does my wife have pancreatic cancer?" Again, it hadn't metastasized. It had not metastasized outside the tumor, but it was malignant for pancreatic cancer. And they went in and got [inaudible 0:20:38.4] I was scared. Listen, my wife [inaudible 0:20:41.7] cause I'm sure, but I remember she was asking the doctor before we were going into surgery to remove that tumor. She asked him, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ?" I'll never forget it. [Laughs] He said, "Yes I do." And he told her. He said, "You'll never see this again." That's his word—that was his words to her. "You'll never see this again."

Francesco De Salvatore [0:20:59.0] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:20:59.7] And here we are, 18 years later. And, you know, the only effects that she started [inaudible 0:21:07.5] experience now is that because they had to take a small part of her pancreas, it's not functioning like it used to. So now, you know, she's become diabetic, and she has to take pills. But with that—like I said, that was the onset of about two years ago—maybe two or three years ago. But prior to that, you know, she had a pancreas. Most of her pancreas was intact. Spleen was gone, and life has just been great. But she's very disciplined in her life about her eating. We're very regimented, man. You don't have to tell her, her doctor, whoa, loves how regimented she is and how on top of her diabetes that she is. And so, it was a scary moment. It was a blessing though. With the breast cancer it was also, you know, kind of a scary moment for her as well. But one of the things I found her doing during her breast cancer treatment, she didn't get radiation. She had not radiation, but she had—what's the other thing?

Francesco De Salvatore [0:22:15.4] Chemo?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:22:16.2] Chemo. Hold on. No. She didn't have chemo. She had radiation.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:22:20.3] Okay.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:22:20.5] Right. She didn't have chemo. She had radiation. And one of the things she ended up doing while she was there getting her treatments was that if anybody needs a ride to this place on the days that I'm here or if you even when I'm not here. If you need a ride to this place, and you just need somebody to be a companion to you call me up. I'll drive you to your treatments.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:22:38.7] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:22:39.8] And, you know, she left a very profound impact upon the staff there at Virginia Hospital Center, as well as those who were patients there during the time that she was there. She didn't have to have either chemo or radiation when she had pancreatic cancer, but for the breast cancer she did. Another just, you know, another moment to have to navigate to [inaudible 0:23:02.4]. You know life-threatening and not knowing what the future looks like. And seeing how you're praying, you're asking God, "Hey, save my wife. Deliver her from this thing." And God did.

Man, I thank the Lord so much because things could have been so much different. So, we're very appreciative and grateful, man, with the life that God has given us.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:23:20.6] Yeah, yeah, yeah. You've mentioned how, you know, religion is important to both of you. And so, can you talk more about, you know, yeah—you obviously end up becoming a pastor. But can you walk us through sort of your journey with spirituality?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:23:40.9] So, I knew I would be a pastor as a teenager. I was raised in the church, Beulah Baptist Church, which is at 320 South Washington Street in Alexandria.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:23:48.4] Wow okay.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:23:48.8] And so, I was raised in that church, and I knew early on when I was a teenager that I would be a pastor. I didn't know when that was gonna come, but I did. It wasn't until I got married and what year was it that? I can't remember what year it was. I think it was probably around 1992? Maybe 1993 when I felt the Lord say that, you know, this is time now that you, you know, you will start serving in this capacity. As a matter of fact, this is the God's honest truth, I remember sitting in the jail. I was in 3CF Unit Deputy Sheriff, and I was reading the Bible at my desk. And I clearly heard the Lord say to me, "These are my people in whom you shall preach." And he was talking about the inmates, and that was real to me. And so, I had not become a licensed minister yet, but that's what the Lord revealed to me. "These are my people to whom you shall preach." And from that time on, man, my God! God opened so many doors for me to be able to teach the Bible and preach the word of God on duty and off duty at the Sheriff's Department.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:25:09.0] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:25:10.1] I used to do Bible studies in the 1990s in uniform with the inmates, male and female together. I would have Bible studies in the morning with them, and it was just the most amazing thing. There was some people who hated it. Some deputies who hated me doing it, but and deputies who tried to stop me from doing it in the 1990s. And every time they tried to have me shut down by my supervisors, God would just open the door right back up for me to continue to preach the Gospel to inmates while incarcerated at—begin to share this with staff members. And it just worked out and has worked its way out all the way up to where I'm a chaplain in the Sheriff's Department today—Staff Chaplain at the Sheriff's Department. And today so much so that even during the pandemic, you know, when we had to shut everything down. But yet we were still working in the facility, and we still had to have some type of programs when we started opening up for programs. And we weren't allowing people to come in to teach. I was teaching Bible study in uniform. It never ceased. It never stopped from the 1990s up to where we are here in 2026. And I would just have some amazing moments and conversations with inmates and with staff. I've watched staff give their life to the Lord on duty. Inmates give their lives to the Lord right there, sharing the good news, talking about the Lord and how wonderful and how great he is. And he, man, it's just been a blessing ever since, up to where I am today.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:26:32.6] Are there like specific—are there specific conversations or were there specific Bible studies that come to mind? You know? I know it's been many years of you doing this work, but are there specific instances that you can describe?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:26:49.0] I remember—oh yeah. I remember this guy named Jasper, and me and my childhood friend I grew up with, her name is Lisa James. She grew up right up right near Jefferson Houston. [Inaudible 0:26:58.0] she lived across the street from Jefferson Village, and she's a deputy sheriff. And one of the things we had agreed upon while working together at the Sheriff's Office is that anytime that we would be partners, we would be intentional about making sure that we would share something about God with the inmates. And so, there was this guy named Jasper, and Jasper was illiterate. And Jasper had a pretty severe criminal history and was a fighter, man, I mean he—the dude [inaudible 0:27:25.7] fighting people. I remember one day he was mad with me. He wanted to fight me. He took a microwave and tried to throw it through the—one of the unit windows. Even those things are made with thick Plexiglas and cracked it, but he didn't go through it. But he was mad at me, man. We had to put him in the hole for a while. But I remember one time we talked to Jasper about God, and he sat and listened. He couldn't read, but he sat and listened. And so, I asked the Sheriff's Office. I said, "Hey, is there any way that we can buy a tape recorder just for Jasper and let him listen to the Gospel on cassette tapes?" This was early 1990s, and it was something totally unheard of—never happened before. And they said yes. I was able to talk them into it.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:28:20.3] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:28:20.7] And so, Jasper was not allowed to keep the tape recorder in his unit—I mean his cell. But every time I came to work, or when Lisa came to work, I was allowed to bring the tape recorder. Lisa would bring some tapes. I would bring some cassette tapes. And while we were on duty for that 12-1/2 hours we would give him the cassette tape, and he would go sit in his cell. And sometimes he'd even sit in the unit, and he would just listen to the word of God, man. And that thing changed his life. Where Jasper is today I have absolutely no idea. Because during that time in the 1990s, he was on his way back to prison. But he broke down and cried in front of us one day. And said, "Man, I really thank God for you guys—that you would invest in my life like this."

Francesco De Salvatore [0:29:04.3] Whoa.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:29:04.3] Cause he said nobody ever did. When I tell you he was ruthless and Jasper was a street fighter and had no problem with putting his hands on you, whether you were staff or not, [inaudible 0:29:15.2] Jasper. Though when he started listening to the Gospel with Jesus Christ, man, that thing changed his life. It just took a lot of that fight—you know what I'm saying? It took all the fight—it took a lot of that aggression and fight out of him. He became very respectful and very gentle with his approach to not only us, but to other staff and other inmates. I'm not gonna make him a model inmate, but things changed for him quite quickly and fast. And things were different from him [inaudible 0:29:44.6]. And I thought it was so powerful. I did.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:29:48.2] Yeah. That's a powerful story.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:29:49.7] And I'll never forget that. And in fact I'll say this. When I took over as the pastor at Dean Divers Baptist Church in Manassas three years ago, one guy who was locked up in the 1990s—when he found out I was pastor in Manassas, he purposely he had not gone to church for years. And when he found out I was a pastor, he tells this story quite frequently. "I came back to church and specifically to this church because of what Pastor Todd did in my life as a deputy sheriff in the 1990s. How he helped"—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:30:22.4] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:30:22.8] —"me and other guys." And he told people from the church. He says, "This guy right here," he says, "He don't realize how many people talk about him still to today about the work that he did in their lives when they were incarcerated at the Adult Detention Center. And how impactful he was on helping them make changes. This guy is married, with children, doing well in his life, and so"—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:30:46.0] Wow. I mean it's interesting to hear this. And also you mentioned earlier how, you know, like certain staff were kind of resistant to you doing this work. Right?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:30:54.4] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:30:54.5] You were saying that? Right?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:30:58.0] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:30:58.4] Yeah what—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:30:58.8] What was I—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:30:58.3] —yeah what—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:30:58.7] What was I—was several staff who was very resistant.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:31:02.8] Yeah. Can you talk more about that? Like why was that the case?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:31:06.3] And so, I was—at one point I was one of—what was my job responsibility was to be the workhorse supervisor. And I had somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 to 40 men who were assigned to do work around inside—not outside—work around the jail as far as maintenance. Others would work in the kitchen and have some other functions and responsibility, and they would get good time off [inaudible 0:31:33.1]. So, I was the supervisor for that, and then I would have about 12 to 20 ladies who were responsible for working in the laundry section. And each morning I would go into the unit, and I would call everybody out. Cause they had to have inspection. It was part of the jail's respons—I mean jail policies. And I would call them all out, "All right! Inspection!" And, you know, everybody would come out, and they'd stand beside their cell. And I would go up and look in their room and make sure their bunks are made. Make sure that things are in order and all that other stuff. And I would say good morning to them and praise the Lord and all that. We would laugh, and fist bump, and high-five and all that stuff. But I required each morning one person from the women's unit and from the men's unit. Every time I'd go through to do the inspection to tell me something about the Lord or have something inspirational to say. And so, this one deputy, I won't call her name off, she was assigned to—she was the laundry deputy, but I would assign the inmates—the female inmates to the laundry. And so, she was in laundry that day, and so, they were at work. They would go to work in her section, and so, she would be mad because she would come to the unit and say, "Well, I need the girls, Stubblefield, so

they can go do their work." And I'm like, "I'm not ready yet. They're doing an inspection, and somebody has to give the word of inspiration or a scripture for the day." Man, and she got so mad with me. One time I'll never forget. She went down to see the Captain. She told the Captain, "Stubblefield is in there preaching the Gospel. He won't let the inmates go to work. He's doing this. He's doing that. He's doing it." And the Captain said, "Well, you have him come downstairs and see me right now!" And so, I went down there to see the Captain, and he said, "You will not preach the Gospel to these inmates anymore. You will not say anything to them about God. You will get them to work and get them to work on time. Yada, yada, yada." So, I said, "Okay Captain." And so, it just so happened Sheriff Dunning was in the elevator when I was getting in the elevator. He said, "Todd, how is your day going?" I said, "Sheriff, it's not a good day." He says, "Why is that?" I said, "I was told that I can't talk about God no more in this place." He says, "What?" He says, "Who told you that?" I said, "Sheriff, I was just told by a supervisor I cannot talk about God in this place anymore." He says, "I tell you what? You go tell Captain So and So I said to find out who told you you couldn't talk about God in this place no more and get to the bottom of it!" Well, it just so happened to be the Captain who told me that. [Laughs] So, I went to the Captain. I said, "Captain?" He said, "Yes." I said, "The sheriff asked me how was my day going. And I told him that my day was not going [inaudible 0:34:19.9]. I was just told I couldn't talk about the Lord anymore. I didn't tell him who told me. I just told him I couldn't talk about the Lord no more in this place." He asked me, "Who told me that?" and I said, "I told him I just didn't want to share that right now." I said, "Then he directed me to come to you and tell you to get to the bottom of this and find out who told me I couldn't talk about Jesus in this place no more." The Captain reared back in his chair. He folded his arms, and he looked me. He says, "Okay Stubblefield. Okay. You can talk about the Lord." And that was it. And so, when I tell you, you know, how God worked this thing out for so many times when there were times when people tried to shut me down and God and all, how would God know to say—I mean how would this sheriff know to send me to the person who shut me down without knowing who the person was cause I wouldn't reveal it? It couldn't have been nobody else, but God sent me right to that Captain to have him investigate who told me I couldn't talk about the Lord. Man, I laughed. God showed him to me. There was other people who would, "There goes Stubblefield. He's running around the building talking about God all the time. You know. There's supposed to be a separation of church and state and all this other stuff." But every time somebody would bring that up, God would just show up. I mean, I didn't have to say anything. It was just God would send someone, someway, some shape, some fashion forward to work it out for me so that it would not stop. I would always have the freedom to talk about the Lord at the Sheriff's Office., and I've had it ever since.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:35:51.9] How many years have you worked at the Sheriff's Office?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:35:55.4] With broken service—meaning I broke twice—I've been there since 1989—37 years.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:36:02.3] And what—can you talk about what led you to pursue like a career in law enforcement?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:36:10.7] I've always liked law enforcement, but it was not my career, as I think I shared with you before. In college I was a math and engineer major. And when I stopped playing football, I just got to a point where I knew financially things were getting tough for me to pay for school. I was not on scholarship anymore. And so, a friend of mine who was in the school

with me from Alexandria, and he was living with me for my sophomore year, he said, "Hey man. They are hiring at the Sheriff's Department—Police Department." I said, "Really?" He said, "Yeah. They're paying good salaries." And I end up going home, and I applied. I didn't get the job right away because they didn't have enough people applying at the time. They end up calling—I end up working at Georgetown University for—I was working there in the summertime when I was not in school. So, my wife's mother was working there. She got me a job at Georgetown University to work in the summertime. But then the Sheriff's Department finally called me to hire me in 1989, and that's when I started my career there as a deputy sheriff in 1989. I end up quitting the Sheriff's Department in 1998—nine years later—a little fed up, a little tired, a little worn out, a little drained from a lot of the foolishness with the deputies. But under Sheriff [inaudible 0:37:24.3] who just passed this year, he came looking for me one time. He says, "Hey man, why don't you come back and work in the Sheriff's Department." And I end up coming back six months later—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:37:32.5] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:37:32.6] —and I stayed there for another five years. So, I had only been gone for six months. I came and stayed for another five years, ended up finishing my degree. I left again in 2005, and that's when Sheriff Lawhorne had been elected sheriff in 2005—at the end of 2005, and he took office in 2006. And as I was going out the door at the end of 2005 for my second time leaving, he said, "Hey man. Why don't you stay?" He said, "I heard a lot of good things about you. Heard you was a great employee, man, good work ethics. I need some good people. Why don't you stay?" And I said, "No. I'm leaving." And I end up leaving. I resigned at the end of December 2005—December 31, 2005. And he asked me seven times to come back in 2006, and on the seventh time I came back. [Laughs] So, I came back 11 months later after I left the second time. So, those are my two breaks in service. I end up coming back in November of 2006. He talked my sister into talking me into coming back. Cause again my sister worked for [inaudible 0:38:34.0]—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:38:34.8] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:38:34.9] —and they went to high school together, and he talked her into talking to me to come back to the Sheriff's Office. So, I came back, and that's when he was saying, "Hey man, just come back for a few months." And that ended up turning into 20—where I'm at right now—20 something years.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:38:44.2] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:38:45.4] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:38:46.3] And what are—yeah. Like what are some of your memorable moments, you know, working in the office? You've already mentioned some already it seems like, but yeah. Are there ones that—are there other ones that come to mind?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:39:01.7] Yeah. You know this last stint—this last 20 year stint has been pretty good. I've had the luxuries of staying in my position that I'm in now for 18 years. The first two years I was in security, but these—well not the first two years. Part of the first two years I was in security, and then I was in programs—I mean I was in probation and all that stuff. I shared that part, and then I end up going to programs. And so, for the last 18 years I've been in programs. And

it's been wonderful, man. I've become a chaplain since I was in there. Programs getting out to working people's lives. I've got training in the Sheriff's Department to teach classes, such as flaggers where I can certify inmates to become a construction flagger where they are working out there with a paddle. I've had a chance to teach classes in reentry. Like I've said, teach the Gospel while on duty. [Inaudible 0:39:59.0] services. Work in people's lives. I've had opportunity to do a number of weddings. Well, I've done a couple of weddings for deputies, and I've done some funerals for parents of deputies and as well as for police officers. I've had the distinct pleasure over the last at least 10 years of being the speaker for the Sheriff Police Memorial Service that happens every May, which is a blessing. Cause I told the Lord, I said, "You know, Lord, I want to—I want to one day be able to do that." Cause they had another speaker, and for the past 10 to 12 years, I've been able to do that.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:40:39.2] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:40:39.5] So, I've been blessed tremendously, man, and with the opportunity to share the Gospel again on duty, and the Sheriff's Department has just been a blessing. I've garnered a good reputation among staff, as well as among inmates. And I try to make sure that everywhere I am in that uniform that I'm leaving a good impression on people. Or that I'm there to help—however I can be involved. Whatever I can do to assist. Whatever I can do—as a matter of fact a supervisor from another division says she was gonna write a good note on me for helping her out. Today she said that she was in a real bad bind, and she needed me to pick up an inmate from the mental health institute. And nothing was—that's not something I—not something I normally do anyway, but she had someone assigned. And she's not my supervisor, and something happened to that individual today. She says, "Hey I'm in a bind. Can you help me?" I just, "Yeah." I'm gone. Went and picked up the person for them to bring them back from the institute to the jail. And she looked at me, and she says, "You know you really are a lifesaver." So, I try to do as much as I can to impact people's lives in uniform, in the streets, in the jail—whether it's with inmates, or whether that's with staff, or people visiting there. As a matter of fact, the lawyer I saw today, she says, "Hey, I got a big case coming up. Are they gonna let you come over and provide security like you normally do on on these big cases?" She says, "I really like being—like having you there." So, God has used me to be a blessing as much as possible to be [inaudible 0:42:04.5] and I'm thankful for that.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:42:06.5] Yeah, yeah, yeah. What had been the challenges of the job? I'm sure there's been many, right? Like what?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:42:14.1] I didn't get promoted my second time around. When I started trying to go for promotions, I didn't get promoted. That was disheartening. That was very painful and hurtful. I saw some people get promoted over me that I knew they shouldn't have been promoted over me. But you know you got to fight through those tough times. You can't dwell on—they hurt, but you can't dwell on them. Because if you do they stop you from working in excellence and being the best version of you you can be. And these are times where you got to fight through some of the hardships and difficulty, no different than when you're telling people they've got fight through. Well, you got to do—you got to be that example [inaudible 0:42:46.5] And those were some tough moments. As a matter of fact, I got in trouble not too long ago. [Laughs] We're in a new administration. Things are done different. I've been through three different administrations:

Sheriff Dunning, Sheriff Lawhorne, now new for Sheriff Casey. In each administration you could always find a challenge or two here.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:43:12.3] Oh yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:43:12.5] And you got to fight through, and you can't let them define you and stop you. Whether you've done something wrong or they just don't like me. I know under the first sheriff, Sheriff Dunning, I remember the Assistant Sheriff on her way out, Susan McCampbell. And she said, "Todd has never finished anything in his life, and he won't." That's what she said going out the door—her retirement or resignation. And that was a—man, that was a stinger, and I had to look at—I had to take that thing in. And I was hurt, but I had to look at what she was talking about. And was she right, I don't know? But it really made me conscious of what I was doing to finish things. Under Sheriff Lawhorne who brought me back there was a supervisor who was always saying, "Why does Todd get special privileges? Why does he need to stay in his position and not rotate out like everybody else? Why is he not working the security? Why is this? Why"—he was always at Sheriff Lawhorne, and Sheriff Lawhorne was always defending my position. He asked me to come back. He asked me what would require me to come back. I told him what it would require, and he made it happen. And he told people, "I did what I did. I'm gonna stick by my word. I told him if he came back I would let him work this type of schedule because he's a pastor, and I'm sticking to my word. He came back." And as a matter of fact, he and I talked about that probably about less than a month ago. He and I were on the phone talking and laughing, and he said, "Who is your best agent?" I said, "You are, Sheriff." He said, "Yeah, man." They would ask him—I mean they would attack him over me. It was not only him. It was another supervisor as well—two supervisors, and he would always defend his position. "I made Todd a promise. He said he would come—I asked him to come back. He said he needed this type of working schedule. I promised him he could have it as long as he stayed." And he defended that no matter how much they were mad at him. And so, you know, underneath this new administration there are things that I—I used to have liberties to do that I just don't have liberties to do. Case in point, nothing really bad. You know everybody has their own mission and their own position. I used to go into housing units and say, "Hey, I'm gonna teach you a flaggers class today. Are you all interested?" And they'd say, "Yeah." And I was teaching classes [inaudible 0:45:22.7]. I can't do that anymore. They have different protocols. I got to get permission to do that now. [Laughs] And so, you know, where I had the liberties to do those things, but hey you got to respect what people want.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:45:35.3] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:45:35.5] And work within the confines there. As long as it's nothing that's injurious to you. You can do what you got to do to shift and adjust. So, you go through the proper procedures and make that happen so that you can continue to teach classes. Don't take it personally.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:45:55.8] And now you're—you're obviously retiring. So, like what do you hope for the future of the Sheriff's Office as you're kind of—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:46:04.7] I'm hoping that out of all the things I've been able to do there that I've impressed upon people's hearts enough to follow their goals and dreams and desires and be successful. One of the things I did not tell you. I started the first African American History Program at the Sheriff's Department. They said it could never be done. I did that in the 1990s.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:46:26.6] Sorry. Can you say that again?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:46:27.0] I was able to get the Northern Virginia—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:46:28.5] Can you say that again? You started the first African American—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:46:33.4] History program taught—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:46:34.7] In the Sheriff's—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:46:34.8] —in the Sheriff's Department.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:46:35.6] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:46:36.2] Yeah. That was in the 1990s. They said it could never happen, but it happened. I was able to get the college program started at the Sheriff's Department—Northern Virginia Community College. They started coming in and teaching college courses. I initiated that. It took the Sheriff to help me get over it—help me get it through—Sheriff Lawhorne to help me get it accomplished, but I initiated that. He brought me in to do programs. I sought out Northern Virginia Community College to come teach classes, and we ran through some hurdles. And then because he was getting his associates degree there completed at Northern Virginia Community College, he was good friends with Dr. McClellan. And he told Dr. McClellan what I was trying to accomplish, and he got us hooked up. And we started getting classes taught at the Sheriff's Department. That was established, as I said before, got that inmate a tape recorder. I kept it with me. He was not able to keep it overnight, but I was able to get that for him that he was able to keep those things—I mean have those things accessible to him when I was not being—when I was there on duty. What else did I do?

Francesco De Salvatore [0:47:45.3] Can you describe really quick the African American History Program? Like what was it and you can—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:47:51.8] So, I had a—I sought out a teacher. I sought out a couple of teachers at T.C. Williams on that topic to see if anyone would be interested in coming down to teach African American history to the inmates. Because ultimately, you know, without your history it's hard to find who you are in identity. And so, they said no, this can't be done. But then after talking with Sheriff Dunning who was my first sheriff and explained to him the importance of it. I mean he said, "Yeah. Let's get it done." He at that time—there was an advisory committee for him during that time, and we called one of the advisory committee to him. I'm sorry. Let me change that correction. I presented to the Sheriff a program called "Operation Step Out" where I was asking the business community to come into the Sheriff's Department. This is in the 1990s to teach all types of programs to the inmates to help them give back to society successfully. So, that was under Sheriff Dunning. And so, Sheriff Dunning called in the business community and people from—what was that the group called in Alexandria? It was a business group of made up of all different companies? But anyway, he called them in, and they would come in and meet monthly. And we would talk about programs that could be offered at the Sheriff's Department to inmates to help them get started, and we called it, "Operation Step Out." And so, we had people come in and do workshops on resumé

writing, and we'd have them come in, dressing for success, interviewing skills and all those different things. And so, I won an award for that, and then I got the African American History Program in there to teach African American history so the inmates could have some idea for those who did not on greater in-depth understanding of African American history. Our contributions to this country, how we came over here enslaved, and how we contributed to the major infrastructure and the building of this country. And with our blood, sweat, and tears from slavery to freedom, and that was taught for a while. And then that ended up shutting down over a period of time. I don't remember why that shut down, but that lasted for about two years—two or three years. A teacher would come in to teach—two teachers would come in and teach that once a week. And yeah. And it was a pretty—what was the word I'm looking—I just lost my word. Pretty robust in their teaching of African American history.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:50:34.5] Yeah, yeah, yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:50:35.6] Yeah. It was a great program. I'm telling you, man. I just dropped something. I just dropped it on the floor but go ahead. I'm sorry.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:50:42.0] No, you're good. Is there anything I haven't asked you that you want to share concerning like the Sheriff's Office?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:50:54.3] There's a lot of things I would love to share about the Sheriff's Department. [Laughs] I don't know if it's expedient, but if there's some things I could have done differently? Honestly I probably should have stuck to my guns when it came to—my original plan was to come to the Sheriff's Department and work for a little while and go back and finish my degree in engineering—math and engineering, but I left school. But I didn't. And one of my best friends talked me back into—going back to school. Thirteen years later I end up getting my degree in organizational leadership and management. I just kind of wonder what life would have been like for me had I done that. I don't know. You know. I'm saddened over the fact that the Sheriff's Department did not—now I'm not sad now, but I was for a long time. The fact that they did not promote me when I did apply, and I was eligible. And I was the most senior deputy there, the most experienced deputy doing that process, and I didn't get promoted. Yeah man. And that was a very difficult and hard time for me too to understand why I was passed over.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:52:20.2] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:52:21.3] But I can tell you, man, Sheriff Lawhorne and Sheriff Dunning were very good to me. Sheriff Casey has been very good to me. He's been very nice to me as well, and certainly [inaudible 0:52:35.3] said to me as long as I stay here—if I want to stay in my position I can stay in my position. And I was very appreciative of that, cause Sheriff Casey [inaudible 0:52:42.6]. But I don't have the relationship with him that I had with Sheriff Dunning and that I had with Sheriff Lawhorne. And I can honestly say even with Sheriff Dunning, because I had etched in such a good relationship with him and the work that I did at the Sheriff's Department, he would send me to places like the state capitol when there were bills being presented at the state capitol that impacted the Sheriff's Office. He would send me as a representation with a couple of other people as a delegation to represent the Sheriff's Office. I got sent to a lot of places, man, with Sheriff Dunning. And then underneath of Sheriff Lawhorne, you know, he would bring me in to have conversations about different things at the Sheriff's Office that concerned staff—even during the

George Floyd time. I know when we were underneath of that George Floyd situation, I sent him a text one day. And I said, "Sheriff, what are you gonna do with this?" And he texted me back. He says, "Man, your timing is impeccable." He said, "I'm sitting here trying to figure out what I'm going to do with this, and you're gonna text me that question." He said, "Hey, let's meet on Monday. Let's talk about this. Let's bring some staff in and talk about it." So, he gave me a lot of leeway to do a lot of things just as a deputy not as a supervisor and have a lot of impact there. And so, he was very supportive of the work which I did. And of course, you know, like I said, Sheriff Casey has been very kind to me. But we don't know each other or have that kind of relationship that I had with the other sheriffs to where I was as involved intricately in what happened in the operation at the Sheriff's Office. And that's not a [inaudible 0:54:24.1] at him or anything of that nature [inaudible 0:54:26.3]—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:54:26.9] No, yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:54:27.7] —or attack on him. You know. Everybody has to do what they feel is best to get where they need to get to and enter—accomplish their mission. And so, sometimes I feel like I'm, you know, I could have been more helpful to him in his transition from law enforcement—coming from the Police Department to the Sheriff's Department. If those—if that would have been made available, but it wasn't. So, I mean there's no bitterness or madness about that.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:54:54.7] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:54:55.1] I do sometimes think it was a missed opportunity, but—on both parts, his and mine.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:55:01.7] I'm curious like pride of, you know, working in the Sheriff's Office, like what was your experience with law enforcement in Alexandria and—

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:55:15.9] As a kid I was just very mischievous. Like anybody else, I got caught by the police. I set some wooded areas on fire. I set a wooded area on fire—got caught by the police. Got taken home. I remember throwing snowballs at buses and all that stuff during the time. The police chasing me. I got chased down in Old Town by the police. One day I just got out of watching a Rocky movie—me and my buddy. You know. You're all pumped up, "Rocky! Ah!" And running down in Old Town and kicking trash cans and knocking over stuff. And all of a sudden, the police turned on their lights. Cause, you know, we're being destructive, but we're not being destructive in a sense to where we are breaking up stuff, man. We were in middle school or high school. That middle school we were in middle school—

Francesco De Salvatore [0:55:56.6] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:55:56.8] —my friend and I. The police officer turned on his lights, and he—next thing you know we're running. And he's following after us. And I took a dip in the corner by Market Square. He doesn't see me, but he catches my friend cause my friend has a pulled hamstring. When he catches my friend I come out. And he says, "Man, I would have never caught either one of you all if it wasn't for your friend with the pulled hamstring." And he says, "Man, what are you all doing?" [Laughs] Said, "Man, we just got finished watching the Rocky movie, and you

know, we're excited and hyped up. And we're running around Old Town. We just kicked a couple of trash cans, man. And when you turned on the lights, we took off running." We didn't get in no trouble. He says, "Man, go home. You're all being"—he says, "You all go home. Be good, guys. Stay out of trouble. Don't do any vandalism or"—and we didn't. I was not that type of kid, but mischievous, I was. Let's just be honest about that. I wasn't running around stealing and doing all that other stuff. No. I was a pretty good kid and tried to stay out of as much trouble as possible. Honor my mother—my mother was a great, hardworking woman, and we didn't talk about that part—a great, hardworking woman that made sacrifices for me and my sister and make sure that Christmases were great for us.. We had a roof over our head, clothes on our back. When my mom and dad separated, my mom did everything. She just did everything she could to make the house a home for us, and she did that.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:57:20.6] What was your mom's name [inaudible 0:57:22.0]?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:57:21.8] A great woman. She made sure I stayed in church. Ethel Stubblefield, Ethel Virginia Stubblefield. And she made me stay in church, too, man. Every Sunday—even when I'm going through college. "If you're gonna live here, you're going to church." Even though I knew that would be the case, but that was her position. "If you're living here, you go to church."

Francesco De Salvatore [0:57:40.2] The church. Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:57:41.5] Church, church, church. And she kept me in church—Sunday school every week, and it really impacted my life tremendously.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:57:48.0] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:57:50.7] Hard working. And she was one of 18 children.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:57:54.8] Wow, wow, wow!

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:57:57.2] No twins, same mother, same father.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:58:00.5] Was she raised in Alexandria?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:58:03.2] No. She was raised in Supply, Virginia. That's near Tappahannock and [inaudible 0:58:10.7] County—near Tappahannock.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:58:14.4] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:58:15.1] She was raised in Supply.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:58:17.4] Cool.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:58:18.7] Yeah so.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:58:19.5] Well, I want to make sure—I've already kept you a little over. I want to respect your time. Is there anything I haven't asked you generally speaking that you would, you know, that you want to share before we close out?

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:58:35.8] I'm sure there are, man. I just—I'm just—all I got to tell you, man. First of all let me just say this. Thank you for even just having a conversation with me. Life has been good, full of challenges, everybody has them. But I've been tremendously blessed with my—from my rearing to my sister, who is one of my best friends [inaudible 0:59:04.9]. My sister and I, we have an awesome life, an awesome relationship. She's nine years older than—best of friends. She treated me like I was her own child growing up. [Laughs] Very influential [inaudible 0:59:18.6]. Always supportive of everything I do. Always championing my cause. Always encouraging me to be better. My sister and I—we have probably almost a perfect relationship.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:31.5] Wow.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:31.6] It's only two of us.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:33.2] Right.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:33.3] And so, and she's a pastor as well.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:38.9] Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:40.1] Yeah. That's—and my mom taught us to stay close. Whatever we do, stay close, and we have.

Francesco De Salvatore [0:59:47.2] Yeah, yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [0:59:49.1] Yeah. But there—I don't know. There's a lot more to share, man. I just don't know where to start, begin, and I don't want to take up too much more of your. I know you got other interviews to do. But I did tell you I was gonna write that book about the village. I am gonna write a book about my career at the Sheriff's Department. I'm looking at the title now. I've started etching out some things about my—about being a deputy. I call it "Three Seasons." Season One with Sheriff Dunning, Season Two with Sheriff Lawhorne, and Season Three with Sheriff Casey. And nothing to be negative about—just my career. My experiences, my accomplishments there, and my end. [Laughs] I don't know if it can be worth anything, but hey. I'm gonna do that one, and I'm gonna do the one on the village. And I have a couple of—I have about three or four other ones that I'm working on as well.

Francesco De Salvatore [1:00:51.0] That's great. Yeah. I would love to read them. Yeah.

E. Todd Stubblefield [1:00:54.0] Yeah.

Francesco De Salvatore [1:00:55.1] You know. Well, thank you so much for sitting down with me these past two—these two sessions and sharing, you know, all these memories from your life. It's really been an honor for me, so.

E. Todd Stubblefield [1:01:07.4] Well, it's been a blessing.

Francesco De Salvatore [1:01:08.0] Yeah, thank you.

E. Todd Stubblefield [1:01:08.3] I hope I gave—hope that I gave something you can use.

Francesco De Salvatore [1:01:11.9] For sure! Yeah, yeah, yeah. Here, I'm gonna—

[End of interview] [1:01:14.8]