

ORAL HISTORY OF DWIGHT D. MURRAY
First Interview
January 11, 2018

This is the first interview of the Oral History of Dwight D. Murray as part of the Oral History Project of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit. The interviewer is Gene Granof. The interview took place at Mr. Murray's office in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

Mr. Granof: Maybe we could start at the beginning, talk about your early life and perhaps start with when were you born and where were you born.

Mr. Murray: I was born on June 20, 1944 in New Orleans, Louisiana at Charity Hospital. The hospital provided medical services primarily for the poor in New Orleans. It no longer exists. My father's name was Robert Walthall Murray and my mother's name was Bernice Cagnolatti Murray. Both of them were natives of New Orleans. When I was born, little did anyone know that history was going to repeat itself. My father was at sea during World War II when I was born; therefore, he did not see me until I was six months old. I was his first born. When my first child, Michele, was born, I did not see her until she was six months old because I was in Vietnam.

Anyway, I grew up in an area of New Orleans called the Seventh Ward. This is a section of New Orleans near the Ninth Ward that became famous during Katrina. The entire neighborhood where I was raised was wiped out by Katrina. I attended a Catholic grammar school in New Orleans called Corpus Christi. I went there from 1st to 8th grade, and then went to high school.

Mr. Granof: Corpus Christi was the name of the grammar school?

Mr. Murray: Yes, it was the same grammar school that my parents went to when they were kids. It was a very old school run by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. The nuns were very dedicated and great educators. Every one of my teachers was a nun from the Blessed Sacrament Order which was dedicated to educating African Americans in the South and Native American Indians in the Southwest. Although we had great teachers, the school was very old. There was only one large bathroom for the boys who attended that school and that bathroom was located outside next to the playground that was mostly dirt and asphalt. That's how old the school was.

The high school I went to was called St. Augustine's High School. This was an all-male Catholic school. It was run by priests from the Society of St. Joseph, or the Josephites. The Josephite fathers were also great educators and were a big positive influence in my life, as well as many of the other young black men who attended that high school. Several future doctors, lawyers, judges and mayors graduated from St. Augustine. All these schools were within walking distance of my house. I attended St. Augustine's High School for four years. During the summer before my senior year in high school I was selected to represent my high school in what was called "Bayou Boys' State." Bayou Boys' State was an outreach program that selected high school seniors from all over the state of Louisiana and gave them an opportunity to set up a State Government on the campus of Southern University. While participating in the "Bayou Boys' State" program, I was elected to the position of State's Attorney and selected to participate in a mock trial. I did pretty well during the mock trial representing the

State and was strongly encouraged by the counselor/supervisor who oversaw the mock trial to go to law school. The experience at “Bayou Boys’ State” planted a seed to pursue a legal career. Once I saw my goal, I had a lot of thinking to do about how I was going to achieve it. Therefore, I began thinking more seriously about the legal profession during my last year in high school and began to research the path to becoming a lawyer and how much it was going to cost. I began to focus more on my grades to build a good academic record for college. On high school graduation day, I was given a perfect attendance certificate. I had no idea that I did not miss a day of high school for four years.

The college I went to was Xavier University located in New Orleans. Xavier is a historically black college. Although I received scholarship offers to attend other colleges, I could not afford to go even with the help of partial scholarships. So, I attended Xavier that charged tuition that I could afford with the money I earned from a part-time job. Plus, Xavier is where I met my wife, Elodie. I had a job while going to school and all my money went towards my tuition. I didn’t go on a date for over a year. But at the end of my first year, I was awarded a partial scholarship for history. It was a small scholarship, but it was a godsend. I started dating my then to be wife shortly after receiving the history scholarship and thought I was one of the luckiest guys in the world. During the summer before my last year in college, I was selected to participate in an internship with the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. That too was a tremendous experience since it was the first time I traveled on a train and the first time I visited the nation’s capital. Knowing that I needed good grades to get into a good law school,

I focused on my grades in my last year of college and got mostly “A’s,” except for advanced German. I graduated from Xavier University in 1968 with a B.A. in History and a minor in Economics. Although I got accepted into Georgetown University Law Center, I joined the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School with the intent of becoming a Marine Corps Officer. The following month, June 8, 1968, I got married.

Mr. Granof: Okay. Maybe I can stop you and just ask you a couple questions going back. You say your parents were native New Orleanians. How far can you trace them back?

Mr. Murray: My brother tried. My mother’s family had been in that area, I don’t know how long, over a hundred years. My father’s family is a little bit more difficult to trace because part of the family came from Choctaw Indian tribes, so some of them were raised on a reservation, and some of them were on plantations. I was never interested in that. I asked my father about that a long time ago. I said, “Did anyone ever do a trace of the family tree?” He said, “You don’t have a tree, you have a bush.” That was my father’s joke. He said your relatives are not going to do anything for you, you have to do things for yourself. So, I lost interest in doing that, but my brother was able to trace the family tree back several hundred years.

Mr. Granof: Oh, that’s interesting.

Mr. Murray: He traced it back, and I never asked him how far back, I never asked him about who the relatives were. I really wasn’t interested, quite frankly, no, I wasn’t.

Mr. Granof: You were probably more forward looking.

Mr. Murray: Yes. Because in essence my father made a joke, but what he said was correct. You know, it’s what you do for yourself, not where you come from; you have to make

your own path in this world. I took his advice to heart. However, I do respect the comfort and satisfaction people feel when they find out more about their ancestors.

Mr. Granof: And so, you have one brother?

Mr. Murray: I have one brother, right. He's younger, about three years younger than I am.

Mr. Granof: Is he a lawyer also?

Mr. Murray: No. My brother never went to college. I was the first one in my family to go to college, the first one in my family to go to law school. There were others after me, on my dad's side, that went to college, but I was the first one that went to law school.

Mr. Granof: So, there were just the two of you. A younger brother, three years younger.

Mr. Murray: Right.

Mr. Granof: What did your parents do? Was your mother a homemaker? Did she work?

Mr. Murray: My mother was a homemaker, then went to work as a secretary to one of the vice-presidents at Southern University in New Orleans. She went to work after my brother and I were in high school. I should also mention that my mother's family had a roofing contracting business in New Orleans that was almost a hundred years old. But when her uncles who ran the business died, the business sort of fell apart because there weren't any sons or daughters to take it over. My dad was in construction, and then he was in the Merchant Marines for several years, especially during World War II. After I was born and after he finished his deployment in the Merchant Marines, he came back and got a job in construction. So, my dad worked construction from 1946-47 until about 1964, when he got

injured on a job. And when he got injured on a job, he couldn't do that work anymore. He got a job with the Army Corps of Engineers, and he retired from that.

Mr. Granof: All of the people I've interviewed have all been successful, and one of the characteristics is that they seem to have had very strong, stable families, and I wondered if that fits your situation as well.

Mr. Murray: Well, my family was stable, but my dad worked all the time. I mean he worked almost 6-1/2, 7 days a week. Christmas holidays. We never went on vacation. I didn't know what a vacation was. I knew what the word meant, but never went on vacation until we moved up to D.C. and I started practicing law. I noticed that in August everybody was gone. I said, where is everybody? They're on vacation, people would say. Where do people go on vacation? The beach. My parents, especially my father, worked very hard. Since money was precious, my family did not spend money on things we did not need.

Mr. Granof: But why do you think he worked that hard? Was it a drive to ensure the family had means?

Mr. Murray: Yes, that was it. Because in construction, if you don't work you don't get paid. If the weather's bad and you didn't work, you don't get paid. If the jobs don't come, if you don't get the bid on the job, you don't get paid. A person could always tell when money was tight by the type of food that was served at dinner by my mother during the week. If you ate the same thing, beans and rice, beans and rice, beans and rice, you knew that money was tight. The family never complained about it, but you could tell after you got a little older.

Mr. Granof: Was that red beans and rice?

Mr. Murray: Red beans and rice. That's right. And even to this day, my family, when we go to a New Orleans cuisine place, my kids like to order red beans and rice. I don't order it because I had enough of it when I was a kid. Grits is the same thing. My wife likes grits. I said, "Look, I had grits every day for breakfast, every single day, from first grade through high school." I said you get tired of grits after a while. Some people like grits, and I understand that, I don't criticize that. And if I have to eat it, I'll eat it. But if I had a choice, I would choose something else.

Mr. Granof: So, money was maybe not always tight, but certainly at times it must have been tight?

Mr. Murray: At times money was very tight, yes. Money was never wasted on things that were not necessary.

Mr. Granof: What was your childhood like? Did you have a lot of friends? Were you an athlete?

Mr. Murray: I played street ball, pickup games in basketball. I was pretty good athletically, but I wasn't big enough to play high school football. I didn't weigh enough to play high school football. I was fast enough, but I didn't weigh enough. I focused on my academics because I felt that if I was going to provide for my family, I had to get a good education and a good job. To get a good job, you have to have good grades. To have good grades, you have to study.

Mr. Granof: Was this sort of self-determined, or were your parents kind of drivers of that or supportive of that?

Mr. Murray: Well, supporters, but not drivers, because neither of my parents went to college.

And when I said I wanted to go to college, they didn't fight it, but you know they didn't encourage it strongly.

Mr. Granof: Because they were not familiar with it?

Mr. Murray: They were not familiar with it. They looked at it as a cost matter. But I worked my way through college. The driving force was that I joined the Boy Scouts when I was about 11.

Mr. Granof: How did you manage to do that? Was that just an organization that you knew about?

Mr. Murray: Well, I always wanted to join the Boy Scouts. I had to wait until I was old enough. My mother had a friend whose son quit the Boy Scouts. So she made a deal to purchase that equipment at a reduced price. Therefore, all the equipment I got was used. I felt very lucky. My mother was able to purchase equipment, a pack, a uniform, and whatnot from her friend. I enjoyed the Scouts so much I became a patrol leader, and then a Senior Patrol Leader. In my patrol, there were two guys who were from well-to-do families. One was the son of a doctor. The other guy was the son of a man who ran an insurance company. I knew that their fathers were very smart, but so was my father. The only thing that allowed my two friends' fathers to have good, well-paying jobs was education. You see, my father had to quit school to support his family. He had six sisters and a brother. When my dad's father died, my dad had not completed high school. Supporting his family came first. Therefore, he did what he had to do and what many men in his position would have done during those times. This was in the 1930's, during the Great Depression. So, realizing this, I thought to myself that if the way to a

better life is through education, then that was going to be my goal. I wasn't focused on sports or anything like that. I enjoyed sports. I enjoyed playing them. But education was the key to a better life.

Mr. Granof: That's interesting. Two things. One is your observation that your father was smart.

Mr. Murray: Yes. Both my parents were smart.

Mr. Granof: And you knew that as a kid?

Mr. Murray: Oh, yes. If my mother were born in this age, she would be running a company. There's absolutely no doubt in my mind about that.

Mr. Granof: Why did you think that?

Mr. Murray: Well, because she was a great organizer, she was a leader. She had her own club of friends, she ran that club, and she was president of that club for 10, 20 years. People looked up to her; she was well respected. When I was in high school, she went back to work. She became an executive secretary at a college, and she commanded the respect of just about everybody in that college. So, she was a leader.

Mr. Granof: And your dad?

Mr. Murray: My dad had similar qualities. His best quality was that he was one hard working individual. I mean he didn't shy from hard work. When you work construction during the day, come home, and then do your own private construction jobs at night, that's hard work. When you do it seven days a week, that's hard.

Mr. Granof: Did he have a particular specialty?

Mr. Murray: He was a tile setter. That was his specialty.

Mr. Granof: What's interesting to me is they transmitted values to you, even if they didn't articulate them. But, certainly, you took away values of importance, you wanted to be someone, and you saw education as a key.

Mr. Murray: You had to watch and learn. You can learn a lot from watching other people if you know what to look for. The thing that separated most of the people I grew up with was economics. The school I went to, rich and poor went to that school, rich and poor, very rich in black society and the very poor in black society, because tuition was very low and it was a Catholic school.

Mr. Granof: You basically had a Catholic education?

Mr. Murray: Right.

Mr. Granof: Why?

Mr. Murray: Well, my parents were Catholic. And it was better than the public schools. I owe a lot to the nuns and the priests who taught us because they didn't fight over salary, they didn't have any labor disputes, they devoted their lives to education, and we were the beneficiaries of that dedication.

Mr. Granof: I want to ask you later about Catholic school education. But before I get to that, New Orleans was a segregated city in the time you were growing up, certainly from 1944 and probably well past the Civil Rights Act of 1963.

Mr. Murray: Very segregated. Yes.

Mr. Granof: How did that affect you?

Mr. Murray: It affected me in a way that I noticed the inequality. When I was very young, like 5 or 6 years old, I thought white people were special because they were able to go to very nice places I couldn't go. I would ask my parents can we go to this

particular place or that particular place and they would say no, those places are for white people. For example, New Orleans had an amusement park called Pontchartrain Beach. Pontchartrain Beach was right on the lakefront. When we went for a ride in the family car, we would always drive towards the lakefront. As you approached the lakefront, you can see this beautiful roller coaster that rose high in the sky. When I was a kid, I really wanted to go on that roller coaster ride. My parents told me “you can’t go there.” Why? Because it’s for white folks. That’s right. And you don’t understand, and you don’t comprehend, and so I thought there was a difference, and I didn’t know why. And then when I was about 6 or 7 years old, I was in the back seat of a car, and I remember this happening like it was yesterday. This incident was seared into my memory. Anyway, we were driving down the street. I wasn’t with my parents at the time, I was with some other person. We were driving down the street, and this elderly black lady, who obviously had a difficult time walking, was taking her time walking across the street, and this white cop called her a name because she was taking too much time, and I thought that’s not right, that’s not right. That, probably more than most incidents, showed me that just because you’re white, you’re not special, because it was wrong for the cop to treat someone like that. And then when I was a senior in high school, I got involved in the civil rights movement, and we did some kneeling demonstrations, sit-in demonstrations, counter demonstration, but I have to admit I didn’t have the courage that some of the other demonstrators had because they were more mission oriented. Someone

spits on me, I want to knock their block off, but you can't. You can't do that if the demonstration is supposed to be peaceful.

Mr. Granof: Well, it was dangerous.

Mr. Murray: It was dangerous, but that was my instinct. You know, if you get attacked, attack back, fight back. That's the way I grew up. And a guy, it was me and another guy in my high school class, he took us aside and he said, "You don't have the right attitude, you want to fight back but we're not about violence." I said, "I'm not about violence either, but if someone's going to spit on me, they better be prepared to fight." The guy said, "No, you can't do it," and it took me awhile to understand what he was saying. He was absolutely right. I wasn't cut out for that. But I paid attention to the civil rights movement, and what I saw is that progress was made not on the streets, not at the lunch counters or in the kneeling demonstrations at the churches, all of which I participated in, but the progress in the civil rights movement was made in the courtroom. And that's what first attracted me to the law.

Mr. Granof: When I was interviewing Judge Henry Kennedy, and he grew up in Columbia, South Carolina, and so I asked him about that. He said that he knew that segregation was there, but he also said, "I had my friends and my relatives, and we went to the movies, and so life was not, on an individual basis, terrible." It wasn't bad because he had his own circle. I wonder if you had the same experience.

Mr. Murray: Not necessarily. I understand what he's talking about, but I ventured out, especially with the Boy Scouts, because I used to plan all the hiking for our merit

badges, and we would have to hike through white neighborhoods, towards the lakefront.

Mr. Granof: And was this an all-black troop because you were segregated?

Mr. Murray: Yes, all black Boy Scout troop, but walking through white neighborhoods, we were always attacked verbally. Oh, yes, every single time, every single time. So, I can understand what Judge Kennedy said, because if you stay within your conclave, you're not going to get attacked, but if you venture out of the conclave, you will get attacked. I would ride my bicycle just all over the city, and I would go through Central City Park, and I got shot at several times.

Mr. Granof: Really? You got shot at?

Mr. Murray: Yes. Shot at several times in City Park by teenagers riding around in their automobiles.

Mr. Granof: With BB guns or real bullets?

Mr. Murray: No, real bullets. Pow. You could hear it. You can tell the difference between a BB gun, and they were pistols. I was maybe a block or so away, so you're not going to hit anybody with a pistol unless you're a crack shot at that distance, especially a moving target. They were doing it for the fun and to scare me. I was 11 years old, 12 years old, on a bicycle, and there was a car full of young teenagers. Yes. I understand what Judge Kennedy was saying, but if you ventured out like I did you would find out that there are some hostile people out there. Nevertheless, I continued to venture out. I even returned on my bicycle to City Park where I got shot at.

Mr. Granof: But apparently that did not stop you from doing it again.

Mr. Murray: Oh, no. That was the difference. I ventured out. And Judge Kennedy didn't. I'm not saying he never ventured out, but he was comfortable.

Mr. Granof: I'm not sure that was his description of his own life there.

Mr. Murray: I enjoyed taking risks, and sometimes you paid consequences for those risks, but I did not let the dictates of the society keep me hemmed in, so to speak.

Mr. Granof: I begin to see the root makings of a trial lawyer. I'm curious about that because those kinds of qualities are often those embodied in success.

Mr. Murray: That and the Marine Corps. In the Marine Corps, you know, you face challenges and the more challenges you overcome successfully, the more confidence you build up, I had a lot of confidence, but the Marine Corps really helped along the way.

Mr. Granof: But the Boy Scouts were a big part of your life?

Mr. Murray: The Boy Scouts was a big part because it was the first time I left home for about a week, you know, for summer camp, and I enjoyed that. I enjoyed camping out, I enjoyed hiking.

Mr. Granof: Where did they take you?

Mr. Murray: When you see the pictures of a Boy Scout summer camp, the camp we had was nothing like that. It was in the middle of a swamp. And it was tick infested, mosquito infested, alligator infested, snake infested camp site. But to me it was an adventure, and I liked it.

Mr. Granof: So, you had a very positive experience as a child?

Mr. Murray: Yes, but across the river there was a white Boy Scout camp that had canoes, and that had a lot of other advantages that we didn't have, but I enjoyed my

experiences. I enjoyed it because I learned a lot, and there was the camaraderie to experience in the kind of environment. It was a lot of fun. Yes, the Boy Scouts was a big contributing factor, a positive contributing factor in my life. There's no doubt about that.

Mr. Granof: And you had friends?

Mr. Murray: Right. The same guys I went to school with. You got to remember you go to the same school from 1st grade to 8th grade. You know these guys, and these were the same guys that were in my Boy Scout troop. Some were older, some were younger, some were my age. All the guys who were my age were in my class, my classroom, and they stayed in my class. The classes were divided in grammar school -- elementary school -- starting at the 6th grade, into a fast group and the slower group. I was lucky enough to be in the fast group, so I got to know all these guys.

Mr. Granof: But you were smart?

Mr. Murray: I lived in the neighborhood, and it was dominated by the slow group. Now many of the guys in my neighborhood were smart. But they were not motivated towards doing well in school. When I look back, I shake my head because I realized there was a lot of wasted talent in my neighborhood. So I knew both sides, and I could communicate with both sides. I knew the thugs, I was good friends with the thugs, and good friends with the goody-two-shoes, too.

Mr. Granof: Was this an all-male school or was its co-ed?

Mr. Murray: The elementary school was co-ed; the high school was all male.

Mr. Granof: I've talked with people who have had a Catholic school education, and when they talk to each other, they talk about the nuns and the priests.

Mr. Murray: Oh, yes. The discipline that they instilled in kids. I hear stories about what goes on in a classroom today, how the kids are disruptive; that never, ever happened in a Catholic school when I was coming up. The nuns issued corporal punishment. I can't tell you how many times I got hit by rulers, knuckles, back of the hand, that kind of stuff, and then when you go to high school, the punishment is elevated because you got men, priests, administering the punishment with thick leather straps, and I mean unlike the razor straps, I mean like a half an inch thick; you can't even bend them, they're so thick. Then there are the paddles, wooden paddles, punches, punches in the chest, or the stomach or something like that, and it kept these young boys in line.

Now I'll tell you a quick story, so you can understand, and don't get the impression that it was abusive. I was practicing law in this city and had a case with a guy that knew my vice-principal in high school, Father Joseph Verrett. He said he knew Father Joe Verrett and could arrange a lunch. I asked where Father Verrett was located. He said he's at a retired priests' home in Baltimore. I called Father Verrett. I said, "Who's with you at the home?" and he named just about every teacher I had in high school. I said, "Let's go to lunch." So I met all of them at this really nice restaurant in Baltimore. I hadn't seen these priests in, let's see, it had to be 20, almost 30 years. They still remembered me. They remembered almost everybody in my class, and they told me a story that still sticks. They said there was a mother of a student who came to the school to complain that her son

was disciplined, and while the mother was complaining, the principal, took out a checkbook, wrote out a check for the tuition that the mother paid, and said “Here’s your tuition back, take you son with you when you leave.” And that was it. The bishop, the archbishop of New Orleans, tried to get the school to stop the corporal punishment, and the students, the parents, all objected. The school was special because it did not come under the control of the Archdiocese. The key take-away here is that no one complained about the discipline. It was always measured, always appropriate, and always immediate and expected.

Mr. Granof: That’s interesting.

Mr. Murray: Everybody was taught discipline. They were taught respect; they were taught that there was a certain order in life that you had to follow. I’m talking about tough guys, I’m talking about soft guys, I’m talking about the whole gamut. Almost everybody towed the mark. Some guys didn’t do it, but it was a very small minority. You didn’t see people walk the corridors in the high school because the teachers came to your classroom. You didn’t go to different classrooms, except for chemistry or physics. But it was not unusual to hear a whole class get what we call “the paddle.” You know if somebody misbehaves in a class during an activity period when you’re supposed to be studying, and the person does not give themselves up, the whole class got it. One whack on the butt.

Mr. Granof: In hearing you talk about it, I sense that your experience on the whole was positive, and you felt it worked.

Mr. Murray: It worked. It was a necessary set of conditions that produced the desired result. And I thought it was positive. I thought it was a positive experience. Because I

came from a disciplined home, I was used to discipline. My parents would tell you if my son gets out of line, you put him back in line, you have my permission to do what you think is necessary. I realize that not everyone believes in this approach. But it worked in my high school. St. Augustine produced presidential scholars, students who graduated and got admitted to Ivy League colleges, as well as state championships in football and basketball.

Mr. Granof: This concludes the first interview.

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This is the second interview of the Oral History of Dwight D. Murray as part of the Oral History Project of the Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit. The interviewer is Gene Granof. The interview took place at Mr. Murray's office in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, January 18, 2018.

Mr. Granof: Where we left off last time was you were talking about discipline at your elementary school, and you were about to give an example in which you had detention.

Mr. Murray: Yes. I remember it well. It was in elementary school. I was kept in detention, which meant I got home late. My mother asked me why was I late, and I explained to her I was kept in detention, and I got a spanking from my mother, and then I was warned that when my father got home, the same type of punishment was going to be administered to me, and sure as shootin', that happened. But the interesting thing was that both my parents were required to go to the convent and talk to the nun that kept me in detention. I don't remember what I did to be kept in detention. Maybe I was talking in line, or maybe I was doing something I wasn't supposed to do, because there was strict discipline in school, but in any event, after talking with the nun and after going home, I got another spanking. So that for that one offense, I got three spankings. I got punished three times for the same offense. I think that was double jeopardy. Whenever I think about the three spankings for the same offense, I have to smile. The elementary school, like I said, had grades from first to eighth grade.

Mr. Granof: And this was male and female?

Mr. Murray: Male and female school. You weren't allowed to talk in line, and you weren't allowed to get out of line. The students marched everywhere from the playground to the classrooms, and if you misbehaved or if you talked when you weren't supposed to talk, you were kept in detention. So, I think my detention was for something like that, because it was so minor, I couldn't remember what I did. But, in any event, it was a strict discipline school. I remember during the lunch recess, once the bell rang all students in the yard would have to stop, freeze in their position, and then walk to their assigned place in line, just like the military; and then from that position, whether you were in 1st grade or 8th grade, you would march to your classroom to the tune of one of John Philip Sousa's marching songs. It was quite impressive. What was impressive was how the nuns were able to maintain control of approximately 600 to 700 students and move them all efficiently from point A to point B. And that's the way it was for eight years in grammar school. So that's why when I went to the high school, which was just as disciplined, it was an easy transition for me.

Mr. Granof: And that was all male?

Mr. Murray: It was all male. St. Augustine's High School in New Orleans.

Mr. Granof: And they didn't have nuns teaching?

Mr. Murray: It was mostly priests and a few laymen, but the majority of my teachers were priests. I had maybe two or three lay teachers in my entire four years. Most of them were priests, and one of my homeroom teachers was Father Philip Berrigan. You know, the priest who developed a reputation as an anti-war activist, which I thought was the result of his exposure to the Korean War. The rumor was that he

got shot during the Korean War, and he went into the priesthood after he was discharged from the Army, and that's when he became a priest. I met Father Berrigan years later at Georgetown Law School, my first year. Maybe eight years had transpired between the time I had him as my homeroom teacher, graduated from high school, went to college, went in the Marine Corps, served my time in Vietnam, got into law school, first year law school. He was a guest speaker at the law school, because he had become a famous anti-war protester. I walked up to him and introduced myself, reminded him who I was. He said you look familiar, and he said, "What have you been doing?" I told him I had graduated from college, went in the Marine Corps, went to Vietnam, and it was like I turned him completely off. And I was surprised at that. I respected Father Berrigan's right to protest the war, but he did not return the respect for what I had done. I was disappointed.

Mr. Granof: You would think he would be at least sympathetic.

Mr. Murray: Well, understanding.

Mr. Granof: Yes.

Mr. Murray: But at the very minimum, not judgmental, at the very minimum. And I said to myself, well everybody's entitled to his own opinion. You know he gave up what he believed in to fight against the war in Vietnam, and here I was a former student of his participating in a way that he fought strongly against. So, I rationalize why he wasn't too enamored to see an old school student, a student that he taught at one point in time. He was a very good teacher, by the way. I rationalized why he wasn't excited to see me at that time.

Mr. Granof: But, still, you didn't exactly sign up to go to Vietnam, or maybe you did?

Mr. Murray: Well, put it this way. When you joined the Marine Corps in the 1960's, late 1960's, you stood a 95% chance of going to Vietnam. There's no doubt about it. So, I knew when I went in the Marine Corps, Vietnam was where I would probably wind up.

Mr. Granof: As opposed to being anti-war, a conscientious objector?

Mr. Murray: If I was a conscientious objector, I could have joined the National Guard, I could have gone in the Air Force, I could have joined the Navy, I could have done a lot of different things, but I wasn't brought up that way. I thought serving your country was an important duty that every citizen had. It doesn't matter how you serve your country, but you must serve. My brother-in-law joined the Peace Corps and went to Africa. I respected him for that. But I believed that if your country was at war, which it was at the time, then you had a duty to answer the call. Just like the Greatest Generation did in World War II. Now I completely understand that not everyone feels that way, and I respect their feelings. But I knew I would not be at peace with myself if I avoided the Marine Corps and if I avoided Vietnam.

Mr. Granof: I guess I was trying to figure out Berrigan's antipathy to someone so young who basically said, "Well, I went to Vietnam, I served," and yet he held it against you.

Mr. Murray: Yes, well, because he was against the war. I think he would have respected me more if I had gone to Canada, but I wouldn't have respected myself.

Mr. Granof: Right. I understand that.

Mr. Murray: What I did was participate in an event that was against his essence, his being. He was anti-war, and here I was, a warrior. So, he passed judgment on me, which I thought was wrong, but I understood because he was committed to his anti-war protest.

Mr. Granof: I think you were more understanding than I would have been.

Mr. Murray: It really didn't bother me because as I figured at the time, I would probably never see him again, and I never did. You know it was unfortunate that he had to give up the priesthood, that he became so involved in the anti-war movement that everything he believed in took second place, and that's almost fanaticism. And I just felt sorry for him quite frankly. I felt sorry for him.

Mr. Granof: We'll get to more of that later when you get to your service in the Marine Corps. But in high school where Berrigan was one of the priests, were the priests mostly white?

Mr. Murray: All except two, but the majority of the priests were white.

Mr. Granof: But this was not a white school.

Mr. Murray: This was entirely African American, black school. Right. All boys.

Mr. Granof: And that does say something about the Church. These priests were -- I think at one point you told me -- they were really good teachers.

Mr. Murray: They were excellent teachers. That school, I mean if you did any research on St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, it has an excellent reputation. We had numerous presidential scholars. All the top schools, Ivy League schools, came down to recruit from our school. You know if they wanted black students who could meet their academic standards, that's the school they came to in the South,

because it had a rigorous academic environment and the teachers were excellent across the board. I didn't have one weak teacher the entire time I was there. They were all strong, they were all dedicated, and they were all knowledgeable about their respective subject matters.

Mr. Granof: And did they challenge you?

Mr. Murray: I had homework, I had homework at least four to six hours a night for four years. Four straight years. Four to six hours a night. Yes, they challenged me.

Mr. Granof: So how would you characterize your education at the high school?

Mr. Murray: I thought it was excellent. I thought my education at the high school level prepared me for any college that I would have gone to, because the English, the math, the history, even our civics teacher, who was also the principal, he required every student to subscribe to *Time* magazine. We were tested on *Time* magazine, any article in *Time* magazine, every week. So, we had to read it from cover to cover -- the art section, the social service section, the Middle East section. At that time Nasser was big in the United Arab Republic, Israel, everything that was going on in the Middle East, we read out of *Time* magazine. We kept current.

And one of my best friends, the one I went through grammar school and high school with, he continued his subscription to *Time* magazine until the day he died. Unfortunately, he died of pancreatic cancer. But he was close to 66, so from the time he was 13 years old until he was 66 years old when he died, he kept a subscription to *Time* magazine mainly because of the influence that St. Augustin had on him. I kept my subscription to *Time* magazine until I was in my 30's.

Mr. Granof: Other than the work, which was challenging, how about any other interests in high school?

Mr. Murray: Mostly it was academic, because it was all time consuming. I didn't volunteer for sports. I worked after school. Sometimes I did janitorial work, and one summer I painted the entire outdoor basketball court. We had about 16 basketball courts. We didn't have a gym. We practiced football at a local playground about two blocks from the school. Our basketball courts were all outdoors, all asphalt, and we had about 20 basketball, 18 basketball, something like that – the whole yard was just basketball courts. And I painted the lines on every basketball court one summer in the hot sun.

Mr. Granof: What else did you work at? You had other jobs?

Mr. Murray: I had a paper route. A huge paper route. It was big enough to finance my way through college, and I did some work as a waiter. I waited tables, mostly banquet tables.

Mr. Granof: Was that a steady job?

Mr. Murray: No. I got on a list, and the head waiter called when he needed extra people, and one time he called me. I did such a good job, he would call me back whenever they needed help.

Mr. Granof: So, it was an on-demand sort of job? And your paper route, that was a daily thing? So, what time did you have to get up to do this?

Mr. Murray: About three o'clock, 3:00 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Granof: So, when did you sleep? I think at one point you said you were a night owl.

Mr. Murray: Well, I slept, I went to bed around 11:30 or 12:00 o'clock, got up around 3:00, took me a couple of hours to do the papers, got home around 5:00, I slept again until maybe 7:00, and then got ready for school. As a result, I could never go to the library because if I sat down and the area was quiet for about five minutes, I would doze off. I could never study in the library.

Mr. Granof: I think at one point you told me you were a night owl because you lived opposite a bar.

Mr. Murray: I had to stay up late because the bar across the street played the jukebox very loudly, and it went off around 11:00 o'clock, so sometimes if I had a test, I would study before the music got too loud, and then I would take a break, take a little nap, get up after 11:00 when the music was off and then study some more. Then I would take another nap, get up to go deliver papers, and then come back. That's how it went for several years.

Mr. Granof: Never missed a day?

Mr. Murray: Even when we had a hurricane in '65, I had to wade through water up to my waist, everybody got their paper, they got it late, but they got their paper.

Mr. Granof: Maybe a little wet?

Mr. Murray: No, no. All the papers were dry. I kept all the papers dry, but I was wet, I'll tell you that.

Mr. Granof: Now that's devotion. The school you were at, I mean you came from a family that wasn't wealthy.

Mr. Murray: Right. Hard working family.

Mr. Granof: But in terms of the class structure of the school, how would you describe it?

Mr. Murray: When you say class structure?

Mr. Granof: I mean wealthy, poor, mixed.

Mr. Murray: Most of the kids were poor. When I say poor, I'm talking about blue collar, lower middle class, or very poor. In fact, I was in the A group – they had A group, B group, C group, D group – I was in the A group for the four years I was there.

Mr. Granof: When you say A group?

Mr. Murray: High achievers. One of the guys that sat next to me, he had two pairs of pants. One pair he wore in the wintertime, and one pair he wore when the weather got warm. That was it. Same two pairs of pants for four years. And they were very threadbare. That guy retired as an appellate judge in New Orleans. So, you know, it shows you the products that this school produced.

Another graduate of the school became a neurosurgeon. We had two graduates of the school who became mayor of the city. A lot of our students who graduated from this high school got into politics, practiced law, practiced medicine, you name it, they did it. So, it was a very good school that produced a lot of good citizens.

Mr. Granof: But the discipline, as in elementary school, was tough, wasn't it?

Mr. Murray: Yes. It was physical. You either got paddled, you got punched, not in the face, but like in the chest, or in the stomach, not hard, because you had grown men administering punishment to young kids, young boys in essence, but you knew not to step out of line. You developed a respect for authority, and I carry that to this day.

Mr. Granof: But overall, that structure, that model of education seemed to work pretty well, at least for this group of people?

Mr. Murray: It was excellent. Nobody complained about it. Nobody complained. In fact, I remember telling you the story that many years later, when I was practicing law in D.C., I ran across a guy who knew of Father Verrett, who was the Vice Principal of my high school. Father Verrett was black. As I told you in our previous interview, I went to see Father Rhett, who was living in Baltimore at this retirement community along with many of the Josephite priests who taught at my high school. When I contacted Father Verrett and asked him who were the other teachers at the retirement community, he named Father McManus – Father McManus was my math teacher -- Father Gardner was my biology teacher, science teacher, and two other priests I can't think of right now. And I said to Father Verrett, "Well if you're available for lunch, let's have lunch at this nice restaurant in Baltimore."

When they came in, I recognized all of them. And they recognized me, especially Father McManus. Father Eugene McManus from Brooklyn was the only white president of the Urban League in New Orleans back in the 60's. And if you knew Father McManus, no matter how you felt about race, you did not test him, because he was a weightlifter. If you wanted to select a model of him, you would think of Mr. Clean, because he had a very short haircut, big chest, bulging muscles, big biceps, big forearms. He was short and compact. But Father Mac had intense blue eyes, and he was brilliant, absolutely brilliant. He taught us algebra, trigonometry, calculus, all the of the math sciences.

Mr. Granof: To me, it says something about these priests. Except for one or two, they were not black, and yet they demanded and expected excellence from these black students who were not -- most of whom were not -- from wealthy families at a time when New Orleans was segregated. I mean it really does say something positive about the attitude of the Catholic Church at that time.

Mr. Murray: It did, to some extent. And every one of those priests, every one of the adult teachers, and all of our teachers were male, every one of them called every student "Mister" -- Mr. Murray, Mr. Lee, Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Granof: And that wasn't true at the time in New Orleans, was it? You were likely to be called "boy."

Mr. Murray: Right. The teachers treated you with respect. Just to show you how important that respect is to an individual, when I graduated from college I volunteered to teach. Looking for part-time work, I got this job teaching some underprivileged kids. Well, they were not really kids because they were all high school age at this summer school. And I would go down the row, and I would call each one "Mister" or "Miss." Mister So and So, Miss So and So, and one student stopped me, and he said, "That's the first time anyone ever called me 'Mister'." And here's a kid that's about 19, 20 years old, no one's ever called him "Mister" before. I thought that was a shame, but we were taught respect, not only respect for our teachers, respect for authority, but also respect for each other. When I showed the students that respect, I didn't have any problems in my class. I was just a little bit older than they were, and these were some tough kids, these were tough kids, but you know I commanded respect in the classroom from day one,

and you couldn't lay your hands on them. You couldn't do the strict discipline because this wasn't a Catholic school. And it was an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Mr. Granof: I think at one point you said that while most of the kids were poor in your high school, there were some from -- there was an upper class of black society in New Orleans.

Mr. Murray: At that time, if you were upper class, if your parents were professionals, whether they were doctors, lawyers, dentists, or whatever, or businessmen, that's where you sent your kid.

Mr. Granof: Because of the fine education.

Mr. Murray: Yes. If you had a son, that's where you sent your kid. I don't care if you lived on the other side of the city, your son would take the bus, public transportation to go to that school because that school had an excellent reputation, and you knew your son would stand a good chance of getting into a good college.

Mr. Granof: And you knew some of these kids and hung out with them?

Mr. Murray: Some of those kids were in my Boy Scout troop that I told you about. We went to the same grammar school, from 1st grade to 8th grade. Yes. They were doctors' sons, insurance agents' sons, dentists' sons, businessmen's sons. Yes.

Mr. Granof: I think at one time you told me you went to a cotillion.

Mr. Murray: Yes. A young lady that I knew asked me to take her, be her escort to this cotillion, and I went there. I was in the receiving line, and what I did not like about it was that people had a tendency to label you by who your parents were. So, the people

ahead of me in the receiving line were sons and daughters of educators, doctors, lawyers. When they got to me, “Murray, who are you?” And I didn’t like that.

Mr. Granof: I can understand that. You told me in one of our discussions that you had a positive experience participating in Boys State. Tell me about that.

Mr. Murray: Boys State is an organization; I think every state has it. In Louisiana it was called Bayou Boys State schools. Louisiana is famous for its bayous. And what happens, young boys from various parts of the State of Louisiana would go down to this university, at that time it was Southern University, which was an all-black university in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and we would set up a mock state. We would elect a governor, people would run for governor, people would run for legislators from various parts of the state. I was put up, although I didn’t run because I didn’t like politics, I was put up as the state’s attorney. I didn’t even campaign, and I won.

So, during that week the people who ran the program wanted to conduct a mock trial because the rumor was that somebody was caught smoking marijuana. Before they turned them over to the police, they were going to try him in the Bayou Boys State Court to see if he was guilty or not, before they turned him over. We didn’t know that this was made up, but I was selected to be the prosecutor, and I did a good job.

Mr. Granof: Did you get a conviction?

Mr. Murray: I got a conviction, and the guy that ran the program, who was a teacher at the law school, I remember him being very excited about my performance and he said I

should seriously think about the law as a profession. And I thought about it, but it wasn't a serious thought at the time, but the seed was planted.

Mr. Granof: You were a senior in high school?

Mr. Murray: I was a senior in high school. And quite frankly, I felt good doing that job in the mock trial. Things sort of came naturally to me. Even the elements of cross-examination. I would ask leading questions, and I was hard to trip up. I didn't lose my cool, and evidently this faculty advisor was very impressed with my performance and really, really encouraged me; he grabbed me and said, "You've got to think about going into law, you'll waste your talents if you don't." I knew he was being complimentary. I appreciated the compliments, but law school was expensive, you know. It was tough enough getting enough money to go to college.

Mr. Granof: Yes. You had to think about college.

Mr. Murray: Law school on top of that. So, I said, "Okay, I'll think about it." The more I thought about it, the more I thought, yes, if I developed a talent, or exhibited a talent for the legal profession, I have always been interested in history, I said, I'll give it a shot, I'll think about it more seriously.

Mr. Granof: You still had to think about college?

Mr. Murray: Still had to think about college. Well, I got into several colleges.

Mr. Granof: How did you decide to go to college? Had anyone in your family gone to college?

Mr. Murray: No. I was the first one.

Mr. Granof: And where did your parents stand on this?

Mr. Murray: They had more of a wait and see attitude. Because it was a cost, you know. I paid most of it myself, 95% of it.

Mr. Granof: How did you decide that you wanted to go to college? In your high school class, what percentage of the kids went to college?

Mr. Murray: In my high school class, I would say, in my grade, the A group, I would say about 95% went to college. The C group, the D group, no. The A and B group, most of them went to college.

Mr. Granof: So, your peers at least went to college?

Mr. Murray: Yes.

Mr. Granof: And did that have an impact on you as well?

Mr. Murray: Well, what the school taught you was confidence that you could meet any academic challenge. So college wasn't something to be feared, college was something to make plans to do, and the kids I went to school with, they didn't come from wealthy backgrounds, but they found ways to get the finances together, whether they borrowed the money or whether they worked for it in the summertime like I did, or they worked during the year. They did it.

Mr. Granof: Is there some point at which you said, say, between 1st and 8th grade or in high school, "I'm going to college"?

Mr. Murray: Yes. When I was in the Boy Scouts, I had two of the richest kids in class in my patrol. I was a patrol leader, and I noticed that the difference between their economic status and my economic status, or my family's economic status, was education. Both of my parents were smart. My mother especially. And my dad did not finish high school because his father died when he was in his early teens, and he had to quit school to go to work. Eventually, when he was 60, he got his GED. But I knew and recognized that if you want a better life and if you don't want to

work as hard as my dad did, because sometimes he would come home with his hands bleeding -- you know he was in construction, he was a tile setter -- the thing that separated the economic status was education. I knew that education was a key to a better job. And a better job was a key to a better life. A better life was a key to providing better things for your family, opportunities for your family, and it all hinged on education. So, I decided that if I wanted to make something of myself and provide for my family, I needed an education, and college was it.

Mr. Granof: How old were you when you sort of came to this realization?

Mr. Murray: I was 12, 11, 12, something like that. I was still in grammar school.

Mr. Granof: That was pretty early on.

Mr. Murray: I was still in grammar school because I was still in the Boy Scouts, still active in the Boy Scouts. And the more I thought about it, the more I realized that was right, a correct analysis of the situation. If you wanted to do well in life, you needed an education, and education became paramount. When that was your goal you start establishing things to reach that goal, which meant that if you want to go to college, you had to do well in high school. If you wanted to do well in high school, you had to work to get good grades. So, all of those steps went into supporting that ultimate goal of getting into college.

Mr. Granof: Your father, I think it's amazing that he decided at 60 to get his GED, but how about your mom? Did she work? You told me she was a homemaker.

Mr. Murray: My mother was a homemaker until we were in high school and then she went to work for a university. I guess you would call her a secretary back then, but she was an executive secretary. She worked for one of the deans or vice presidents of

the university, and she was very, very good, because you would hear compliments whenever I would go to her school, I heard compliments about my mother: “I don’t know what I’d do without your mother.”

Mr. Granof: You certainly had a model for a work ethic from your family.

Mr. Murray: Oh, yes. My parents were hard working people. The whole family, both sides of the family. My mother’s uncles had their own business, the roofing business, carpentry business. In Louisiana, this gets back into history now. During slavery, most of the whites were farmers, so a lot of your builders were the slaves. After the Emancipation, they still had those skills, and what happened was that the former slaves, ex-slaves, would teach the whites how to do brick laying, how to do masonry work. This wasn’t true across the board, because they had stone masons that came from Europe, but it was for a lot of the slaves. The slaves built Monticello.

Mr. Granof: Yes, they were carpenters, they had all sorts of skills.

Mr. Murray: That’s right. And they had people out in the fields, but they had people who were builders too. And slaves built the White House.

Mr. Granof: The planters weren’t about to get their hands dirty.

Mr. Murray: Because planting was their business. That’s how they made their money. In the 1880’s, when you started having guilds and labor unions, once a white person would learn the trade, then they would organize a union or guild that would keep the blacks out. So even though the black skilled workers had the skills, they couldn’t get the jobs without the card, the union card, or the guild card, or being a member of the guild. One part of my family, electricians, plumbers, they couldn’t

get electrical contracts because they weren't part of the electrical union, the IBEW, because they didn't allow blacks. And that was the way of discrimination that a lot of people didn't recognize, and it kept blacks back, and held them back, for a long time, until the Civil Rights Act.

I'll tell you a story. I told you I was active in civil rights and voter registration, sit-ins, kneel-ins, and whatnot, and I took my father down to the voter registration to get him to register to vote.

Mr. Granof: What year was this?

Mr. Murray: It must have been early 60's, '62, '63, something like that. Because I worked with voter registration, I knew the tricks.

Mr. Granof: I mean this was before the Civil Rights Act?

Mr. Murray: Yes, before the Civil Rights Act. Yes. And I knew that they would get you to read a portion of the Louisiana Constitution that was a paragraph that went on for two pages. And they would get you to interpret that. So, I knew that trick. I passed the voter's test, but my dad didn't. And let me tell you, he hid it, but I could tell he was hurt, he was very hurt by that. Because he thought it was his education that he didn't pass, but it was a trick that he didn't know how to overcome even though I spent some time with him. He was reading every word instead of capturing the essence of what the paragraph was trying to say. You don't read every word.

Mr. Granof: Well, yes, that was essentially a test designed to exclude.

Mr. Murray: Yes, to exclude black people from becoming registered voters.

Mr. Granof: Sure.

Mr. Murray: Anyway, I know that hurt his feelings, and I tried to make him feel better, but that's why he waited so long to go back, because that was a slap in his face, and it was a humiliating experience for him.

Mr. Granof: Well, I can understand.

Mr. Murray: And his son passed, and he didn't. But that's the way the South was back then. And you learned to cope with that, you learned to overcome that. Like the Marine Corps tells you, you improvise, adapt, and overcome.

Mr. Granof: And since we're on that, I mean you grew up at a time when New Orleans was in the South itself, Jim Crow.

Mr. Murray: Yes.

Mr. Granof: So, what was your experience like, how were you treated? I think you told me previously about several incidents.

Mr. Murray: I got shot at.

Mr. Granof: You talked about that before, but it's interesting enough to be worth repeating even at the risk of some duplication.

Mr. Murray: I used to ride my bike all over the city when I was a kid, many times I would be riding my bike alone. I called it searching for adventure time. Anyway, one time I was riding in Central Park, and Central Park was primarily for white people. I was riding my bike, because it was a nice park, and I enjoyed riding my bike, and it was a long way from home, quite frankly. You know, if you were to drive there, it would take you maybe 20, 30 minutes, so here I was on my bicycle by myself and I just happened to be there at the wrong time when they had some white thugs with a gun. The good thing is that it was a pistol and they were a distance away.

Mr. Granof: And they weren't great shots?

Mr. Murray: And they weren't great shots. That was a good thing. But I put some distance in between me and them because I could go to a place on my bike they couldn't go in their car, and I made it out of the park safely, as you can see. But in getting a Hiking Merit badge we had to hike through predominantly white neighborhoods, to go to the lakefront, Pontchartrain Lake, and every single time we were verbally assaulted. Not physically attacked, because we would have fought back, but we had no easy time of it. Put it that way. And to get your Hiking Merit badge you had to hike, I don't know, 50 to 75, a hundred miles, I forget what the number was, which meant that we had to go back to the same route every weekend, every weekend, to fulfill that obligation to get the Hiking Merit badge. And since I was a patrol leader, I was concerned about putting these guys in harm's way, but we made it. We all got the Hiking Merit badge in spite of all the harassment from some of the local folks.

And then being denied the opportunity to go places where you want to go. And the interesting thing is, when I came to this city – Washington, D.C. -- and I started practicing law, and people found out that I was from New Orleans, they'd say "Oh, my favorite city, did you ever go to this restaurant, did you ever go to this restaurant?" I would respond that I wasn't allowed to go to restaurants, so the answer is no, I've never been to that restaurant. But since then, when I've gone back to New Orleans, yes, I went to some of these restaurants. Quite frankly, my family cooked just as well and prepared meals just as well as what was served in

some of the finest restaurants. I mean we had some pretty good cooks in our family.

Mr. Granof: You were lucky.

Mr. Murray: Yes.

Mr. Granof: Let me talk about your family. I think you said you have a brother.

Mr. Murray: Yes. My brother is in Gulfport, Mississippi. That's where he lives now.

Mr. Granof: And you described a trip you took to Mississippi before your brother went there.

Mr. Murray: We were visiting my uncle who lives in Pass Christian, Mississippi. And he lives about, I don't know, a mile and a half from the Gulf of Mexico, the beautiful sandy beaches along that stretch of the Gulf. One day we went fishing. It was a hot summer day. We didn't have any water bottles or anything like that, so all of us were thirsty, and we decided to go to this gas station and get something to drink. And the manager of the gas station said there's a hose around the back, and there was a water cooler right there. So, most of the guys went around the back, but my brother went to the water cooler, and he started to drink water.

Mr. Granof: How old was he then?

Mr. Murray: He was 7, 8 years old, and this manager kicked us out of the gas station, yelled and screamed at us, called us all kinds of names and whatnot, told us to get away from there. I said I'm not going to tell my dad, because if I tell my dad, that might escalate things, and you don't want that to happen, so we just kept it quiet. But when my brother told me he was going to move to Mississippi, I reminded him, and he remembered it. I said why would you move back to that place, and he said because it's changed. And it has changed. The whole South has changed. The

whole South is different than it was back in the 50's and the 60's, the early 60's.

So, you know, he's happy, he's happy down there.

Mr. Granof: He didn't go to college, though.

Mr. Murray: No.

Mr. Granof: By the way, did he go to St. Augustine's High School?

Mr. Murray: He went to St. Augustine, but he didn't like the academic challenge, so he dropped out of that school. Well, not dropped out; he didn't re-register, he went to a public school instead.

Mr. Granof: How did you get involved with civil rights protests?

Mr. Murray: I never thought how I got involved, but I was interested, and someone -- I was in high school at the time. Someone said there was going to be a meeting and I said well I think I'm going to go to this meeting and find out what it's about. So, I went to the meeting, found out, participated in some sit-in demonstrations, some kneel-in demonstrations at Catholic churches, and some other demonstrations. But the last demonstration I participated in was a kneel-in, coming out of church and people yelling and screaming at you, and spitting at you, and evidently me and this guy that I told you had two pairs of pants, we didn't react the way we were supposed to react. But when somebody spits at you, I was taught differently. I was taught to fight back. Don't let anybody spit, don't let anybody disrespect you. And the leader of our group saw this, and he took us both aside, and he said, "I don't think you have the right temperament for this." And I said, "Well, if you think we're going to let somebody spit on us, you're crazy." He was right, I didn't have the right temperament. And I was stupid at the time. I was young and foolish

because I didn't keep my mind on the bigger goal. What I was thinking about was the personal insult, and not the larger goal. So, I said you're right, you know, because I would not jeopardize the goal of the group. Because if somebody hit me, I'm going to fight back, I'll defend myself. He said, "Well, that's not the purpose of this group. We believe in non-violence." I understood the concept, but I didn't embrace it, and that was the problem. I knew that I would create a problem if I continued, and if a button was pressed at the wrong time and the wrong place, I would react in a violent way. I said, "You're right."

But I watched, and what I learned from watching was that the serious battles were done on the street, but the war was won in the courtrooms. That was another thing that further attracted me to the law, because no matter how many times the people got arrested, the laws needed to be changed. You bring attention to the frailty, the illegality of the law of segregation, but you win the battle, you win the war in the courtroom, and that's eventually what happened. The South wasn't going to legislate that. The change had to come from the federal government. It had to take place in a courtroom first, and that was *Brown v. Board of Education*. But that was 1954, and still in 1962 the schools were segregated. It wasn't until Little Rock, when people were pushing the envelope. *Brown* was decided and that was the law of the land, and the president had to enforce the law.

Mr. Granof: In the South it was J. Skelly Wright.

Mr. Murray: J. Skelly Wright was brought up to D.C. because his life was threatened down South. He was a good judge. Strong judge.

Mr. Granof: Very strong.

Mr. Murray: The Catholic Church has a lot to be ashamed about, but they have a lot to be proud about too, because there were priests and nuns in these demonstrations, in these marches, just as well as anybody else, just as well as the Baptist ministers -- Father Berrigan, Father McManus, all these priests who were my teachers in high school. They all participated in the civil rights movement. The archbishop, Archbishop Rummel, was forced into desegregating the schools. But once he made up his mind, he didn't back down.

There were two people who were Catholics, and I remember this, because I'm not very good at names, but I remember these names, because I was interested to see how they would be treated. One was an ordinary citizen, a woman by the name of Mrs. Gilliot (pronounced gill-yacht) who was a very vocal protester against school desegregation, and the other one was Leander Perez, who was a big businessman from Plaquemines Parish in Louisiana. Perez made a fortune in oil and gas, natural gas, on federal land, by the way. Both of them were Catholics and both were avid protesters against school desegregation, particularly the Catholic schools. The Catholic schools were where the *crème de la crème* of the white society sent their kids. They didn't want their kids going to schools with black kids, so they protested the desegregation of the Catholic schools. And Archbishop Rummel excommunicated both of them. And I said to myself, I wonder how this is going to play out. The problem was Leander Perez bought his way back in to the Church, and this poor woman, who was just a middle-class housewife, who I guess was a Catholic, a relatively good Catholic in her own mind, she didn't get

back in. And I thought that was unjust. I didn't like what they stood for, but I didn't think the treatment was just by the Catholic Church.

Additionally, there was this Catholic Church on my paper route, that I delivered papers to, and one Saturday when I was collecting, I saw this priest in the yard and this black kid jumped the fence to get a ball that went in the yard. The priest came running out cursing at this black kid to get out of his yard, called him all kinds of names and -- I was shocked -- from a Catholic priest. So, every Sunday, they had a Sunday paper. The *Times Picayune* was a very thick paper.

Mr. Granof: Yes.

Mr. Murray: I used to be able to throw this huge, thick, Sunday paper over the second story banister. I could take that paper and throw it flat so it wouldn't open. It would go over that banister and bam! It would sound like a bomb went off. So that woke everybody up, because when it hit, it hit that porch with a loud bang. I never threw the paper over the banister like that before until I saw that priest call that young boy a name. I said, "I'll fix them." But I never saw them because they mailed their payments in, which was always good. I didn't like that priest after that.

Mr. Granof: I guess to some extent they reflected society.

Mr. Murray: Yes. I mean they're people, but you would think if they were devotees of the Bible, if they were followers of Christ -- I never saw Christ discriminate against anybody, and I never saw any example of discrimination that was followed by Christ in his 33 short years on this earth. No matter how they were raised and what they were taught when they were young, at some point in time they had to

question those teachings, and at some point, in time they had to realize that those teachings were wrong. This guy didn't. The racial bigotry was too ingrained. And I never really understood that until many years later when I saw an episode of Archie Bunker. What Archie Bunker said when his son-in-law asked him why he was prejudiced, Archie Bunker said, "When the man you respect, the man who puts a roof over your head, clothes on your back, food on your table, who taught you how to play baseball, when he tells you that black people are inferior, who am I to say that he's wrong." And I understood it right away. A simple example like that. You're taught those beliefs. But at some point, in time, one should ask one's self if what was learned as a child about hating people because of the color of their skin is wrong. I mean it does not make sense to ignore life's experiences where you meet people of other races who are good people. To ignore those types of experiences is mind-blowing to me. I just do not understand. You might dislike someone because you don't like the way he laughs, you don't like their beliefs, you don't like the way they talk, but you wouldn't condemn a whole race just because of the color of their skin. One should make one's own independent judgment based on your experience with that individual and the content of that individual's character.

After that Archie Bunker episode, I said to myself, now I understand. You know, people are taught hatred. Well, if they're taught that, they can unlearn it, and what you see now when you go down South, well it's not so bad. Black people are not the devils that white people were taught they were. They're just like us. I think people have more of an accepting nature because a lot of that

teaching racial hatred has died down, or had diminished, or the people who believed that have gone their separate ways. That doesn't mean it's gone forever because that teaching still persists, and you will always have the 10 percent no matter where you go in the country. What I've learned is that, unfortunately, one of the tragic traits of the human race is that there are people who think they're better than others, no matter where you come from. If you come from northern Europe, you think you think you're better than southern Europe. If you're a German Jew, you think you're better than Russian Jews. Because I've represented both, and I can tell you.

Mr. Granof: Yes.

Mr. Murray: And if you're a light skinned Black American; you think you're better than the dark skinned Black American. If you're Irish, you think you're better than Italian. It's this belief which I still have a hard time with, of some people thinking that they're better than other people based on some non-logical, emotionally based belief system. That's still hard for me to understand. To this day, I have a hard time understanding that. To this very day. I used to dislike Republicans because when Republicans ran for office in the South, they were more segregationist than the Democrats.

Mr. Granof: Well, that was the Nixon strategy.

Mr. Murray: You were always choosing between the lesser of two evils. It wasn't until I came up here and I was exposed, because I didn't know any Republicans in New Orleans except the people on TV who were running for office who never got elected, because there was always a Democratic primary and the Republicans

were always going up against a surefire winner. It wasn't until I came up here when I saw that Republicans are people who believe in smaller government, low taxes, etc., etc., and I had this discussion with one of my former partners. I said when I was growing up, Republicans to me were worse than the people who got elected to office, because they ran on a platform that was more segregationist than the segregationist platform. You had no other reasonable choice but to vote for the Democrat if you were black. It was always the lesser of two evils, and it wasn't until much later on that I realized -- because that's what I was taught -- that belief was wrong. So, I changed. I get into these discussions with some of my Republican friends: "Dwight, you should be a Republican. Lincoln was a Republican."

Mr. Granof: I guess you're not a Republican.

Mr. Murray: No, I am not a Republican. But I will tell you, I do vote more as a Democrat, but I voted against Democratic nominees for president on occasion. For example, I voted for John Anderson. I tend to vote for people who I thought are more in love with the country than they are with a political party. And those were the type of people that I supported. I never voted for McGovern, I never voted for Clinton, Bill Clinton. I voted for Hillary Clinton because she was running against Trump. If someone else was running besides Hillary Clinton, I would have voted for them. I didn't vote for Bill Clinton because he dodged the war. The reason I couldn't vote for Clinton is because if he was in a position where he could send other people to die for this country, he should have been willing to go to war himself when his country called on him. If had gone to the Peace Corps that

would have been fine. If he did public service, that would have been fine. But to avoid, in order to save his own skin, because he had ambition, I thought that was wrong. And then to sit in the White House where you can send people to die based on an order that you give when you weren't willing to follow someone else's order back in '68, '67, when he was of that age. That was the only reason. I thought he was a brilliant politician, I thought he was a good president, I thought his moral compass was a little bit off, but as far as being a president, I thought he did a good job. But if he ran again, I wouldn't vote for him for that same reason. Because too many guys died who respected the country. I personally thought voting for Clinton would not have honored the sacrifices they made. Even though it was an unjust war, they answered their country's call. And when you don't answer the call, when you're called and you avoid and don't answer your country's call, automatically you lose my respect, just automatically. That's just the way I feel.

Mr. Granof: It's interesting that among the African American population who grew up in the pre-civil rights era, people are as patriotic and devoted to the country -- more so than, say, people who were much more privileged.

Mr. Murray: Yes, I am not articulate enough to say why, but Judge William Bryant gave a good example. He said, he as he spread his arms out and said, "When this country was founded, the Constitution was here, the rights for everybody way out here. Some people didn't have rights, but as time went on the two hands got closer together. Now they're not together completely, but based on the rule of law, the court system, the political process, the democratic process, these rights

are getting closer and closer, so that everybody will be created equal and will enjoy the same rights.” I mean, just think, gay people, lesbian people, 30 years ago, they didn’t have any rights. Fifty years ago, they couldn’t even come out, you know, but as time went on, people saw the injustice of it, the inequality of it. People saw that they would not like to be treated that way. Nobody picks that kind of lifestyle, just like nobody picks to be born a certain race; it’s just the way it happens. And then to face discrimination because of that, because of something beyond your power, it’s wrong, and then people tried to eliminate that. Now there will always be the 10 percent. There will always be people who say certain people shouldn’t have rights. I believe it is wrong to deny people equal rights because of their status in life, it’s against our Constitution and against God’s law. I read this book about the Spartans. Spartans were notorious for men being with young boys that they were responsible for. It didn’t have anything to do with their lack of manliness. Not that it’s right or wrong. I’m not passing any judgments on that, but I’m saying that people should not be judging people for things that they have almost no control over. And I guess I realize that I had a serious sense of justice. I didn’t like injustice, and that was another thing that directed me towards the law. I’m glad that I chose that path because every once in a while, you get a chance to help somebody. Even though you’re not getting paid for it, it’s the right thing to do.

Mr. Granof: Are you still an optimist about the arc of history, and notwithstanding the last year or two?

Mr. Murray: Yes, I'm still an optimist. As a matter of fact, a bunch of my Marine buddies and I went down to Charlotte, North Carolina, one of the guys in our group was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. We went down there to lift his spirits, and we always, always get into these political discussions. And this was back in September 2016 when Trump was the nominee but before the election. I was the only person in the group not supporting Trump.

Mr. Granof: Really.

Mr. Murray: These guys were conservative. I mean they were Marines. A lot of Marines are Republican. Lot of Marines are Catholic. But I said, you know if Trump gets in, if he gets in, we will be facing constitutional challenges. I said, but I'll put my money on the Constitution all the time. I'll put my money on the system all the time. Because I remember back in 1968 when Martin Luther King was assassinated, Robert Kennedy was assassinated, we had all the riots, you had the Vietnam War going on, you had the protests going on, you had cities burning, Watts riots, Detroit, Washington, D.C. had riots and all this stuff going on, and the country survived. It wasn't a challenge to the political system as much as it was a challenge to society, the way society was set up.

And then you had Watergate, which was a challenge to the political system, and the country survived, the Constitution prevailed. And I said those were serious challenges. Trump -- I said this in September -- I said he will have a problem because he's never shared power. He doesn't know how to do that. I told them there will be problems with his giving up chasing that almighty dollar. He can't do that because it's in his blood. That's what makes him tick. But that will

also be his downfall. I said, if he gets elected, I don't think he will finish his first term. I think he'll be impeached, or so frustrated he'll resign, or something will happen. This was before he was sworn in, before he won the election. So, I don't know if any of this will come to pass, but I have a lot of faith in the system. I also believe in a cyclical theory of history where whenever there's a high power at one pinnacle, there's a countervailing power on the rise. And you saw it in the elections in Wisconsin yesterday and you saw it in the election in Virginia, you saw it in the elections in Arkansas, so there's something going on, and it probably won't manifest itself until November 2018 when there's a midterm.

So yes, I have faith. This is an incredible country. Absolutely incredible. I mean where else can a guy who grew up in a broken home, of mixed-race parents, rise to be president of the United States? Where else?

Mr. Granof: With a funny name.

Mr. Murray: With the funny name, and middle name after one of the mortal enemies of the United States, "Hussein." You can't overlook something like that. Only in this country can something like that happen. Freedom is a precious commodity. As long as people are free to vote, free to express their ideas, the country will be all right. I mean look at the Constitution, 25 amendments in 200-plus years.

Mr. Granof: Well, it's certainly helpful to talk with you, because to talk with someone who's optimistic puts things in perspective.

Mr. Murray: You've got to look at the long range. I mean Trump's only in office for four years. If he decides to run again, I don't know if he will, I don't know if he's going to survive the first term. I think Robert Mueller is a fantastic attorney,

investigator. I mean this guy was a Marine. That's what a lot of people don't understand. He's a combat tested Marine, and when you're in combat, you've been tested and you survive that, there are not too many things that are going to intimidate you -- even the president of the United States with his vast powers. Mueller won't be intimidated. Robert Mueller will do his job to the best of his ability, and if he finds that Trump is not guilty of anything, he'll say so. If he finds that Trump, that all of these things that are against the law, he'll say so. He won't be intimidated.

Mr. Granof: And particularly because he's not young anymore, he's in his 70's, I think.

Mr. Murray: Yes, and Marines are mission oriented. You give a Marine a mission, he's going to move heaven and earth to accomplish that mission. Just like I said, he's going to adapt, improvise, and overcome. That's what he'll do to accomplish his mission.

Mr. Granof: That's probably why Trump has Kelly as his chief of staff.

Mr. Murray: I feel good about Kelly, though not good about the last couple of days. I feel really good about Secretary of Defense Mattis. He's a Marine's Marine. So even with someone like that, someone like President Trump in the White House, as long as you've got somebody like Mattis watching over things, because they put country and God before everything else.

Mr. Granof: I think also the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Mr. Murray: Dunford? General Dunford's a Marine. All cut from the same cloth. All cut from the same cloth. So that's why I wasn't worried. If they didn't have those guys in there, I would be a little bit more concerned.

Mr. Granof: They say that you don't say "I used to be a Marine," that once a Marine, you're always a Marine.

Mr. Murray: And that's a true statement. One example that comes to mind is I was in a Burger King getting a sandwich a couple of months ago, and I saw this guy who had a Marine Corps hat on, 4th Marine Division. I said, "Hey, Marine," and he said, "Were you in?" And I said "yeah, semper fi," then we shook hands like long lost brothers. I saw the 4th Marine Division insignia on his hat. I said, you must have been in Iwo Jima. The guy was in Iwo Jima. He was 92 years old and in almost perfect health. He was straight as a rock. Walked in and walked out of the Burger King. And yes, never saw the guy before, and if we had time, if I wasn't on the run, we could have sat down and had a conversation.

The same thing in Seattle. I was in Seattle to see my daughter and her family. Since I was hungry, I stopped at a McDonald's after getting a rental car, and I had on a little Marine Corps hat, a baseball hat, and these guys walk in. Big guys, and they saw my Marine hat and said, "Hey, Marine," and they say "Semper Fi," and I say "Semper Fi," and asked them to come on over. So, we sat down. We spent the whole hour talking. Never saw these guys before in my life, but that's the bond that you form in the Marine Corps. You know this organization is the biggest fraternity in the world, and once you're in, every Marine becomes your brother, and that's a true statement. And that's the way the guys I went through training with are, even though we disagree, and have serious disagreements about politics. There's one guy, a really smart guy, he's a Libertarian. No government. "I don't want any government. I want to be able to

carry my gun wherever. I want to be able to buy a machine gun.” That’s his belief. We have some serious disagreements, but yet there’s still that bond there that our political differences won’t interfere with. So, it is a good thing. Yes, it is a good thing.

Mr. Granof: We’ll get to talk more about your Marine experience. We’ll get to that, but I think that discussion gives a pretty good flavor on the record for your perspective on your service.

Mr. Murray: Well, that’s why I wanted to join, because it separated itself from the rest of the branches. There was this spirit of camaraderie. I mean the Marine Corps hasn’t always been at the forefront of racial integration.

Mr. Granof: The Navy wasn’t.

Mr. Murray: The Navy wasn’t. Heck, the Army wasn’t. You know Truman had to force the services to integrate. Some of the same preconceived notions about prejudging people and their abilities.

Mr. Granof: Although this is a little out of order, but since we’re talking about the Marines, what did you know about the Marines, and when did you make that decision to join?

Mr. Murray: I believe I made the decision to join the Marine Corps before I went to college. A high school friend of mind wanted me to go with him and join the Marine Corps after graduating from high school and I said no, I wanted to graduate from college first and try to go in the Marine Corps through the Officer Candidate Program.

Mr. Granof: Did you go in through the ROTC programs?

Mr. Murray: I read about it, I picked up some brochures, I found out that the Marine Corps had a PLC law program where you can join the Marine Corps, go to boot camp for two summers, and then when you graduate from college, you would be commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. And then under the PLC law program your service was deferred while you attended law school, which meant you would get time in grade. By the time you get out of law school, you would be a captain. So that kind of interested me, but the recruiter down in New Orleans was from Mississippi, and he wasn't about to let a black kid in this program, and he said "No, we don't have any openings." I asked him questions about it. He answered all my questions, he was polite, but he said, "We don't have any openings." He said the kind of guys that join from this office are football players, and I wasn't a football player.

Mr. Granof: What year are we talking about here?

Mr. Murray: This was '64, '65, something like that. But you had to join early enough so you would have the two summers. I went back, maybe a year later, and he said no again. The same guy. I went back a third time, and there was a different officer, a different recruiter, completely different. This guy was a Vietnam vet, well decorated. He embraced me. He answered all my questions. He said we'd be glad to have you, but you can't join the PLC law program because you're already graduating from college. You should have joined PLC law program. I said I came two years ago, but I got rejected. He said, "Well, I am sorry about that, but we can put you in the OCS program, Officer Candidate School." I said, "I'll take it, but I got accepted into Georgetown Law, and what I would like to do is go to law

school one year, preserve my spot, and then come in the Marine Corps.” He said we could work out something like that. The recruiting officer told me to see your draft board to see if you would qualify.

Mr. Granof: Was there a draft on at the time?

Mr. Murray: There was a draft. They were in the same building. Draft Board and the Marine Corps Recruiting Office. So, I went downstairs to see the Draft Board. I sat down and talked to this lady. She didn’t even look at me. I told her what my situation was, and she was writing. I said what I need is a year deferment, and then I’ll join the Marine Corps, just want to save my spot in law school. She said you’ll never see the doors of the law school open. You’ll be drafted before the end of the summer. I got up, went back upstairs. All I had to do was take the oath because I had passed all the other tests and whatnot. I took the oath, and that was it. Didn’t even tell my parents before that I was doing that, but I came home and told my parents, and my dad was upset, my mother was upset, but it was a done deal. My brother was already in Vietnam.

Mr. Granof: Could you tell me again what year we’re talking about?

Mr. Murray: This was ’68.

Mr. Granof: So that was the height of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Murray: Yes.

Mr. Granof: And you clearly were draft material.

Mr. Murray: Yes, I was going to be drafted, no doubt about it.

Mr. Granof: So, let me get back to college. Or high school. You basically said you were going to college and you had to look around for a college that was affordable.

Mr. Murray: Yes. I went to Xavier University. Like I said before, it was a Catholic college.

Mr. Granof: We talked about this before -- but it wasn't on the record -- that they didn't really have guidance counselors at your high school, so you really had to do the whole process yourself.

Mr. Murray: Right. It was a good school, and I got in. The money was tight, very, very tight. And then I got a partial scholarship after my first year, to help, because my grades in History were really good.

Mr. Granof: And your major was History?

Mr. Murray: Was History. Yes.

Mr. Granof: And you had a minor in Economics?

Mr. Murray: Yes. A minor in Economics. I didn't choose my minor at that time. I just wanted to major in History, and I didn't want the Political Science, you know History/Political Science. I wanted something different.

Mr. Granof: And why was that?

Mr. Murray: Well, I thought the two courses were too similar, for one, and I wanted a different challenge. And so, I took Economics and I fell in love with it, because it was very logical. I said, "Holy smokes, this makes a lot of sense."

Mr. Granof: And it's also very quantitative, especially these days.

Mr. Murray: Yes. When I was studying for the final exam, I said, "I like this," and so then I decided to minor in Economics. That's what I did.

Mr. Granof: And where did you live when you were in college?

Mr. Murray: Lived at home. Couldn't afford to live anyplace else. You know you had to save your money. Took the bus, public transportation to get to school, which was way

on the other side of the city. That was a long commute. Where did I sleep? I could sleep standing up on a bus.

Mr. Granof: And you were still working, right? Did your newspaper route. Did you have time for any activities at college?

Mr. Murray: Didn't have time, didn't even have time to date, so I didn't date the first year. I didn't have the money to date until I got that partial scholarship. But work and study, that's all I did, because I knew grades were important.

Mr. Granof: Because you knew then you were going to law school.

Mr. Murray: That was the only way to go to law school. I couldn't afford to slack off on the academics.

Mr. Granof: I guess at some point you basically said I'm going to law school and you had to decide where.

Mr. Murray: I had to decide where. I came up to D.C. in the summer of '67. I got selected for this internship program at the State Department.

Mr. Granof: How did you do that?

Mr. Murray: I applied for it.

Mr. Granof: How did you know about it?

Mr. Murray: Some advertisement in the school, and I was interviewed by this panel of people who were going through a selection process, and I passed the selection process. They were looking to recruit people for the Foreign Service. I didn't know anything about the Foreign Service at the time. It looked like an opportunity. I took advantage of that opportunity. I passed the selection process. Came up here. I stayed in a dorm at Howard University.

Mr. Granof: Had you ever been North?

Mr. Murray: Nope.

Mr. Granof: Had you been anywhere but Mississippi?

Mr. Murray: Nope. My first time, other than going up to Cleveland to visit my grandmother who was dying. We drove up and drove back, that was it. This was my first time on a train, because I couldn't afford to fly up, so I took the train up to D.C. That's a 24-hour trip, almost exactly. Left 8:00 o'clock in the morning from New Orleans, got here to Washington at 8:00 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Granof: There was a train that ran from D.C. to New Orleans, I don't remember what they called it.

Mr. Murray: Yes, that's the train I took.

Mr. Granof: The Crescent City, or something like that.

Mr. Murray: It was the Crescent something, and I got here, settled in a dorm, went to look for someplace to eat.

Mr. Granof: Did you have a place to stay? I mean had they arranged for you to stay in a dorm.

Mr. Murray: I stayed in a dorm, yes. I got here, I had a little money, so I went to get something to eat.

Mr. Granof: What year were you in school then?

Mr. Murray: I was going into my last year of college.

Mr. Granof: So, between your junior and senior year.

Mr. Murray: Right. I got something to eat. They didn't have the cafeteria open during the summertime at Howard's campus, so you had to eat on your own, and I found this little restaurant close to the dorm where they served stew. It was just a couple of

bucks, and I had to budget myself. I was eating, -- lost a lot of weight that summer -- I was eating on \$12 a week. I was feeding myself for \$12 a week. The big meal was lunch. I had lunch at the cafeteria at the State Department through the vending machines. Couldn't afford the regular stuff, the hot food. At the end of work, I would catch the bus back to the dorm and go to this little greasy spoon where they served stew, and the stew was like two bucks, three bucks, something like that, and that would be my dinner. I did that for the summer. Saved my money that I earned as an intern at the State Department. I worked for the Bureau of Economic Affairs. The people were really nice. That was a good experience. First time I ever worked in an office. It was an eye opener. I didn't know they had all these opportunities of being a Foreign Service officer. Took the Foreign Service officer exam. I wasn't interested in being a Foreign Service officer, but I took the exam. That was a hard exam, very hard exam. I didn't do well on that exam. So, I said the law is my profession.

Mr. Granof: Well, how did you decide to go to Georgetown? .

Mr. Murray: Well, it was a good school. I applied to several law schools. I got into the University of Denver Law School, Howard, one or two other law schools I forget now, but I got into Georgetown too.

Mr. Granof: But you weren't interested in studying law in Louisiana?

Mr. Murray: If you practice law in Louisiana, you have to get into politics if you were black, and you would do primarily criminal law, and you would not be hired by any firms, and you would be relegated either to being a solo practitioner working out of your house, because they didn't have that many opportunities for black lawyers

in New Orleans. They had some good ones, they really had some good ones, but the real good ones developed while I was in college, and guys who became independently famous because they were good lawyers, they got involved in the civil rights movement, the name was an advertisement because of that, and they were able to develop a nice practice. But I didn't want to be relegated, limited, and I knew if I stayed in New Orleans I would be limited, so that's why I looked to some other place. I didn't know I would wind up in D.C. I thought maybe I'd eventually make my way to California, but as it turns out D.C. became home. One thing led to another, as it does in most people's lives. Sometimes you just follow your path. You don't have any choice in the matter. It's the way, the path, what the Chinese call the I Ching, the path, and I followed my path, and D.C. became home.

When I got accepted into Georgetown, I thought that was a gift from heaven. I had a full scholarship, but I couldn't go because the Draft Board forced me -- that's one reason I wanted to keep that one year, to keep the scholarship alive -- but the Draft Board said I would never see the doors open, I would be drafted.

Mr. Granof: So, you must have notified Georgetown what your situation was.

Mr. Murray: Notified Georgetown. They said thanks for letting us know. And that was it. So, I signed up for the Marine Corps, and that summer I got married, and I got that job teaching disadvantaged kids that I told you about. My wife and I moved up to Washington in September because she had a job with the Veterans

Administration. I mean she was in a special management program. My wife is very smart.

Mr. Granof: So, you got married.

Mr. Murray: I got married in '68.

Mr. Granof: And then went into the Marines.

Mr. Murray: Went into the Marines.

Mr. Granof: She knew.

Mr. Murray: I had to tell her.

Mr. Granof: Since we've been going for a while, maybe this is a good time to stop.