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CINDY MCCAIN INTERVIEW
JOHN MCCAIN: FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS
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CINDY MCCAIN
Wife of John McCain
September 27, 2017
Interviewed by Peter Kunhardt
Total Running Time: 1 Hour 25 Minutes

START TC:
QT: 01;00;00;00

QT: 01;00;00;00

CREW:

Speed. Take one, mark.

QT: 01;00;07;15

TITLE:

The family home in Arizona

QT: 01;00;13;03

CINDY MCCAIN:

John and I were—ya know, had—we hadn't been married very long. Meghan had been born but he said you know, I really would like a place up north, may—preferably on—on water some place but—and expressed that to a friend of ours who had the knowledge to be able to help us look for that and about a year later, came up with this beautiful piece of property of which I bought for him, sight unseen. I bought it on the spot because I knew it was perfect and it's really become the major—major part where most of the big decisions are made, where family decisions are made, where discussions and futures are talked about. It—it's—it's really the heartbeat of the family that place is. And it's a wonderful place, and it also revitalizes my husband. It cares for him in a way that you know, myself and the family really can't.

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QT: 01;01;07;21

TITLE:

The McCain's spend as much time as possible home in Arizona

QT: 01;01;14;07

CINDY MCCAIN:

We—we head up there almost immediately. He'll come on—during normal times, he'll come home on maybe a Thursday night or Friday morning, work a few hours, and then we'll head up—up there. It's—and he spends a lot of recesses up there. Not every recess but a lot of them up there because it's just such a restful place for him. He rests, he thinks, he kind of collects himself and whatever issues are at hand of course thinks through them and works through them too.

QT: 01;01;43;08

CINDY MCCAIN:

We headquartered up there. We—as I said, met—all of our big decisions were made up there and it has become what the people that surround us call you know, the good place. That's where they want to go to talk to him because they know they can—they—no one's distracted and—and we can really talk and think through things and do it in a way that's fun.

QT: 01;02;09;07

TITLE:

On meeting John for the first time

QT: 01;02;13;16

CINDY MCCAIN:

Oh my. It was the late 70's and I was a school teacher. I to—I was a teacher of special education at the time and it was spring break for—for education in Arizona, and my parents and I went out to Hawaii on spring break, and we'd had a friend at that time that was a mutual friend of the CINCPAC admiral and a few people out there and we were—on occasion were invited to a reception that was being held for a group of United States Senators on their way through Hawaii to China and we were invited.

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QT: 01;02;54;07

CINDY MCCAIN:

And I met him there. I had heard about him obviously through—just because of his reputation and of course his heroism. But we'd had a friend that was kind of hoping that we would meet in a small way and I don't know what he said but it was love at first sight for me. I dropped over dead, I really did. And I liked his—his humor, I love his intelligence, and I just enjoyed the fact that he was so down to earth. So for me, it was—it was very definitely love at first sight.

QT: 01;03;31;05

TITLE:

Cindy knew John had been a POW when they met

QT: 01;03;37;09

CINDY MCCAIN:

Well, I had heard about him primarily because of our relationship with our friend through CINCPAC. During the time that he was a prisoner of war, I'll be very honest with you, I did not know anything about him. I was in high school and I di—I learned about him later on and learned about the plight of the POW's later on as well. I was young and kind of dumb in those days in high school so I didn't pay much attention. But what an amazing man, I mean, what an amazing man. And I thought that when I met him—I didn't know what to expect, he introduced himself to me. And I just didn't know what to expect and what I saw was just this incredible human being that's a lot of fun to be around.

QT: 01;04;22;23

TITLE:

On their age difference

QT: 01;04;26;14

CINDY MCCAIN:

(Laughing) John and I didn't—we're not exactly candid about our ages. John made himself younger and I made myself older and how we found out our

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true ages was in Arizona at that time, they published applications for marriage licenses in the newspaper. And that's where I saw his age and he saw mine. It was—it's still funny to this day and as he says, you know, started a marriage on a tissue of lies but yeah, I, you know, I was so enamored with him I thought, "Oh my gosh, if he really finds out how young I am, this is a no go." And he thought the same thing. He thought—I never saw age in him, I never—I never even—the subject of age just never entered my mind because he's—he was so young acting and so incredibly vibrant, that age never even ended the question for me at all.

QT: 01;05;32;19

CINDY MCCAIN:

He was 44 and I was 24. I was 24 when I met him. Maybe 25, I have to think for a second.

QT: 01;05;43;21

TITLE:

Cindy's parents on the age difference

QT: 01;05;47;22

CINDY MCCAIN:

He went over and asked my father permission to take me for a drink after the reception and my—my dad who's a very tall, western man said, "You've got my daughter there." And kind of did one of these with him (**makes a face**) and I don't think anyone had done that to John in a long time. So, he—it wasn't that they were skeptical of him but the age difference I think was concerning in the beginning, certainly.

QT: 01;06;13;03

TITLE:

How John and Cindy spent their time

QT: 01;06;18;14

CINDY MCCAIN:

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Just talking; he had some incredible stories, not just war stories but just, his life stories and I was fascinated by hearing all of that. He used to be a great—he would tell me some of the books that he told as stories in prison. So as you know they told stories, they told movies, they told ya know, news—they made news up of course but—they—they did all kinds of things like that and he repeated some of those to me which were—unbelievable, they were fascinating. I felt very inadequate. I had only young stories.

QT: 01;06;54;11

TITLE:

John lives life to the fullest

QT: 01;06;59;02

CINDY MCCAIN:

John can have fun just about any place, he really can. He is—he is a man that respects and loves life to its absolute fullest and—and makes every second count. So he can be in a—in whatever a tough day has been and somewhere there is a ray of light and a little—and some smiles and—and a joke or two in that and I have always admired that in him. He—he reminds me not to take things too seriously, ya know? It's—it's what's been presented to us so don't take it too serious—seriously, learn from it and have fun with it also.

QT: 01;07;35;09

TITLE:

John is a people person

QT: 01;07;39;14

CINDY MCCAIN:

He likes being surrounded by interesting people and fun people and he always has and I've had people say to me, "Well, doesn't that bother you sometimes?" No, not at all. I've loved every minute of it. He's—he's engaging and he loves to learn from other people and—and a weekend at our cabin would not be complete without a gaggle of whoever or whatever is coming along. It's fun and it's interesting and it's exciting and it's something that we love to do and he especially loves the engagement and the discussions and the—and the talking.

QT: 01;08;19;00

TITLE:

When John is home, he leaves Washington behind

QT: 01;08;23;00

CINDY MCCAIN:

That's the one thing through the years that I've been a little frustrated with because when he does get home, he doesn't want to—you know, I'll be like, "God what happened, tell me the back scene." And he won't, he won't really want to talk about it 'cause he wants to get away from it, that's why he comes home and I've learned to accept that. It—we don't—I think people have this idea that we somehow sit and pontificate the incredible events of the day, and we don't. We talk family stuff, you know, the normal stuff that couples do and families do.

QT: 01;08;50;01

CINDY MCCAIN:

What's going on, which child did what, you know? At the time. Yeah, he—he—and he loves sports so watching sports is a big deal to him. I mean he really loves it and gets—and is very—very good. He's—in his next life we keep saying he's going to be a sports commentator some place but he's—he loves it and he loves having people around and consequently so do I.

QT: 01;09;18;10

TITLE:

On John's proposal

QT: 01;09;23;15

CINDY MCCAIN:

I didn't expect it. I really didn't think that he would—that he would propose, you know, he was—he was older. I—I just didn't know what to expect. I mean, I knew he cared very deeply for me, I did know that but I just didn't—I didn't

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expect it and he was—he was not matter of fact but ya know, “Why don’t we do this, why don’t we get married?” Like, oh ok, yeah, I’m in. he’s—that’s just the way he is. He’s very sentimental but he’s also matter of fact in a lot of ways. Ya know, and I—I under—I think a lot of that has to do with his imprisonment but he’s—he—he—he—he—he is a romantic person but you’d never see it. I’ve seen it but I—you’d never see it.

QT: 01;10;19;20

TITLE:

John takes things to heart

QT: 01;10;23;21

CINDY MCCAIN:

He takes things very to the heart, not just issues but people. He worries about people; he worries about events that have happened. One, I can specifically and it was a long time ago but the bombing of the airport in Beirut where the marines were here—in the 80’s—when—this was during Reagans presidency, really troubled him for a long time because he had advocated against putting the marines there and it just broke his heart that we lost some of our men for a reason that could have been avoided in his mind.

QT: 01;11;01;00

TITLE:

John and Cindy’s wedding

QT: 01;11;05;05

CINDY MCCAIN:

Well we had—we had a few senators in the wedding, we had—it was a big wedding. I’m an only child so I let my parents run wild with it. I wasn’t gonna stop them because I’m the only one so—it was a wonderful spring—summ—almost summer day in Arizona and a 5 o’clock wedding. It couldn’t have been more perfect and it couldn’t have been a more perfect evening afterwards. It’s just—it was fairytale for me. I think it was for him a little bit too, but it was fairytale and something that—I’d never dreamed of a wedding. You

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know, that wasn't what I did, was dream about getting married or anything. But—in fact, when I met John, I had kind of given up on dating because I was kind of sick of the college guys and the—and the—I just didn't want to do it anymore, it was too much trouble. So, my wedding day was just glorious. It was wonderful.

QT: 01;12;03;01

TITLE:

John did not wear his uniform at the wedding

QT: 01;12;06;10

CINDY MCCAIN:

No, he hadn't retired yet, he was still active duty. But he didn't want that, he—he loved tradition but didn't want to quite do that, so that was fine.

QT: 01;12;15;00

TITLE:

John became close with Cindy's parents

QT: 01;12;19;01

CINDY MCCAIN:

My father particularly, my father was a world war II vet, had been a B-17 bombardier, had been shot down three times. And third time he landed in the English Channel and so even though my father wasn't captured, they had a great deal in common in terms of the—the experiences of being shot down, the experiences of combat, all those things and my—and my father so respected John for—for just who he was and his service, and you know, it—I'm not saying my dad would stand at attention when he'd come in the room, but my dad would straighten up and so would my husband for that matter with my dad. They were very, very good friends and it was—it was a nice thing to watch.

QT: 01;13;03;04

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TITLE:

Cindy's father lived the American Dream

QT: 01;13;08;08

CINDY MCCAIN:

My—my father in my opinion and I think the opinion of many, was the true American dream. He came from absolutely nothing, they were dirt poor. When the war broke out, lied about his age and his education and was able to get into the Army Air Corps as a cadet, became an officer and became a bombardier on a B-17 and was stationed in England. He flew with the Memphis Bell Squadron, that was his squadron. And so when he came home, he had the kind of gravitas that so many of those men had but he didn't appreciate nor did he wear outwardly of being someone who was solid and good and he went into business. He did several businesses. One with—with his—my uncle and then finally got into the liquor business at home, worked for a wholesaler and then was offered the brand of beer that absolutely nobody wanted, it was a terrible seller, ew, you can have it, and that was Anheuser-Busch, and the rest is history.

QT: 01;14;17;05

CINDY MCCAIN:

My mother and father had to sell everything they had to scrape up the 10,000 dollars to get the line, and they did and the rest is history. My—my father gave my mother and I a beautiful life, everything we could ever have wanted and so I—I mean I grew up in the best of circumstances and someone who was able to appreciate the effort that my parents—both my parents put into making a life that was so glorious.

QT: 01;14;45;06

TITLE:

On moving to Arizona

QT: 01;14;49;19

CINDY MCCAIN:

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Some people say there was never an option when he retired. I knew—I felt he had some political ambitions although he hadn't really outwardly said it to me but I knew that he was—he was good at what he does. He was engaged in Washington, he was a smart thinker, so the natural thing for us to do was to come to Arizona and my father offered him a job, full knowing that he probably wouldn't stay because he would go on to bigger and better things but it was a genuinely loving thing my father did and my husband was of course truly grateful and that really was where he was able to launch his political career. It gave him an opportunity to get around Arizona, get around the valley, meet people and then—and then go from there.

QT: 01;15;37;12

CINDY MCCAIN:

My mother and father have been not hardcore democrats, we call them Arizona democrats which is really republican in disguise. But they reregistered absolutely instantaneously and there was never—they never looked back.

QT: 01;15;51;16

CINDY MCCAIN:

It was a good fit, it really was.

QT: 01;15;54;05

TITLE:

The death of John's father

QT: 01;15;58;02

CINDY MCCAIN:

We got a phone call and it was not from his mother, it was from somebody in the Navy and I don't remember who now but he had—they had been coming back from Europe and they were aboard a C5. I don't know if you've ever seen a C5 but it's enormous. I mean it's the biggest thing I've ever seen and he died on board the C5 on the way back. And so when my husband—we—we hadn't even been married a year and my husband and I went out to Andrews to meet the plane late that night and had to—and it was cold. I remember

being cold and it—we had to climb like three sets of stairs to get to the top deck where he was and where my mother in law was and it—it—no one ever wants this kind of insight into a family but what I observed with their family was a family of great strength, great honor, great dignity, in a time that was so compellingly horrible.

QT: 01;17;06;19

CINDY MCCAIN:

I mean it's the worst thing you can imagine and so we newlyweds had together, had to—had to kind of work through that and then he was—my husband had retired just during that week and so finished the retirement process during the days of the funeral and we left the next day to go home. That's a lot to absorb for someone and John did it—did it beautifully but it was—it—it—his family is just amazing. They're—you know, they—when—you really see what people are made of during times like that. You really do.

QT: 01;17;49;10

TITLE:

The McCain's are a Navy family

QT: 01;17;52;22

CINDY MCCAIN:

It is a navy family that he talks about and it's the navy traditions and honor that really not only held him together but gave them great strength. You know that John was third gen—or, John's father was second generation at that time. There was a break and army was mixed in there a little bit but this lineage goes back to George Washington's staff in the military. It's a—it's not something you see every day.

QT: 01;18;25;21

TITLE:

John's father had a difficult time when he retired.

QT: 01;18;31;03

CINDY MCCAIN:

John's mother was the backbone in that family. She had to hold it together when he was deployed and gone as—as men you know, in those days men were deployed a great deal. It wasn't that we had to deal with it on a daily basis but we had to be supportive of her and with that said, I mean she—she was—I don't know if you met her but she's of great stoicism when it comes to not showing feelings or being—being emotional in any way, she—but she dealt with that herself on a daily basis and he was like so many of those men, their life was the military, their whole life was. And when they retire of course it becomes—different issues come into play and that was very much the case with his father (**Cross talk**) and I know it was difficult on his mother but with that said, his mother and father were two of the nicest people I have ever met in my life. His father was a real gentleman and a real kind human being always to me.

QT: 01;19;41;20

TITLE:

War took a toll on John's grandfather and father

QT: 01;19;47;11

CINDY MCCAIN:

In the case of his grandfather and his father too, his grandfather had given it all. It was World War II and it was a very difficult war because of—we didn't have all of the technology—for many—war is always difficult but we didn't have the technology that we have now and all the things so it was really a hand to hand war and it just took it out of him. All those men, all those men were in difficult shape when the war ended. As for John's father, I mean he obviously—or the bombing over Hanoi with his son being imprisoned, I mean I don't—I can't even imagine what that did to him. I—I really don't. I know every Christmas he'd go up to the DMZ zone or the—I guess as far as you could go. Probably not a DMZ zone but as far as you could go and have Christmas with the troops and be as close to John as he could get. It—you know, I—I don't have any—and six—five and a half years of that, I don't know what that does to a human, I don't know how you survive that.

QT: 01;20;47;07

TITLE:

The funeral for John's father and the importance of legacy and tradition

QT: 01;20;52;05

CINDY MCCAIN:

The funeral was held I believe at Fort Meade; I think is where it was held if I remember correctly. And he was taken by Caisson across the bridge and into Arlington Cemetery and the only other time I—as I'd ever seen a Caisson was on TV with—with President Kennedy. It's a—it's a very overwhelming sight, to me it was. And we went to the burial—burial where he's at and it's—many other of his relatives were in there. I didn't know that when we got there. I just assumed it was where—where he would be but his—you know, John's uncles were there, his grandfather, I mean they're all—all in there and so that elevated what this was all about, not that death isn't, isn't difficult enough. But the legacy, and the honor and the—and everything, it overwhelmed me a little bit. It was—it was my re—my reality of what I had married into.

QT: 01;22;06;16

CINDY MCCAIN:

And this wonderful family but the importance of legacy and tradition was never more apparent to me than that day. And he was—John was well, certainly upset, I mean without due(?) but he was just so strong for everyone, he really was. His mother's strong too but John was just—he's the one that carried the—carried the mantle of strength that day. I was very sorry for him but very proud of him too.

QT: 01;22;41;10

TITLE:

Arlington National Cemetery

QT: 01;22;46;06

CINDY MCCAIN:

I don't know if he's been back since then, since the burial; I have, I took my sons there a few years ago so I—I—I obviously never asked John if he had gone with or without us at all at any time but I know what it means to him. I know what Arlington means to him and I know what that day and those—and where their place is, you know, it's a very prominent place, what that means to him.

QT: 01;23;15;16

TITLE:

The birth of their kids

QT: 01;23;19;02

CINDY MCCAIN:

John made it for Meghan's birth, yes, which was great. And he was—you know, this was a 50's guy and I drug him into the—into the delivery room, ya know, because I'm an 80's girl at that time and so he was—it was wonderful, I mean, obviously as any birth is for any couple. He did not make Jack's birth though, he missed it by about an hour. His plane was delayed and I had gone into labor unexpectedly so none of these were planned in terms of ya know, we didn't have a C-section on purpose to be able to plan a day and so he didn't make it for Jack's and that's bothered him ever since I think. Made it for Jimmy and I'm grateful that he was because Jimmy was our—our troublesome baby when he was born. He was born early; he was very ill. And John had to come into my room, I'd had a C-section and we'd gone to go see him in the nursery and pray with him and our pastor was there and because he was very ill.

QT: 01;24;22;03

CINDY MCCAIN:

And—and John—I'll never forget John came back into the room and shut the door and said, "We're gonna lose him." And he couldn't look at me, and I couldn't look at him 'cause I thought I'd failed him and that's not at all what happened but I never want to feel like that again. And so it was—he was so strong and so—helpful, I—it's—the—helpful's not even a word that's strong

enough for that but he—he just—I saw another side of him that was truly eloquent and—and elegant in terms of how he dealt with it. Jimmy’s fine but I felt that way again when he left for war so I—I swore I’d never want to feel it again but I—but we did. And of course Bridget, I surprised him with Bridget.

QT: 01;25;10;10

TITLE:

Adopting Bridget

QT: 01;25;14;14

CINDY MCCAIN:

I was working in Bangladesh and I had taken some doctors and some nurses there to do some orthopedic stuff and actually wound up in the cholera clinics and everything else there and a friend of ours from Phoenix had said, “Look, if you get a chance, go to Mother Theresa’s orphanage, they probably need help.” So on the weekend, I grabbed a couple of friends that were doctors and nurses and said, “Let’s go. You want to go with me on an adventure?” And it took all day to find the orphanage because it’s in a really old part of Dacca which is unmarked and no one knows and you know. Anyway, so we started going every other day because it was kind of hard to get there, about every other day and we were there about three weeks.

QT: 01;25;57;11

CINDY MCCAIN:

And this little girl who had a terrific cleft palate and a number of other problems along with another baby who had a heart problem. I don’t know where it came from but all of a sudden I thought, “I can get these two kids help. I can do this.” I mean, what a sassy thing to say, you know? But—so I went to the—our embassy, told them what I wanted to do for—I wanted to bring them back for healthcare, perfectly fine. In those days they had visa stamping machines, so that’s another part of the story but anyway, it took me about four days to—to get a passport for each of these babies and then get the visas out. On the day that we were supposed to leave, the minis—the health ministry in Bangladesh called and said, “You need to appear in front of the ministry group in an hour.” And I’m thinking, it’s one flight a week in

there from where we can get to. And so my mind is like, “Oh my God we got to get to the airport.” you know, and this kind of stuff.

QT: 01;27;09;09

CINDY MCCAIN:

Well they pulled me in and said—they were kind of chatting back and forth there, it’s—chatting in Hindi and I’m—ok, I’m not being disrespectful but I’m kind of thinking, “What’s going on here?” And so finally one of the ministers looks up and he goes, “We can help these babies right here.” And me being the neurotic traveler that I am slammed my fist down on the table and then I said, “God dammit, then do it! Why haven’t you done it?” I think I scared them because they started talking again. Stamp, stamp, stamp, she’s out. Get her out of here. It was—it—we were literally stamping the kids visas and their passports on the way to the airport in the back of the van, and I realized, I—when I was on—ya know, I’m on this flight, I’ve got these two babies, I have a friend helping me and I’m looking at Bridget and I think, “I can’t give her up, what have I done. I can’t hand her to somebody.”

QT: 01;28;10;12

CINDY MCCAIN:

The other baby went with some very good friends of ours and I went, literally got off the plane and handed my husband his new daughter and I gotta say, that’s a test of a marriage. He was—he never balked, he never wavered, he said, “Bring her on. Welcome home.” But—so that’s how we found his—met his fourth child, with us, our fourth together.

QT: 01;28;37;16

TITLE:

How Cindy began her philanthropy work

QT: 01;28;41;18

CINDY MCCAIN:

(Cross talk) We were both very busy and to me, it—what I was doing, it—I—we started doing it because there was an earthquake in a place that I had known and—and it was a remote island that John and I traveled to. Anyway, and it just—I was embarrassed because it was a trust territory of the United

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States and what I saw were ya know, rats in the OR and no beds and all this, and I was embarrassed. So I thought, well, we can send equipment. And so that's how it all started and then I realized that there was something in me that was driving this, I don't know what it is to this day, but it's something I know I need to ha—I have to do it. It's part of—part of what makes me happy. And so that's really how it got started.

QT: 01;29;30;19

TITLE:

The children have John's characteristics

QT: 01;29;35;18

CINDY MCCAIN:

He's very evident in all—all of the kids, older ones too, very evident in them. In our case with Meghan, we call Meghan McCain John McCain in a dress because she is—she has his tenaciousness, his drive, his ferocity on things, his—his temper on occasion. He—she's very much John McCain. In his boys, I see in Jack, the older boy, I see his—his respect and honor for our country; our others do too but Jack carried it differently because he ha—it's his name.

QT: 01;30;14;15

CINDY MCCAIN:

And so I saw in Jack, never wanting to say you had to go to the Naval Academy realizing that he had to go to the Naval Academy because it was part of who we are and—and doing it well and honoring it and—and still in the navy and still being, ya know, still serving our country. And in Jimmy, I see a combination of everything. I see a little of me, I see a little of my father, we call him my father reincarnated actually, and—and then his father because of his voracious love for reading. He's probably the most well-read reader of anybody I've ever met, my son. So—there's in—he's in—he's in all of them in one way or another.

QT: 01;30;58;14

TITLE:

The military legacy continues with the children

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QT: 01;31;03;06

CINDY MCCAIN:

Our son Jimmy joined the Marines at age 17. We had to sign—and this is at the height of the surge, the—you know, he—and as you know, deployed with the Marine Corps while John was running for President of the United States, he deployed. I've had some tough times before but all a mother wants to do is talk about their son serving. You know, I mean, you just want to tell everybody and then talk about it because it makes it easier and I couldn't say a word because we would've endangered him. And so—he—and he served his country well and is now in the Army Guard. He's a good kid. Yeah.

QT: 01;31;41;04

TITLE:

On John working in Washington

QT: 01;31;46;04

CINDY MCCAIN:

Well, when John was—when John was first elected and we started having children, it was a conscious decision on—by both of us to raise our children in Arizona. We knew there was gonna be a huge sacrifice, mainly for him because he's the one that had to commute. With that said, he never missed a weekend. He never m—now he missed some mid-week you know, plays, and you know, tee-ball games and all that kind of stuff. But the way I portrayed it to the kids, of course t—you could see him on TV, you could do that, is that I portrayed it in kind of a deployed manner.

QT: 01;32;22;13

CINDY MCCAIN:

He's serving his country, he's away, he has to be away but you know you'll see him on the weekends. I mean you'd have to ask them but I don't think they outwardly thought they were being denied their father at all in any way. He was really diligent about it. It wasn't always easy for him and it wasn't always easy for me, too. Friday would hit—Thursday or Friday whenever he would come home and Friday would hit and I'd be hanging from the ceiling

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from having had 'em all week you know, and then of course they turned into instant angels when he'd walk through the door. It's like, really? These aren't my kids. An hour ago you were fighting. So yeah, but he never—he—he never—never wavered in that. I can't complain about that at all.

QT: 01;33;05;12

TITLE:

John took his son Jack to the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon

QT: 01;33;11;07

CINDY MCCAIN:

We were given the opportunity to travel with the Today show on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon so we started in Hanoi with—with Matt Lauer and the group, went to the prison, saw the places, listened to his dad reminisce. It was important for John in his mind and I believe so to show Jack what had happened, because there are several lessons in that. Not just what happened to him, but what happened as a result of this occasionally mismanaged war. I mean, you—I don't mean to make light of this and I'm not—I don't want to be political here, 'cause it—that's not what this is about, but we wanted Jack to understand and understand that with sacrifice can come just what happened to his father, danger. And I think it was a—it was a really fun trip for Jack and it was also very eye opening.

QT: 01;34;13;08

CINDY MCCAIN:

There's a particular picture. Hopefully I can give it to you, it's of Jack standing with his arms like this and he was touching both walls of his cell, of his dad's cell. That was pretty—that's—that's the one thing that Jack still remembers that was the most poignant for him, and then seeing a place that John described in the prison where he had been but where Do Moi(?), the former leader of Vietnam had been and escaped from. So it—ya know, it's a—it's a huge history, and then being able to go on to Saigon with everyone and see the other side of the—of what occurred, and talking to some of the reporters that had been there and then doing the Today Show live in the square, which was for us—and he did it with—Jack did it with his dad. It was—it was—no

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family ever gets those kind of opportunities. I think we're very unique in that respect.

QT: 01;35;11;21

CINDY MCCAIN:

And let me also mention, showing Jack the monument on the lake in Hanoi and the humor in it because you know, as you know, it says, 'John McCain, US Airforce. Major in US Air Force' on it and ya know, depicts him as being a traitor and all that kind of stuff, being able to show Jack that also.

QT: 01;35;34;01

TITLE:

The emotional impact of the Saigon trip on John

QT: 01;35;38;00

CINDY MCCAIN:

John was able to see it through Jack's eyes which I think was very—very bonding for the two of them. He—and since then we've taken all of our kids to the prison in Hanoi and gone all over Vietnam as a result. It's a gorgeous country and my husband enjoys it, as do we.

QT: 01;36;00;22

TITLE:

When John decided to go into politics

QT: 01;36;06;00

CINDY MCCAIN:

It was fun, it was interesting. He came home as I said, he started speaking to various rotary clubs. His reputation preceded him and so there were a lot of people curious about him and wanting him to speak at various civic organizations and things like that and so it kind of began there and it—it grew. It was very easy to tell that people wanted him to go in, into something public in that respect. And it was—I didn't have to say anything, there was a wave of people that wanted him to run and so the decision was easy. Ya

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know, what did I know? I was young, I didn't have kids. I—ya know, this looked exciting to me so—'cause I thought I was gonna marry—I thought I had married a naval officer that would be in the navy the rest of his life and so this was a different turn for me.

QT: 01;36;58;10

TITLE:

John's first campaign

QT: 01;37;03;09

CINDY MCCAIN:

Your first election obviously is your most—your first campaign and first election is the one you remember the most and I—I draw on experiences; I have drawn on them through the various years of campaigning. It was tough. We were in a—we took—we were running for what had been—was John Rhodes seat, he had retired, so it was an East Valley urban district that was small. It was district 1. It was heavily Mormon, it was heavily, ya know, old Arizona kind of thing. So one of the first things I remember is a snide remark which is always the things you remember, was a gentleman at a rotary club that said well, "Well you're not from Arizona. You've never live—" you know, "You—you're not a native, what do you know about Arizona, you're not a native Arizonan." And he said, "The longest place I've ever lived in my life is Hanoi." That shut him down. And I just thought, "Yes!" That was great.

QT: 01;38;02;13

CINDY MCCAIN:

But—but it's things like that, we had to work hard. It was literally door to door. He and I would work one side of the street; he'd work the other side of the street in the heat in Arizona in the Summer. But that paid off because he got about as many votes as doors we knocked on that summer. He beat an incumbent state legislature. He beat another man who was—who was a great civic person in the city of Mesa. We—he—I mean people saw something different in him and something—someone that would be a great leader and is a great leader.

QT: 01;38;39;16

TITLE

The first election night and the win

QT: 01;38;43;23

CINDY MCCAIN:

Ok. Election night was—it was crazy. It was raining like hell outside which is very unusual for Arizona. It was raining and it was—you know, just—and your jammed in this little, tiny, dirty headquarters that we had in this strip mall in Mes—in Mesa Arizona, and it was a long night because as usual in Arizona the machines broke down so the—the numbers were coming very slowly, so it was late when we found out. And we're in a little bit of disbelief actually; even though our number had shown that we were doing well, in those days we operate—operated our side of the campaign with one pager. We didn't have cell phones. We had a pager, I don't know how you could do that now. But—and so we—it was jammed in there.

QT: 01;39;36;17

CINDY MCCAIN:

It was jammed with friends, family, and he won. The primary was—winning the primary all—for all intents and purposes won the election because it was a heavily republican district. So it was winning that primary that was probably the biggest thing I'll ever remember.

QT: 01;39;55;07

TITLE:

Mo Udall and the days when bipartisanship still existed

QT: 01;40;00;03

CINDY MCCAIN:

He liked many parts of it. I mean, yes, of course he wanted to be a congressman, but his relationship that he developed with Mo Udall was probably the best benefit from those years in the House. He learned—Mo

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took him under his wing. That was in the days when bipartisanship really was part of the congress. And Mo took him under his wing, taught John about the land in Arizona. Taught him about the Native Americans, really what they were and why we have to protect them, really made John the Arizonan that he is in so many respects. It is greatly—almost completely due to Mo Udall. So those kinds of things—but he knew that he wanted to go on. He—when he got into the house, he realized he really did want to be a Senator. And so that wa—the next step was when Barry Goldwater retired.

QT: 01;40;54;14

CINDY MCCAIN:

Yeah, yeah. Mo was the guy. And you know, in the later years when Mo was so ill, John never missed a week, he'd go see him. He never missed a week. And he said, "Sometimes I knew he was there and sometimes I didn't know that he was there, but somehow he always perked up when I walked in." So—

QT: 01;41;11;21

TITLE

Barry Goldwater

QT: 01;41;17;11

CINDY MCCAIN:

I was born and raised in Arizona. I grew up on the—not only the legend and—and the honor of knowing Barry Goldwater but when I was in high school, I toilet papered his house. And I told him that one night at a din—at a big republican dinner. Yeah, of course we—I knew Barry; I knew Barry in large part because of my father and he was—he's a legend, he is Arizona in so many ways. He's part of what real Arizona was about, Like Mo. You've heard the stories about Mo's family and Barry's family and what they did for each other in the early years of our state. It—Barry was a—was an incredible guy but he was also—he was older. He didn't feel well and that weighed on him a great deal and it weighed on John because Barry had been such an amazing person.

QT: 01;42;11;20

CINDY MCCAIN:

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We had—when Barry was in his later years and was really not going to live very much longer, Susan called us and said, “I’m gonna let you know when it’s time to come, I want you to come.” And she called and we went and it was a beautiful Summer day as I remember because it was hot during the funeral so it was a summer day. We went up to their house which sat on a huge hill in Arizona, in Phoenix, and his bed was up against this glorious glass window that overlooked the entire valley, a valley of which he took the tractor to drag the airport strip; he’s the one that made the—the main—that drug part of the road for the freeway—I mean, he’s the one that laid out, he and the city fathers laid out Phoenix and Arizona.

QT: 01;43;00;07

CINDY MCCAIN:

And he was—he was in bed looking at it and—and re—checking with Susie to make sure he was home and all of those things and John and I walked in and you know, I’m not—John still isn’t sure whether Barry recognized him or not but he said hello and they—they chatted a bit and all that and for a few minutes and it came time to leave and Barry grabbed my hand and—‘cause we had been sitting very close to him, he grabbed my hand and I grabbed it back and held it. Ya know, he was kind of looking and talking a bit, and you know, not making a lot of sense, not—nothing that we were talking about but just kind of reminiscing a bit and all that but he wouldn’t let go and not that I wanted him to let go but he wouldn’t let go until finally, I realized I really had to—there were other people there, I really, gently, took my hand away, patted him, and gave him a kiss. And we walked out, and he died that night. And Susan Goldwater was so funny, ‘cause when that happened, she said, “You know, Barry always loved a pretty woman.” He wa—it was just such a touching moment; it really was a moment I’ll always remember.

QT: 01;44;12;02

TITLE

John’s run for Barry Goldwater’s seat

QT: 01;44;17;08

CINDY MCCAIN:

Barry was supportive. Like a lot of things, Barry had been there a long time and he had his team of supporters and a lot of them were skeptical. A lot of

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them didn't like the idea that—that a person that hadn't been in the state very long would run for Barry Goldwater's seat but once John was elected, it was just fine, it really was. There was never a rift between Barry and John, it was more staff to staff and you know how that—how all that goes. And if you think about it, there had only been two other senator—one other senator I think because he took Carl Haden's seat I believe and then John took Barry's seat so—we're a young state but yeah, and it—and what an honor to be able to take the seat of a man like Barry Goldwater. Or borrow—I should say, not take the seat but to enjoy the seat that he held.

QT: 01;45;13;06

CINDY MCCAIN:

He keeps his desk, he sits at Barry's desk every day.

QT: 01;45;17;10

CINDY MCCAIN:

Also, besides the desk in John's office are a series of photographs of Native Americans that Barry took and that Barry gave to John and they're—they're so—these are from the 40's that he took while he was—he was rafting the river. 70th person to raft the Colorado River. It—what a wonderful reminder of why we're there and what this is all about. It's wonderful.

QT: 01;45;42;10

TITLE

On the choice to raise their kids in Arizona

QT: 01;45;46;20

CINDY MCCAIN:

I lived—lived here the first year he was in Congress and then we—we got pregnant with Megan and that was second term and so it was—it was—I wasn't unhappy not to be in Washington, this is a tough town, and we wanted our kids to be raised out there. So I wanted my kids to experience and know the best of Washington DC, not the ugly side, and so for us it was never a question.

QT: 01;46;14;19

CINDY MCCAIN:

It was a great move. I really am an Arizona person. I don't like the cold weather, so.

QT: 01;46;20;15

TITLE

McCain's first campaign for Senate

QT: 01;46;26;06

CINDY MCCAIN:

Well the—the campaign for Senate obviously was different. I mean I'm stating the obvious just with the job but the campaign was so much bigger and it was statewide clearly but the ability to get around statewide still with not many communication—I mean you had a phone but you didn't have a cell phone, you know—all those things, was—was a challenge and it was—they wanted to see John McCain. They didn't want to see a surrogate, although they liked having me, they really wanted to see and touch him and know who this guy is. And the challenge was getting him around and—and making sure that we had every—every place in Arizona and we did. It was—it was a fun race in that respect but it was also a taste of later races. I mean it—a statewide race is nothing to—nothing to sneeze at. I wouldn't want to run in California, let's put it that way.

QT: 01;47;20;22

TITLE:

Nothing slows John down

QT: 01;47;24;20

CINDY MCCAIN:

You—you couldn't slow him down, there—nothing slows him down, and he was—as you—you—him—he's one of the most vibrant people I've ever met.

And so what they saw was a man that was—had been badly injured and was doing just fine and was loving doing what he was doing, which I thought was an important message, you know?

QT: 01;47;46;21

CINDY MCCAIN:

He never complains. He never complains about anything.

QT: 01;47;51;11

TITLE

The Keating Five Scandal

QT: 01;47;59;04

CINDY MCCAIN:

We had—had not kept accurate enough records. We had records but it just didn't—we—we had done a good job of records, so flying on airplanes and things—although we—we'd reported it, just—anyway, it didn't work, we didn't do it the right way. And of course the meeting. He went in—when he walked in—he still tells me, when he walked in the door of that meeting that had been arranged for this, he knew that this was going to be a problem because there was too many Senators there, there was a regulator there, it was—and Charlie Keating was sitting there. I mean it w—it was not good, it was not good.

QT: 01;48;39;14

CINDY MCCAIN:

And as a result, it grew as you know, I mean this became the Keating Five—special—a special person was appointed to hold the hearings and all these kinds of things. It—it tarnished his honor in his mind. It was about his honor and his dignity and his—and his—anyone who knows him knows he's human, you make mistakes. But in this case, he—he is not the man that was being depicted publicly in the Washington Post and the New York Times and everything, so that—that really tore him up and it tore me up. I blame myself for a lot of it 'cause the recordkeeping, ya know I—I blame myself for not doing a better job or doing something about it.

QT: 01;49;31;02

CINDY MCCAIN:

And it—it—it was a couple of years' worth of torture, I'll be honest with you, for both of us. I mean, we sat in the hearing room, the hearings took place day in and day out and watching my husband being dressed down by people in my opinion that couldn't hold a candle to him killed me, I mean it broke my heart. And it stalled him a bit. Not stalled, but just kind of—ya know, it was that notch. It was—obviously, it was not a good time for any of us. I mean, I became ill. I got into—I was medicating myself, I mean it was all—ya know, it did a number on both of us, only to realize in later years it made both of us stronger and certainly better at what we do but that ya know, life hands you—hands you things that you don't expect and you just do the best you can and that was certainly true with him and he did an amazing job and I wish I had done better, I'll be honest with you.

QT: 01;50;46;20

TITLE

On Charlie Keating

QT: 01;50;50;12

CINDY MCCAIN:

It's Keating genuinely—you know, we got to know him during the Senate race and Keating in my opinion genuinely liked John because he was a naval officer, he had been in the navy and—Keating had been in—Charlie Keating had been in the navy and so they shared this kind of common bond and so we never—you know, John is—John is the most believing person ever until you prove him wrong. And then—and John—so John believed it, ya know? He trusted him a great deal. And then when we realized that this was not at all what this was about, then it became—I mean, it was a very dark period in our—in our family. I mean, and you know the results, you know what happened with Lincoln Savings and everything else.

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QT: 01;51;34;04

TITLE:

The outcome of the Keating Five and the Lincoln Savings and Loan Scandal

QT: 01;51;40;02

CINDY MCCAIN:

Well, the Keating Five thing was—John was slapped on the hand, he was given a written letter as you know that slapped him on the hand. The other guys took it a lot harder because they had done a lot more, but—then the Lincoln Savings and Loan issue blew up and you find out that there are other things going on too and I'm just—I mean we—both of us, it just blew us both away. We just didn't understand and it was really hard to get your arms around, but we thought it was a friend and that was not the case.

QT: 01;52;15;08

TITLE

The Keating scandal was hard on John

QT: 01;52;19;03

CINDY MCCAIN:

He is his own worst critic on everything and holds himself to a higher standard, he really does. He tries his hardest to be the best but do the most honorable thing and that was just a—it was a mess. I mean it was a real mess. And then for hearings to occur and you know, all the publicity and all the—all the stuff that went on, it was a hard time. It was a real hard time.

QT: 01;52;46;06

TITLE:

Cindy's father gave John a job when he left the military

QT: 01;52;51;12

CINDY MCCAIN:

When my husband came home from—after he retired and we moved back out to Arizona, my father employed him and he gave him a job that was—it

wasn't described as public relations but it enabled John to get to know the business and get around, and so it was—it was—it was fun. It also gave John the latitude that he could—could—could use to think about what he was going to do next and all those things. I know he—I knew he wasn't going to be a beer man forever but it was—it was a lovely thing for my father to do and John enjoyed it.

And then of course we—about a year later, Rhodes announced he was retiring and then we—the rest is history.

QT: 01;53;38;19

TITLE:

What motivated John to pursue campaign finance reform

QT: 01;53;44;08

CINDY MCCAIN:

I think campai—campaign finance re—reform resulted on his part as a result of what happened at the Keating Five, what—the imperfections in the campaign law—campaign finance laws, the inability or ability to give money in a certain—ya know, more so than what it should—should've been, the influence of money. I mean John saw it first hand. It was—it was—you know, it wasn't a good thing and I think campaign finance reform was certainly a part of that experience. It wasn't all of it but it was a part of it. He saw a system that was really corrupt and really needed to be reformed. And as you know, they got it passed and then the Supreme Court overruled it so—

QT: 01;54;28;14

TITLE:

John worked with a democratic senator on Campaign Finance Reform

QT: 01;54;32;17

CINDY MCCAIN:

He worked as you know his co—the person who worked with him, the Democrat, was Feingold, Senator Feingold from Wisconsin, and Senator

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Feingold used to joke that when he'd go through an airport, they would call him McCain-Feingold because they thought his first name was McCain. The two of them worked beautifully together on that—on that issue and on that law and it was hard work too, it was really hard work. As a result of it, the— the Kennedy Center gave us—the Kennedy School up in Boston gave John and Senator Feingold the coura—Profiles in Courage award, excuse me for not remembering, the Profiles in Courage award. And that was really special, that was real—'cause Teddy was still alive then and it was just a special time.

QT: 01;55;24;04

TITLE

Why the Kennedy Center award meant so much to John and John's relationship with Teddy Kennedy

QT: 01;55;31;00

CINDY MCCAIN:

Well, for a number of reasons. Number one, just the legacy of the awar—I mean of the—of the award, it's a—it's a tremendous honor. And number two, the Kennedy family—he was very close, had been all through the years with Ted Kennedy. They agreed on almost nothing but they were friends because they could fight, they could argue, they could disagree, they could you know, lobby back and forth with each other and still be friends, and fight like the dickens on the floor and still be friends, that's what that—that's what the Senate used to be like. And I was so privileged to be able to watch that on occasion too. It was a wonderful thing to see. And so he respected and loved Teddy like a brother.

QT: 01;56;18;01

CINDY MCCAIN:

It went right t—right to the heart of who John is and what—what drives him and makes him who he is. It was—it was really—it was a very special weekend for us.

QT: 01;56;29;18

TITLE:

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John's run for the presidency in 2000

QT: 01;56;34;17

CINDY MCCAIN:

I think he thought he could make a difference and I believe he could've. It was a time in our country that the—it was before 9/11 but—but John saw things in the world and certainly in the country, that he thought he could be helpful and—and change, you know, make some changes that were good. It was a—that—we call that the fun campaign. It was before twitter, it was before Facebook, it was before all the—all this 24-hour news that's just ab—has absorbed this country. It was about real issues and about really campaigning, physical campaigning. You know, we call it hands on and you know, retail politics. It was fun, it was really—and New Hampshire, which is where we spent most of our time was incredible. South Carolina was a different story and we moved on.

QT: 01;57;33;04

TITLE:

The McCain campaign bus in the 2000 primaries

QT: 01;57;37;07

CINDY MCCAIN:

Oh, the straight talk express. And it was a crappy bus. It was really bad but it was our straight talk express, we had it.

QT: 01;57;44;23

TITLE

The McCain's had a healthy relationship with press during the 2000 presidential campaign

QT: 01;57;50;10

CINDY MCCAIN:

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John sat in the back of the bus every day, surrounded by reporters. Anyone got a turn, you know, it was small back there so they'd have to rotate them in and out and I developed a relationship with the photographers, because they were always on the bus. And so I got to know these Pulitzer Prize winning men. There were three of them on the campaign that were amazing, I mean just—their stories and just everything about them, they were very creative and they had sometimes asked me if I wanted to tweak the photograph just because I was looking tired that day so I'd take em—whatever you can do, yeah. But it was fun because we knew them, we got to know their families. We got to know, you know, a lot about ea—we were a family together. You become that in any campaign, especially tough ones really bring that—bring out the best or the worst in people.

QT: 01;58;41;21

TITLE

John's win in New Hampshire in the 2000 presidential primary

QT: 01;58;47;03

CINDY MCCAIN:

Election night in New Hampshire, we never ever expected—we got a hint as the polls were closing that we might be doing ok, you know, but we never ever dreamed we'd get those kinds of points, ever. And it was a testimony to John's ability to get a straight talk message out to people and New Hampshire, you know, is—New Hampshire's all about retail politics. They want to see you not just once but two or three times. They want to touch you, they want to ask you questions. And John's really good at that. And he likes it, he loves it. And so it paid off in New Hampshire, it paid off.

QT: 01;59;23;10

TITLE

Dirty politics reigned in South Carolina during the 2000 presidential primaries

QT: 01;59;29;03

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CINDY MCCAIN:

Well, obviously beating George Bush in that first race so handily the way we did in New Hampshire obviously fired up his guys and so we moved on to South Carolina and the next thing we knew, to my—still, to this day, the dirtiest campaign I ever experienced was that one in South Carolina. For instance, there was a flier sent around to churches and to people, “Did you know the Senator McCain has a black child?” Hell yes we do and proud of it, but that’s the kind of thing—it was this fear mongering stuff that—that quite frankly Karl Rove and others did on that campaign. It was—it was really—I won’t use the word unfair, because it’s politics but it was really unkind, and it was unkind to the voters because that was a lie.

QT: 02;00;24;11

CINDY MCCAIN:

I mean, it was a loving daughter that you know, and—and unfortunately about three or four years later, my daughter googled herself and found that, and so I spent the next three or four days explaining to her, no the President doesn’t hate you. No, he doesn’t think that you’re bad because you’re black, no. But I mean that’s a traumatic thing for a child and that’s where I resent what they did, is because of the aftermath that they caused in that race.

QT: 02;00;52;20

CINDY MCCAIN:

My husband may be more gracious than I am but I’m still mad about it so I hold grudges.

QT: 02;00;59;02

TITLE

The Confederate flag debate in South Carolina during the 2000 presidential primaries

QT: 02;01;03;15

CINDY MCCAIN:

He was asked about the confederate flag and whether or not it should be taken down and you know, the—the Governor and the AG and the people

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from South Carolina that were in leadership positions at that time were lobbying him to say no it shouldn't be taken down, and against his better judgment, he says this, I know you've—you've talked to him about it, but against his better judgment, he said, "Leave it up." And as soon as he did it, he goes, "You know, this is a bad mistake." Not politically. It was the wrong thing, it was the wrong image, it was wrong or the people of South Carolina and so he felt like he'd done a disservice to the folks of South Carolina and regrets it to this day.

QT: 02;01;46;22

CINDY MCCAIN:

And it—and you know, it's one of those—it's—it's a mistake, not a light one and it was a wrong one at the time but he—he—clearly, you know where he stands now and says he should have said it at the time.

QT: 02;01;58;20

TITLE

John went back to South Carolina to apologize and clarify his stance on the Confederate Flag

QT: 02;02;04;18

CINDY MCCAIN:

Yeah, he went back. It was his idea to go back and talk about it. It was his i—it took longer to get me to South Carolina, back to South—it took Lindsey Graham saying, "Come on, you know, I'll be right there with you." Because I was still so hurt by what happened, but John took it head on, went back, said no, I was wrong, this is what I should've said. I really—not that he meant anything differently but he said I was wrong and admitted he was wrong but that's who John is, he admits when he makes mistakes and says he was wrong and that's what we love about him, you know? That's what I love about him.

QT: 02;02;41;09

TITLE

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The social and political environment of the 2008 presidential campaign and John's respect for Obama

QT: 02;02;45;17

CINDY MCCAIN:

The campaign was different for many reasons in '08. Number one, there was a war going on. Number two, Twitter and Facebook were starting to pick up speed. The 24-hour news cycle is incestuous on these campaigns and then of course, the fall of the stock market, and the bottom fell out of the—the economic arena in the United States. It was—for John, it was—he said that he knew the day that the stock market fell that we were in trouble and that we probably weren't going to win it. But he kept on fighting obviously. It had nothing to do with Barack Obama at all. Barack Obama was a good candidate and a good campaigner and it was just the circumstances.

QT: 02;03;36;18

CINDY MCCAIN:

You know, they're both good men. John defended Barack Obama when a woman tried to imply that he was Muslim and a bad person if he's Muslim and should he run for president, those kinds of things, you saw the clips from New Hampshire. I would've expected nothing less from John when that woman said that. I knew he was gonna blast her and he should have. He wasn't quite blasting, he was kind about it but he let her have it and he should have. That's not right, there's no room in politics for things like that. At least there wasn't in those days.

QT: 02;04;09;13

TITLE

The role of twenty-four-hour news on the outcome of the 2008 race and John's grace in his loss

QT: 02;04;15;04

CINDY MCCAIN:

But the—the idea of 24-hour news and the idea that you know, he was a very charismatic candidate. He was the first African American candidate. Now

that's not the reason he should've been president but it was certainly part of it and that was a good thing, it was a good thing for America. It was—you know, it just wasn't in the cards for us and that's ok and we knew that. As John liked to say, how—you know, people would say, "Well, how'd you feel afterwards?" "Well, I'd wake up every two hours and cry like a baby." Wake up every two hours, cry like a baby. It was a—it was a good race though and John ran a really honorable race that—in that one as he does all the time but he ran an honorable race and I was very proud of him.

QT: 02;05;00;16

CINDY MCCAIN:

I've never been—I've never seen him more eloquent I should say than the night that he gave his—his concession speech in Arizona. What words. I mean there—they're—I mean, it was not only John McCain but it was the future. He was talking about the future of our country. It was wonderful, yeah.

QT: 02;05;26;03

TITLE

How Sarah Palin became the Vice Presidential candidate

QT: 02;05;32;06

CINDY MCCAIN:

Ya know, it was—it—there were a lot of people with a lot of input into whether or not—who we picked for Vice President, etcetera. And John wanted someone that would first of all be good for the country, number one, but that he could work with and that he could—could—they could be a team together and there were a lot of people that fit that bill, there were a lot of people. In Sarah's case, she'd—he saw something in her that was invigorating. She invigorated our campaign, she got huge crowds in our campaign. She was vocal and she was straight talking the way he is. And there were problems also, every campaign has problems but she did a hell of a job. And the choice of Sarah Palin, we would do it again because at that time it was the right thing to do.

QT: 02;06;25;07

CINDY MCCAIN:

She was viscerally treated by the press corps. If—if things had been reversed and that had been Hillary Clinton, I don't think they would have chewed her up the way that they chewed up Sarah Palin. I thought that was terribly unfair, I thought it was sexist too. Just because she was a woman they were beating the crap out of her. Issues? Yes. Because she's a woman? No.

QT: 02;06;48;20

TITLE

Cindy's relationship with Sarah and Todd Palin

QT: 02;06;53;16

CINDY MCCAIN:

We got along great. I got along great with Todd because that's really who I traveled with. It was a lot of fun. It was an interesting—no one had ever traveled with a male—a male counterpart before. He was—he's a lovely man and someone who is a great outdoorsman and just really loves Alaska and was a little overwhelmed with what was going on understandably but loves his wife and is true to form, very loyal to her.

QT: 02;07;20;15

TITLE

How Cindy learned John was sick

QT: 02;07;27;07

CINDY MCCAIN:

I suspected something 'cause there were just little things that were telling me, things—something wasn't right with him. So he had a physical coming up and we made sure that the schedule was such that it couldn't be pushed, it couldn't be 'cause we thought he needs to be looked at. See—you know, just see what's going on there, maybe it's nothing but of course now you know the

outcome of it. I found out the gravity of it—I was in San Diego when he went to the—to the physical and I got this convoluted phone call from him that was—he was—he wasn't lying to me but he was kind of lying to me.

QT: 02;08;04;12

CINDY MCCAIN:

Saying, "Yeah, I'm going to go back. It's a melanoma, little melanoma or something like that on my forehead." And I went, said, "Well, let me know if there's anything I—I can come home very easily." And then I got a phone call from Rick Davis who as you know is a good friend of ours and a former—former campaign manager that said, "You need to get home now." And I said, "Do you—what is it? Do you know what it is?" "I don't know but you need to come home now." And he was already in Arizona so I flew home immediately and John was just coming out of surgery when I got home and the physicians pulled me into a room, you know, with Rick and with others and explained what was going on. I still didn't understand that the—the difficult nature of what he had. I understood that we were in trouble but I didn't understand the gravity of it. I—I—it hadn't—hadn't hit me yet.

QT: 02;09;02;20

CINDY MCCAIN:

And John—I go into John's room and they're all telling me these things, I go in there, he's wide awake, he's talking to the nurses, he's telling 'em what year it is. I mean, he did some amazing things that day that brain surgery patients don't do but he was—he went home the next day, so I thought oh it can't be that bad, look at him. you know, and then of course we got a different set of news a little bit later.

QT: 02;09;24;11

TITLE

On realizing the seriousness of John's illness

QT: 02;09;29;01

CINDY MCCAIN:

Well, we had all—the word Glioblastoma had been used but only in the manner it could be, it couldn't be, we don't know, you know, we don't—we're not sure. And then our physician came, or his physician came to our house and sat down, explained exactly what—it was after the MRI and how they let it settle down and all this stuff and explained to us exactly what it was and that this is going to be difficult, this is going to be hard. I still, although it hit me—obviously we were terribly—everyone's terribly upset but I just looked at him and I think, look at him, he looks fine. You know, this—this can't be—it's not happening. You know, it took me a while. It took me a while to really grasp what was going on.

QT: 02;10;22;03

CINDY MCCAIN:

And then as—as miracles happen, all of our friends started showing up, our good friends, our close friends and we all went to the cabin and we were all there for what, four or five days and just talked and ya know, ate, and ya know, enjoyed each other's company and that was very helpful for me.

QT: 02;10;42;01

TITLE

How John handled the diagnosis

QT: 02;10;46;16

CINDY MCCAIN:

He wants—he wants no—nobody to pull any punches with him, he wants to know exactly what it is, what the chances are, you know, all those things. He's just—that's how he is, that's who he is, and—and that's what he wanted and he get—the only time he really gets mad is when he thinks people aren't telling him the truth or kind of sugar coating it a bit. Yeah, he—and that week that our friends were there, that we were up there, he was very upfront about it, "Look, these are the chances, these are the—" you know, he was talking 'cause our friends were all upset too and so he was calming them, I mean and calming me, he was the one being the—the one that was taking this and leading with it as always.

QT: 02;11;31;20

TITLE

In the beginning, the diagnosis was a lot to absorb

QT: 02;11;37;02

CINDY MCCAIN:

John was a little angry at the doctor. The doctor certainly told us what it was and said you have a lot of options and these kinds of things and really wanted to hear chances, wanted to hear timing, you know, and no doctor's going to do that right away, and I—we had to explain to him, "Look, you know everything that we know and you know everything right now," and as we've gone on, as things have progressed and things have changed, he's learned more now. And they're being very upfront with him but in the beginning, I don't think he heard it all either. I think we were all in kind of disbelief. You know, it's a lot to absorb, it's like drinking from a firehose with this.

QT: 02;12;18;10

TITLE

The treatment for John's illness

QT: 02;12;22;16

CINDY MCCAIN:

The treatment was proton radiation at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix combined with chemotherapy and it's a—it's a common—it's a standard form of treatment for this kind of—kind of tumor, and it's—and of course they had operated on him so the tumor was gone, it was whether or not it could be re—whether or not it would grow back or anything and it didn't, so in that respect you know, we're lucky, but you have to keep going on this because this is a very vicious disease so we're continuing you know, different treatments and things and you know, we'll do the best we can with it.

QT: 02;13;00;21

TITLE

On John going back to Washington after his surgery against doctor's orders

QT: 02;13;05;03

CINDY MCCAIN:

He—he not only knew he should go back, he needed to go back, for him. He wanted people, number one, to know, you know, he was—with this issue it was important and number two, that—that you know, he's not gone yet. You know, we're here and he's—he's tough and the importance of the job and the importance of—of respecting the United States Senate and that's—those are things that are important to him and he nee—he—and so he argued back and forth with the doctors and weighed the pros and cons and we all argued—I don't mean loudly argued, just discussed and weighed back and forth and he dug in and said, "Nope, I'm going back, I'm going back." So we did and against his doctor's orders but ya know, look what happened and he's so much—we're so glad he did come back for it.

QT: 02;14;58;02

TITLE

On John's vote against the 2017 Healthcare bill

QT: 02;14;02;20

CINDY MCCAIN:

But I saw it with the rest of the nation, that's how I saw his vote. I didn't know what his vote was gonna be.

QT: 02;14;09;03

CINDY MCCAIN:

I saw my husband step on the Senate floor in the middle of the night and the last person to vote and then do this, and I was like everyone, "Wow, ok. That's what he's done." Ok, good, that's what he believes and that's great and we support him 100% but the amount of pressure they had put on him coming—the Vice President was back in the back room, they had the Governor of Arizona in the back room. The Governor of Arizona had supported John's negative call until late in the game and then turned—you

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know, flipped, and so the amount of pressure that was put on him was really tremendous and he did the right thing. As always, he did the right thing.

QT: 02;15;03;16

TITLE

The Healthcare bill and John's relationship with Lindsey Graham

QT: 02;15;10;04

CINDY MCCAIN:

It's—as he said time and time again, it's rule of order. It's what—what legislation is. This is a package that was never put in front of the Senate, never—never amended, never given hearings. John's offended by that. That's not how the Senate operates and that's not how the—how our forefathers wanted the Senate to operate. So he was offended by that, he was offended by how it was jammed down everyone's throat and said all along, the merits of the bill are some things, you know, and he has problems with the merits of the bill to a great degree and what it could do to our own home state of Arizona but—but just the—the way that it was done was very offensive. Now I say that, he and Lindsey Graham are still very good friends and they ha—they, as you saw Lindsey on—on the—during the town hall the other night, spoke eloquently about my husband. This isn't about personalities or friendships, this is about a disagreement in—in—in what this is, what this issue is. They—Lindsey and John will be friends forever and they're—they're—you know, they're two guys that—that have had too much history, so people that were betting that this would break their friendship up are way wrong on that.

QT: 02;16;32;17

TITLE

John's feelings on the partisanship of the current political environment

QT: 02;16;38;06

CINDY MCCAIN:

He hates the way that things have become so divisive and so personal. The kind of skirting the rules thing really offends him, you know, because he chairs a committee that's very important and would never think of doing something without hearings and preform(?) and the way that it's done here so those kinds of things really bother him and really offend him. And I get that, I to—you know, he's dedicated his entire life to service to our country and it's important to him.

QT: 02;17;11;03

TITLE

How the children are holding up under the stress of John's diagnosis

QT: 02;17;16;08

CINDY MCCAIN:

They're all different. The older ones, and the—John's children are very good, they've all come out to see him, we've all been together, you know, we've—we've—we text back and forth, I mean I let them know every stage of the game, what's going on. Meghan McCain, it's been very difficult for her, she's had a hard time with this and understandably, ya know. It's—it's—and so she deals with it by cooking, so we've been well fed for a long time now. Jack is—he's my stoic one and he's—ya know, he's dealing with it, ya know. But he deals with it internally. My son Jimmy is the lovable, laughable guy like he always is and it's breaking his heart, and Bridget is—although understands it, I think she's trying to ignore it. I think she thinks if she does it will go away, it's all different.

QT: 02;18;18;12

TITLE

How Cindy is dealing with John's illness

QT: 02;18;22;15

CINDY MCCAIN:

Day by day, hour by hour, you know, I just do the best I can. I have to be there for John. I'm the one person that has to be a constant here and so I just—I

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look at him and he's so strong, I have to be. I mean I can't—I can't be anything less than strong for him. So I just do the best I can. I've had my moments though where I've went away, and you know, gone and kicked the door, cried a bit, but for him I can stay strong.

QT: 02;18;51;19

TITLE

How John has changed over the course of their life together

QT: 02;18;58;04

CINDY MCCAIN:

He's tempered a bit. I mean, you know, he was—he was a young navy pilot when I met him. You know, he was—he was in Navy Liaison but I mean he was a—you know, pretty cocky kind of guy. And he's mellowed a great deal in that respect, he's—he's learned a great deal about himself. He has come into the understanding of legacy and—and—and honor as we talked about and not that that wasn't there before but—but the strength of it, how you can gain strength from it and how it can guide you as well. He's learned good lessons and bad lessons in that way and he's—he's become much more thoughtful with the—all of us, the kids. I don't know if his staff would agree but with the family, he's just thoughtful and—and much more—he's just caring, I—would be a good way to put it, he's much more caring now.

QT: 02;20;07;22

TITLE

How proud Cindy is of John

QT: 02;20;11;12

CINDY MCCAIN:

Oh my gosh, I—I—I can't say words enough that—I mean he is such an incredible person and what a life I've had with him. I mean I never thought

I'd be doing this. I'm so proud of him because he's made tough decisions. Not just in the Senate but in other ways. I mean with family, with everything, and he's just such a strong, honorable person. I'm so proud of him in every way, in every way you can be, even when he doesn't pick his socks up off the floor. I give him some slack.

QT: 02;20;51;04

TITLE

John's view of death

QT: 02;20;54;16

CINDY MCCAIN:

There were too many times he could've died; I know he's faced this before. Obviously in prison, the obvious being in prison. No, I don't think he—he is. I think what he wants to make sure of is that, that he has served his country proudly and honorably and that he's done his best and I think that's all he would ask for. I think—I think he's had moments where he—where maybe he thought he could've done more in certain ways but no, he's not afraid. He's not afraid to die.

QT: 02;21;31;07

TITLE

On John's legacy

QT: 02;21;36;08

CINDY MCCAIN:

I think his legacy is going to be—be one of—gosh, you know, we knew he was good when he was here but wow, look what he really did, when people start to look back and hopefully that won't be for a longtime but I—I just—I believe what he's done for Arizona, the—the—the st—the strength and the leadership that he has exhibited that people look to and depend on is what I think people really, really remember about him. And of course his humor, he's a funny guy.

QT: 02;22;12;15

TITLE

How Cindy will remember John

QT: 02;22;17;01

CINDY MCCAIN:

Oh gosh, I think I will remember him as—I think I'll—I think there was a—there's a photograph of John and this sounds maybe a little bit strange but there's a photograph that we have on our wall at home that's of John standing kind of on top of Squaw Peak Mountain in Arizona and he's got cowboy boots on and jeans but he's got his flight jacket on and he's just—it's sunset, he's just overlooking the valley but I think I'll remember him because he's—he's seen what you can do if you try hard. He sees that you can be a part of something that's greater than you and you can leave it in a better place and that's kind of what I see in him and I—and that picture kind of exemplifies it for me completely and it's one photograph on the wall.

QT: 02;23;16;11

TITLE

John's reaction to seeing his son in Baghdad

QT: 02;23;20;06

CINDY MCCAIN:

The one thing that I can say is that—again, I mentioned the hardest thing for me ever was watching my son deploy but watching John's reaction to it because he outwardly would never—I never saw anything. I saw him nothing but strong, being the leader, you know, that he is, and then I heard the stories about when he landed in Baghdad to see—and Jimmy was there, he—not—he didn't land to see Jimmy but Jimmy was part of him being able to stay—or to see him. Anyway, and he asked—he asked him and there was this kid standing on the tarmac that—he was all alone. He was—you know, had a gun. Obviously, he was a marine. And he looked and he said, "Who is—that's a—

who is that kid?" It was Jimmy, and he didn't recognize him and of course he got out and from what Lindsey tells me, John was a blubbering mess. He'd never tell me that but he said he was just so overwhelmed with his son.

QT: 02;24;20;00

TITLE

John's dog Burma

QT: 02;24;25;06

CINDY MCCAIN:

Burma is a dog that I gave John for Christmas about three years ago and he obviously was a puppy, it was a Chesapeake Bay Retriever and I had named it something else and I walked into John's office in Phoenix to go hand him this dog and oh he just fell in love with the dog and oh my god, this is amazing, and I said, and its name is this. And he said, "Nope, it's Burma, it's my dog." I go, "Ok." Burma is—is John's total companion. We could be up their weeks and weeks and weeks and John not be there and Burma would be very attentive and as soon as he walks in the door, he leaves everybody and goes straight for John. And I think Burma can sense there's a problem with John right now, there's an issue with him. I've been told that dogs can sense health and other things so I think that Burma definitely senses something 'cause he won't leave him. She won't leave him at all, it's great.

QT: 02;25;21;20

TITLE:

Traveling with John is like traveling with a Rockstar

QT: 02;25;26;10

CINDY MCCAIN:

I joked one time because during the campaign, the presidential race, the—you know, the press scrum was huge, it became huge and just my ability to even walk with him was becoming dangerous actually and it—it—it—I felt like—I felt like I was with Mick Jagger or somebody, I mean, between the

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people and the press and the—it was nuts, it was crazy and he still is like that, so.

END TC: 02;25;50;19