



**Life Stories**  
Individual Lives. Collective Impact.

JOHN FOLEY SR. INTERVIEW  
*JIM: THE JAMES FOLEY STORY*  
LIFE STORIES

**John Foley Sr., Jim's Father**  
**May 26, 2015**  
**Interviewed by Brian Oakes**  
**Total Running Time: 1 hour, 26 minutes and 12 seconds**

START TC: 00:00:00:00

ON SCREEN TEXT:

Life Stories Presents

00:00:05:00

BRIAN OAKES:

If you look further up, since it sounds to me right here. Yep. Okay. Thank you.  
Okay.

ON SCREEN TEXT:

John Foley Sr.

Jim's Father

00:00:11:00

BRIAN OAKES:

How did being the oldest of five siblings make Jim different in the family?

00:00:20:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:



I'm not really sure that I know. I think I think he he felt an obligation to succeed, to do, something positive in his life. I think that he, worked hard, that worked hard in school, etc., but I think he also was a very, playful person who enjoyed a good time. And one of his friends, and he was a very sophisticated goofball, but he used to, we found out later had parties at home in Wolfeboro. And one point they liked Katy in the bedroom so she wouldn't be part of obviously drinking, etc., but, she, he always wanted to enjoy times and people. But at the same time, he had a very serious, side in that he wanted to, make something important of his life. He wanted to help other people. And I think he wanted to. Have his siblings siblings look up to him as somebody who was worthwhile and. A person that they would be proud to call their brother.

00:01:32:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Looking back on him as a child and a teenager. Where did you start to see him start to like, how does one become involved with what Jim was into? The humanitarianism and the-- and the helping the--

00:01:48:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

You know, this is-- this is--

00:01:48:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Not a lotta people do that. But--



00:01:50:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

And this is a very interesting question. It's difficult to know the exact answer. The honest truth is we're finding our son through the, through the, through the. Actions of his through his life. There are lots about you and we didn't know. We knew he was a very friendly person who always wanted to help other people, but we had no idea if he was as committed to helping others as he eventually became. He went to Marquette and, you know, and through Marquette, he became involved one of their outreach programs, both habitat for humanity and one of their journeys to an Indian reservation in, in the, in the northern Midwest, northern West. He really developed the The spirit for helping others through those, for those. Experiences. And obviously when he left Marquette and history major, which is a bad thing to do. He became involved in teach for America, and I think he did that willingly. And, as you know, went to Phenix and taught in the elementary school there. But he he obviously didn't declare his. Willingness or need of commitment to, help others in a very significant way other than. What we just discussed, in other words, I think in, in high school, he wasn't involved in, you know, food kitchens or soup kitchens or, you know, necessary clean, you know, clean up projects and all the usual things that you, you, you, might expect for people who are going to go on to becoming humanitarians or, major helpers of their fellow citizens. But, he, he, he was just friendly and wanted to be part of, efforts or activities that he thought were worthwhile. So again, we we're discovering, Jim through other people and, we certainly I can certainly feel how he had the substrate, if you will, to to become the person he became. But it certainly was not something that was obvious from the front end, you know.

00:04:15:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Because he, he, he wouldn't really share.

00:04:17:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Jim was a, a passionate, active listener. He he didn't share much of his feelings. And, I guess we feel guilty that we didn't ask the right questions, but I'm not sure that we were going to get the full answer. But, that's pretty much it. I mean, he always wanted to know how we were doing what what was going on in our lives. You know, could help, etc., etc.. But but. I think in some ways you take them for granted. He was just a nice kid. And when you're young, you don't. As a parent. Really? Know who that person is going to grow up to be. If we if we in hindsight, if I had known all that stuff was inside of me, I really wouldn't have wanted to learn more about it. But it wasn't apparent at all at that point.

00:05:16:00

BRIAN OAKES:

I'm talk about kind of Jim's sacrifices and the kind of, of the sacrifices that he made for the sake of his family and kind of the sacrifices you made for him. Do you kind of recall in any of these sacrifices that he might have made for the family?

00:05:31:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:



It's a very good question. I don't know the exact. You know, magnitude of sacrifices. But he, he certainly, was aware of our financial limitations. And this mostly revolves around college. You know, he got into a number of very fine universities. But the but the financial, implications were something we couldn't do. Jim came up with the reason I really wanted to interview my cat. Well, Jim. Go ahead. But you're going to. We'll we'll fly you up. But you got to go out there by yourself. You have to, find someone to put you up, and you have to, come back, you know, and we can talk about it. So he he was very interested. I mean, he was very committed to not being a burden, but also to following his own drum. He just wanted to. I think being a place that really. Opened up his heart and. Allowed him to be somebody he wanted to be, you know, which he thought, I think, wouldn't occur locally, and he just needed a break from that, from his, I think very early 30s, very privileged upbringing. Upbringing. Brian, had an intact family, grew up in a wonderful, Norman Rockwell type town, and he just felt very privileged. And he, wanted to give some of that back to, people he knew didn't have the same chance, the same experience, particularly the children that he taught, you know.

00:07:17:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Can you describe the relationship of Jim and Michael?

00:07:19:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Jim and Michael were very close, or, as they say around here, working class. And, Jimmy was always the ringleader. He was always somebody who wanted to go off on adventures and, and, you know, pretend that whatever he would



be Davy Crockett any meaning they wanted to come along with them and, they, they never really thought, you know, they never really fought. And, until Michael learned to say no, there was no end to the, you know, any of their ventures. But they were very, very, very close.

00:07:51:00

BRIAN OAKES:

You know, Michael, when I talked to him, he said those things that he said, you know, they kind of grew up to be very different people.

00:07:56:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Absolutely.

00:07:57:00

BRIAN OAKES:

So can you talk about how Jim and Michael were different?

00:08:02:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Difficult to remember all the differences. But Michael was a very organized purposeful person. For instance, if we if we, gave the kids chores, Mike would do chores right away and be done with them and not have to be bothered with. Jimmy would sort of like, he'd get them done. He wouldn't complain, but it would be more on his time. I think Jim was a much more friendly person, a willing to able to communicate. Mike was a little shy. But both of them.



We're committed to doing the right things. You know, each in a different ways, but they're both, committed to being good people and, helping others, too.

00:08:51:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Did you ever see Michael almost taking on a role as the older brother to Jim?

00:08:58:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I think at times, and I can't remember specifics, but I can. I in my background, in the back of my mind, I can remember Michael saying, you know, that's not very bright. This you shouldn't do it this way. Why don't you just do it this way? So I'm not sure it was an older brother, but, a different, maybe more organized, a more traditional viewpoint. Michael certainly was more traditional. Jimmy was pretty much off and outside the lines, but he was going in the same direction, but just a little outside of what you know. So, I think they respect Michael, respected Jimmy for who he was and Jimmy respect. He respected Michael for who he was. They, I think, had the same goals in mind. But the path was.

00:09:45:00

BRIAN OAKES:

A little different. And Jim was Mike's best man at his wedding. Right?

00:09:49:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Yeah.

00:09:50:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Right. So how did that how how what was Mike's wedding like when Jim was there?

00:09:56:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Jim was supposed to be Michael's best man. So we went to the wedding site of the wedding on Thursday, the wedding being Saturday, and, Jim was in New York. But he was going to meet his there. And, you know, Thursday came and went. We didn't hear from Jimmy. And we became very concerned because he. Would have, you know, not allowed that to happen if you were able to. So finally, we were able to find out that he had been. Taken into custody with a number of other protesters at the Republican National Convention in New York, and they had been put in a big transportation garage and cell phone had been taken. So we found him eventually. I don't know if he got his cell phone back or not, but anyway, he took a train to western Massachusetts where the wedding went, and we were in the process of playing golf on the day before the wedding. And, you know, Jimmy shows up about the eighth and ninth hole in a big grin on his face. And, you know, Michael really wanted to be mad, but none of us could because Jim was Jim, and, he was there. And everybody is always right with the world. And, you know, I mean, everybody's able to forgive, forget, or live with or go on and allowed you me to be who he was.

00:11:25:00

BRIAN OAKES:





Michael took on a really instrumental role with the. Would you just. Yeah. Captivity in the Syrian captivity. You know, was that its kind of self-imposed responsibility that you would take on and and the other response?

00:11:41:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

No, that's a very good question. And I think with Libya, he just was in up to his ears from day one, I think because of his closeness with Jimmy and his fear for his safety and his desperate need to bring him home, it was absolutely no doubt, what he wanted to do. I'll never forget one of Michael's comments, and we organized this huge group of, Jimmy's friends. We called them, I forged friends of Jim, and we had a lot of outside help. But Michael was sort of the CEO of the group, and his statement was, you know, there are no there are no measurables other than getting Jim home. So he was just, focused on only one thing that's getting Jim home at that point, I think when Syria came. Around. We were all just blown away. This happened again. You know, we just couldn't. Oh my gosh. Oh, we. Can we do this? I think, Micah was as committed, but just blown away by the. Yeah, the need to get back up on the horse, if you will, and do this again. So. I mean, we all accepted the the responsibility, but I think we all went through the stages of, you know, total shock, you know, and then. Just what are we going to do? And then anger and then. Well, how do we how do we get organized again. What do we do next? You know, until. And Michael stepped up again. But, you know, it was clear that he was tired, you know, and dismayed that we had to do this all again. You know.

00:13:37:00

BRIAN OAKES:

When Jim was released from Libya, Michael was the one who went to meet him. Yeah, right. It was that, was decision was that was that.

00:13:47:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

That was Michael. He wanted to do it. And nobody thought the parents should be the people to do it, you know? And, we didn't find it, you know, at this point. But, that was Michael's decision to do to do that, you know.

00:14:07:00

BRIAN OAKES:

When the The New York Times articles came out about Jim and he's been very adamant about making sure that those the statements that were made in those articles were corrected. How has he expressed his concern about those articles?

00:14:27:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, I mean, I think that he was, concerned because the article intimated that he had become, he had adopted the Islamic faith, as opposed to the Roman Catholic faith that he grew up with. And, there are a number of issues associated with that in, in one of which is the fact that, you know, being, accepting the Islamic faith gave Jimmy, five times a day to pray without being, hassled or beaten or whatever else. So that certainly was one advantage of, you know, telling, his captors that he was, in fact, converting. But the real answer to the question is unknown. Did he actually convert? Well, that's only



between Jimmy and God, you know, and I think Michael was concerned was how could the New York Times assume that that, in fact, was the case, when in fact there was no knowledge of that and never would. There never would be, because it's not a an issue Jimmy can explain for himself, you know, and I think, I think Michael didn't want Jimmy to, be characterized as someone who. Gave over. His faith is growing up faith for, a faith that only gave him privileges? I don't think he wanted to be, to be demeaned for that purpose. And I think that Jimmy did pray. I think he prayed hard and long, and I think he needed some time to do that. And I think that the is, his prayer time five times a day allowed him to do that. So I think Michael wanted to protect Jimmy's image. The short answer to your question is, I think Michael wanted to protect Jimmy's image. Because he loves him so much, and he just didn't want him to be demeaned in any way whatsoever.

00:16:27:00

BRIAN OAKES:

That conviction kind of shows a lot about what their relationship was of.

00:16:31:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

And, as frustrated as Michael was to have to deal with this, like, he certainly, never grew up when we didn't love or respect him. Just like, you know. Oh, crap. We do this all over again, you know.

00:16:48:00

BRIAN OAKES:



After Jim was fired from Stars and Stripes, Jim called Michael to apologize to him, which struck Michael as odd. And not where I wanted to know why he thought. Why? Why would you think that he did that?

00:17:03:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

He would call called Michael.

00:17:05:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Yeah.

00:17:06:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, because I think he respected Michael so much. And he felt you let him down. Pretty simple. I think he called Michael before he called us. I'm not sure.

00:17:21:00

BRIAN OAKES:

What is-- the werewolf in the dark?

00:17:28:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

It's a game the kids used to play in Wolfeboro. I don't know, it's kind of like, you know. It's this is the game where you apparently have goals to get to, and you can scare people along the way, and it's just a kid's game. You know, they



used to play all the time and just love to play because they can run and scare each other. And, was just everybody waited till they could. The weather was right. And then the time was dark to play the board game.

00:18:01:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Did you see, Michael and, Jim's relationship change as they got older?

00:18:09:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

No, I didn't really. I mean, I think that. No, I think they both respected each other. Great. Great deal. I think Mike wanted to help Jimmy in whatever way he could. Jimmy was shooting nontraditional. He didn't have a house or car or any furniture or any possessions other than his, duffle bag and, computer and and, camera. But but I think, Jim could always see the value and in his spirit what he wanted to do and accomplish. So their relationship didn't change. I think there was a great deal of pain and frustration when Jimmy got recaptured. To be honest with you. And, I honestly tell you that I can't. It was no more than the guilt and frustration that Jimmy felt when he was captured. I just I just know the moment that he was pulled out of the car, he said, oh, my God, this can't be happening again, simply because of all the issues that he knew were going to take place here at home. I don't I don't think the relationship changed significantly at all. I think there was some frustration on Michael's part, but. He knew who Jim was and and, is and will always be. But. After all, we're family, you know.

00:19:39:00



BRIAN OAKES:

So I want to talk about John from your point of view. What was it like for John to grow up in the middle of?

00:19:46:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

It was hard because he always tried to keep up with him athletically and whatever, and mostly athletically and, he he was a great kid, you know, wonderful, happy kid. And he only really, wanted was the respect of his brothers. And, I think they respected him. But as older sibling and duty younger, they were, not direct about their praise, you know? And so, they would let him play basketball with them, and that was their sign of respect. But they would always make it clear that he did this or did that and wasn't, you know, top notch or top, top, top shelf, that sort of thing, you know. But, I think they respected Johnny. I think they enjoyed it. Jim and Mike had enjoyed having him and a brother, particularly one who tried so hard to be part of their lives.

00:20:44:00

BRIAN OAKES:

What was John's decision on pursuing a career in the military?

00:20:49:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I'm not sure I can tell you exactly how that went. I do know that, he wanted to be different than Jim. He was very different than Mike wanting to do his own thing. I know that he. When he graduated from high school, he went to the



Marines and signed up and was about to be sworn in, when, in fact, he was accepted at Norwich, Military Academy and wanted to play football, and they wanted him. So he was able to convince the Marines that he was going into the military, was going to go to Norwich. And I think that was a good decision. But again, I think, I think he he was always the law and order kind of guy. He played by the rules. Expect a lot of people to play by the rules. And He was committed to, you know, defending his country and to being part of that whole, effort. And he, went to North. And I think he's been proud of that and certainly been proud of them for taking that direction.

00:21:59:00

BRIAN OAKES:

John lived in Germany for a while, and I know Jim used to visit John when he would, you know, go on leave. So did you kind of see the relationship? Those guys get closer when Jim was?

00:22:12:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Yeah, I really did. Jimmy were wicked hard to become a good older brother, a confidant and a friend. It was very, very, very important to him to be a part of Johnny's life and him trying to be a part of his life. And, he loved being around Rory. Johnny's gran of Johnny's daughter, our granddaughter. And, he made some funny videos, etc. I've seen. Maybe you haven't seen them. I don't know where they are. But anyway, they, they had fun together, and. It's great.

00:22:55:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Jim, as, uncle, can you describe maybe Jim and Rory's relationship?

00:23:01:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Jim didn't get as much chance to spend time with Rory, but he loved all of his nieces and nephews. Just absolutely adored them. He he. Was just thrilled to get to know them and spend time with them. And, Jimmy. Jimmy was a kid at heart, you know, he just loved to be able to communicate with all of them. And he lived with Michael for several months in North Andover. And so he got to know Mel and Joe very well. Matthew and Michael, and, he worshiped them and they him, you know, and they would play all kinds of crazy games, which I'm sure he would have done the same with Rory and now her brother Jack. But the, you know, logistics in New York, geography was just such that a favorite, you know, North Andover as opposed to Germany, you know, so but his his the light of his life where his nieces and nephews and.

00:24:05:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Did you remember talk to you guys about settling down and having a family and maybe having kids at some point?

00:24:15:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well.

00:24:17:00

BRIAN OAKES:





Did he get to that stage?

00:24:18:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

No, he never got there. You know, he it's a very good question. I think, Jimmy had a lot of girlfriends. But I, I think that he. His. His wife was the world. You know, he really he really was committed to, helping others, to right wrongs, to to, be friends, to be to be, able to encourage and support and that sort of thing. And, I just. Don't think that he was ready to be part of a solitary relationship that might limit his ability to do other things. So, I. So, he had no interest in settling, though. Short answer. No. Longer answer. I think in time he would have, because I think we all, I'm older by our lives, in our experience. And I think that. All of us get to a point where we need somebody special in our lives to continue to support. We need to go forward, you know? So, we didn't push it. And he was kind in no inclination to go in that direction. So it's pretty obvious now.

00:25:52:00

BRIAN OAKES:

I think the one thing that makes us relatable are flaws. Hmhm. And I wanted to ask you, and I've been asking you. Everybody is like, what were some of Jimmy's flaws?

00:26:05:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, he was wicked disorganized. He had more tickets than anybody could possibly get on a motor scooter. It's only ticket to UMass. And, that they



wouldn't let him graduate parking tickets until he paid the fines. And, we would leave him in charge of the kids. You know, when they and I would go away for a weekend and, whenever in one time he drove our boat over the the, over the rocks in Lakewood. It was hockey bringing Scotty Martin's home and, you know, damage the our drives so that the boat was in in no condition of use, cause I'm, I've had an accident, so, I mean, I think I think he had the usual judgment issues, you know, that people haven't grown up. He wasn't perfect, you know. He wasn't. He wasn't anything unusual until tested. And that's the difference with him. You know, he was just you and me, a friendly guy, deep inside, but not boastful. But when he was put to the test, Bry, that's when all of his. Attributes. Shown through. You know, just his strength in terms of dealing with torture, his willingness to, intervene and in, in the lives of others so that people wouldn't fight his courage to beg for food. Just all those things that we didn't know about Jimmy all of a sudden were there. We're there, you know, and we believe that, God gave him the strength to do those things. And we also believe that. He knew he was loved. He knew he was loved by his family, by his friends. He knew he was loved. He knew he was loved as she grew up and both by his family and friends and in the place he grew up. It was just he was able to. As some of the hostages say, you know, he was the best, one of the best able to, you know, bring his mind out of the other room. You know, just raising his spirits to a place where he could deal with the pain and suffering and the fear and, all the other stuff that, you know. Well.

00:28:35:00

BRIAN OAKES:



How do we put into words the way that Jim lived his life for 38 years, prepared him for the two years that he was. That he was in Syria and in that in that prison with those guys.

00:28:50:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

There's no way you can do that. You know, I think that, Jim was a good person. He was always interested in others. He was willing to help. He was willing to encourage. But there was no sign that he could have the courage and the and the and the, empathy and the devotion to his fellow man that we saw in jail. It's a very unique situation because, you know, there were ten plus people who lived with him for up to a year and a half who told us what happened day in and day out, and that that information is not available in most situations. So we were we were able to see an experience of Jimmy we didn't know. And we know that his God gave him the strength to do all the things he was able to do. And I don't think he. Knew where all that came from. I don't think I know we didn't know where all that came from other than from God. I don't think there was any inkling that that was going to come, but I think I think June, Jim chose to believe, chose to love, and chose to do for others. He chose to help each and every person that was there, over and above himself. I remember Daniel saying that when Daniel found out he was going to be released, he was just beside himself. And you know, Jimmy hugged him and said it was okay. I think at some point in time knew he wasn't going to go, you know, but he wanted to make sure that they knew that he loved them and was very happy for him to leave so he wouldn't have to suffer any longer. So. It came from God. I don't think there was any way that Jim could have known. We could have known anyone else could have known who



he was going to turn into. And, you know, we often find out who people are in a time of crisis, either when they get caught for something we did wrong or we are put in a situation that's tough. That's when who we really are comes out. And I often think we don't know who that person is going to be, but we find out.

00:31:14:00

BRIAN OAKES:

As you know, we went to Buyeo, France, to see the memorial to fallen journalist. Really amazing place. And when Michael and Katie, as I'm sure they told you, could you tell me a little bit about bio and memorial and kind of what that means to you?

00:31:34:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, it was a tremendous honor. Jimmy, was included in a long line of journalists who gave their lives to tell the truth. And. Hee hee. He was recognized for the person he was. The ability to share his goodness with others as well as tell stories is to do his job. And we were just totally humbled by the fact that the committee and bigger, would nominate him to, be included on the one of the markers with, 2000 other, deceased journalists. And so it was it was a very important, moment for us. And I think Jimmy would have been overwhelmed with pride and humility had he been able to be there.

00:32:37:00

BRIAN OAKES:



Can you tell me a little bit about when you went to the memorial and did they have a service or that they like?

00:32:45:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, naturally, I can't remember, though there was the service. We were, there was another family there whose daughter had been killed as well. She was a journalist. But it was a very, very, solemn, walk down the path with the large tablets. You know, I don't know, 20, 50 names on each tablet of people who had, walked the same path, the same rules, to same reasons, you know, it felt like he was at home, you know, we. Got to spend time with DDA and other elderly, conflict journalists, war correspondents, and they're all wicked crazy, but but we could see Jim and all of them all committed to telling the truth to to helping one another. And it's just it was an amazing experience. We, we left knowing that this family was part of Jim's family. You know, this was this was Jim and. It. Made me feel very warm inside that. He was accepted as one of them. And honored because of all he had given for his fellow man.

00:34:24:00

BRIAN OAKES:

When you met with Didier and-- and Nicolas and those men who were with Jim, and the story of Daniel-- and Daniel, do you-- were there any other stories that-- I heard a lot of uplifting stories. I heard more uplifting stories than I did downers when I-- when I talked to those guys--

00:34:46:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I-- I hear you, I hear you.

00:34:48:00

BRIAN OAKES:

And-- and it-- it-- it was actually a nice surprise for me to-- to-- to-- to-- to-- to experience. Did you--

00:34:58:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

It was important for Diane to go there because, you know, these young men lived with Jimmy for a year and a half. We had no point at with Jimmy. We were. Blown away. By Jim's courage. And compassion for. His still a prisoners. I'm told that he was one of the few who didn't steal food. And he was always a peacemaker. And often we we waited at the jail, at the prison cell door, begging for food, food, food, food. Just. Since the August 5th. She was truly meant for others. Where it came from. No prey. Had to come from God and had faith in him because you just can't get something like that out yet. But strength. To do that. To never say I give. To. Be somebody the guards hate and want to punish. But never give the satisfaction of quitting. You just covered, Jim, just like the world did. Thank. I guess we should have. I would, I would expect the world would think that we knew who he was, and this was part of his usual operation, but we had no clue. I don't think anybody do. I don't think his, fellow inmate. Any clue where he got his strength. And I think that was pretty apparent from what they told you and all the rest of us, you know, and just. He was he is he. He was kind of run to be Jim. He. Accepted that.

00:37:47:00



BRIAN OAKES:

What was unique about Jim and Mark's relationship?

00:37:51:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

You know, as the as the. This distance between siblings increased. The relationship wasn't as close for obvious reasons, because they didn't have as much time for gym. Always wanted to see Mark to, well, help him. And. Mark was a beautiful little baby, and Jim just was thrilled to have a little brother to, to. You know what? Go up. He's, make fun up and, you know, but just totally enjoy, you know? And so I think. Mark was a humble kid. And Jimmy just just loved them and they laughed a lot. You know, I mean, I think that I can't tell you more than that, Brian, at this point. You know.

00:38:50:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Mark is also in the military as well. Then Mark, ever expressed concern for any of us and any of Jim's siblings expressed concern about what Jim was doing in the war zones.

00:39:02:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, I mean, the point is, is he was in conflict zones and people were shooting, and all he had was a vest and a pencil and a camera. So he was. On front all the time. So obviously he was seeing more gunfire than Mark or John at this point. That doesn't make him, more brave. It just was his situation that he chose to be in. I don't find all or any of us very. Community willing to



commute. You know, a very expressive. I think Katie expressed her concern. I think I'll never forget when I told Mark that Jimmy had been captured and was being tortured that day. Jim is really tough, you know. You know, it'll be okay. But yeah, he was very he was concerned in his way, you know, obviously the whole family's concerned, you know, when one of you is being. Placed in a horrible situation. The whole family is concerned.

00:40:11:00

BRIAN OAKES:

You can tell me about Mark's first baby.

00:40:17:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

James Michael Foley, a gift, you know, a gift that Mark with may name him Jim James. We don't know what we're going to call him. Yeah, it won't be Jamie made clear today. Whether it be James or Jim. We don't know yet. Probably too early to call him Jim, but certainly James. And he's the happiest, most contented, healthy gift. A reason for us to be joyful, you know, because hasn't been other Jim Foley or James Foley or James.

00:40:59:00

BRIAN OAKES:

So you have four boys running around, and then along comes Katie, the last. So what was. What was that?

00:41:07:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:





Well, Kate-- Katie always used to complain that she never-- her brother was never around, but we showed her all the pictures when he was around. "Oh, well, I just didn't"-- yeah, well, that's 'cause you were whatever you were. But Jim was around a lot. He loved Katie. And-- he thought she was so special-- as anybody would after four-- you know, in-- in a family with, you know, four young men. And-- he used to make an effort to get home to see her and spend time with her and talk to her, and-- but she was from a different planet, man. She was a girl. And so. she was very athletic and that helped tie the whole family together. And-- and they could play basketball together, or-- or soccer, or anything that, you know, they wanted to do together, Katie could do it. And-- so they-- they-- they bonded. And-- I don't know about any deep conversations, that sorta stuff. You probably can-- you can ask Katie that. But-- she was a gift. She is a gift. She often describes herself as Switzerland. I think she's right.

00:42:25:00

BRIAN OAKES:

So if you have five children that are so far apart in age group.

00:42:31:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

It's called not great family planning.

00:42:34:00

BRIAN OAKES:



It's (UNINTEL) lear-- learned that Christmas was kinda, like, the time for the Foleys. So, you know, tell me a little bit about Christmases in the Foleys, and how did that-- was that-- was that the time of year that, you know, that--

00:42:49:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Yeah, Christmases were wonderful. 'Cause one of Jimmy's commitments in life were that you never me-- you always be home at Christmastime. So it was often difficult to get everybody home, but most often everybody was home. And, you know, they would play board games and fight and yell and swap present-- you know, exchange presents and gifts. And early in-- early in our-- y-- early-- several, you know, many c-- five or ten years ago we had-- a bomb maker, Michael-- and his-- he was a mil-- a bomb maker, a bomb dropper, and-- protestor. So it was some very lively conversations at home. And-- it was just-- it was always an event, and Diane just absolutely loved havin' all the kids home. And-- obviously me too. But-- it was never a dull moment. And we often had-- Diane's sister and brother-in-law and their family at the same time, so it was just totally chaos and-- everybody loved it, you know?

00:43:57:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Yeah. When you look back on Jim growing up, do you have any specific stories about you as Jim's father and Jim as your son? Kind of like that bonding moment you look back upon any specific memory?

00:44:13:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:



Yeah. Jimmy was always concerned that I. Take care of myself. You know. Was grateful for the fact that he could grow up and. With a house roof over his head, four squares and, you know, three squares and, that sort of thing. But he-- he was sensitive to the stress I found in my work, and-- the-- the need to-- continue for obvious reasons. And he-- he just, "Well, Dad, you know, I hope at some point in time you can find some time to-- take care of yourself," you know? So he was, always, I guess if I had any regrets, Brian. And I regret that I was. I found it difficult to communicate with him, as I do, obviously, with many of my child. Now, obviously what I do with any of the kids, I don't know if it's the male thing or whatever it is, but hindsight is, is, you know, obviously 100%. I just wish I was able to share more of who I was with Jimmy and, get him to share who he was with me, which might have been just as difficult, you know.

00:45:32:00

BRIAN OAKES:

As you know, but as his friends probably say, well, maybe not all of them, but, you know, it was pulling teeth with Jim, you know, like, yeah, Jim, what's going on with you? Like, forget about I have an hour with you. My window. So tell me about, you know, so.

00:45:48:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Yeah, exactly.

00:45:53:00

BRIAN OAKES:

What was what was what was the reaction with the Foley brothers when Brad was introduced? To the family.

00:46:03:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, we were all a little skeptical, you know, because obviously nobody was good enough for Katie, and, it it, it took Katie's. Demonstration and insistence. She really loved it. Took time for us to see how well he treated her and how devoted he was to her. It became very obvious that he was a wonderful person, and somebody we would really like to have his part of a family. And Jimmy once told Mike that, Brad was good people. And. And so obviously the rest is history. But we're very happy that Katie's happy. And we're very happy to have Brad as part of our family. So it's been a it's been a gift.

00:46:56:00

BRIAN OAKES:

What have, the siblings learned about Jim during this whole, this whole ordeal? What have they--

00:47:05:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I don't know, you'll have to ask them. That's an easy answer for me, but I presume they learned the same things that we have, the kind of person he was. And in captivity was something that I don't think any of us knew he would be.

00:47:23:00



BRIAN OAKES:

Do you remember when Jim told you that you you wanted to be a conflict journalist?

00:47:30:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, I didn't exactly tell us. He he, graduated from Modell, and his last. Quarter or third and last trimester. He was in Washington for the conflict journalism module, if you will. So he was about to graduate and we said, Jim, what are you going to do? He said, well, I'm working on it. So the next thing we knew, he was going to go to Iraq. Embedded with the Indiana National Guard. Well, I guess I'm a conflict journalist at this point. So, that's how we found out. And like I said before, he just didn't, it was nothing telegraphed. We just. Here it is. And he apparently didn't want to put it up for debate. You can have all kinds of commentary. This. I'm going to do this. See you later. I'll send you a postcard.

00:48:37:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Many people have said that it was. It was. It was Jim's calling. Right? Can you talk a bit, a little bit about why it was important to Jim?

00:48:49:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well. I think journalism combined all Jimmy's Jimmy's, skills, qualities and aspirations. We obviously were concerned that he was going to. Or going back to Syria, and so. Damn what I was watching y doing this. You could do so



much else. It's my found, my passion. I found my passion. And he, I think was able was was totally committed to telling the story of people who couldn't speak for themselves. He was committed to, people who are willing to fight and die for their freedom. He was committed to try in any way possible we could to leave the suffering and pain of the young children. Help raise money for neighborhoods in Aleppo. Because the kids were being brought to the hospital in back of trucks. He just he was a humanitarian as well as a journalist and. I think the the, profession gave him a chance to. Mold or incorporate all those things. I never thought he could write a novel.

00:50:09:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Still writin' that novel.

00:50:10:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Yeah. Really high. I never thought he was a novelist or whatever, I thought. At least it was nonfiction. But certainly journalism was, his calling.

00:50:23:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Yeah, well, I met Manu in Italy. He said, you know, Libya was was one chapter and Syria was another, but Syria was where Jim the journalist. It was transformed into Jim the Humanitarian. But the specific stories that Jim was telling in Syria that that kind of gave his journalism a humanitarian slant. Do you remember, like, some of those specific stories?



00:50:51:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I don't off the top of my head. And I think a lot of his work was, you know, sent to AFP. But but I think that. The whole conflict broke his heart. You know, he just. He just wanted to show the world how much suffering was going on and how horrible war was, and terrible consequences in that. I just I know he prayed for some kind of a resolution, you know, some kind of, intervention of whatever nature to stop this thing. You know, it's just it was mess. It was a massacre. You know.

00:51:30:00

BRIAN OAKES:

I'm trying to get to the bottom of and explain why. What's the personality trait of someone who who was so passionate about something? Or are there other reasons? Maybe that the. Right.

00:51:45:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I think he I think he made promises, spoken or unspoken, to the people he knew in Syria that he would come back. I think Jimmy will, while, heal young men. And he felt that he I'm sure he felt that if he didn't go back, he would be letting people know. Pretty simple. I think that's it. He didn't want to hurt us. He didn't want to. You know, caused us worry and pain, but who he was was. It was his was his promise. And he promised people again that he would come back to tell this story, to help in any way he could. I don't, I, I, I think the more as time passed he was very much aware of the danger, increasing danger there. And I think he would have done differently if he felt he could do



that. He maintain his is. His view of himself, which is. Was a loyal, committed, human being committed to people who are struggling and dying for their freedom.

00:53:05:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Do you think Jim had post-traumatic stress from--

00:53:08:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, I mean, I think-- I-- it's hard to know, you know? He didn't have flashbacks and he didn't, you know, have difficulty sleeping. He was able to-- communicate with his friends, or at least we thought he was. So you know, by the strict-- you know, diagnostic criteria, he probably didn't have, you know, full-blown P.T.S.D. How could you not have some? You know-- he didn't feel he needed counseling, and you know, he convinced us that he didn't. And-- so that's-- all I have to say about it. He certainly seemed to have it together.

00:53:53:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Do you think, you know, was-- is there, like, an addiction to what these journalists do--

00:53:57:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, I know people who say that. I guess I I'm sure there is some level of adrenaline that once you get there, you know, enables you to continue to





function. But I think the decision to go back is much more complicated because you have to weigh all that, you know, prior to saying yes. And I think somewhere along the way, maybe the analogy of a fireman, you know, if they go into a fire and save people and come out and experience the near-death experiences of firemen often do, but they go back to work the next day. So I think if you consider your job as being a journalist and you consider it to be you continue to be a journalist in the in conflict zone. It's your job. And yes, the adrenaline may help you do that, you know? But it doesn't. It isn't what brought you back to do that? I may help you, you know, function in that area, but it's not what caused you to go back. It's not like, looking for a. Hi. It's it's a commitment to keep promises, I think.

00:55:05:00

BRIAN OAKES:

How did you hear about, Jim's capture?

00:55:10:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, it was a day after Thanksgiving, and we were sitting on the couch right over there. And Diane had been worried, and she convinced me that I should worry because we didn't hear from Jim on Thanksgiving Day. And he was very committed to calling us on holidays and letting us know that he was alive and asking us how we were doing, etc. and so when we didn't hear from, we were concerned. And then Clare Gillis called us on that morning and said that Jim had been captured.

00:55:39:00



BRIAN OAKES:

And where do you go from there?

00:55:44:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I don't know, was the second worst moment of our lives, you know, and first being Libya. And now we were going through this again. It's just it's like almost surreal. It just this is a bad dream. Not. It's not really happening, you know? It's not happening. This can't be. You know, it just can't happen again. We can't do this again. We had to accept that, you know? And then I thought, oh, God, you must feel so awful knowing that. This is happening in what was kind of due to all of us, you know, and, I just really wanted to be dead at that point in time rather than having to go through this whole thing all over again, you know?

00:56:30:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Pieces of the puzzle of the home front and kind of how we start to assess how we assemble the team. And, what do we do now? Can you talk a little bit about some of the process and who was who was kind of yeah. Getting the teams together and what. Yeah. What was the strategy for that? Well.

00:56:53:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

The strategy was trying to find them, you know, you know, Nicole Tung was there until the first two weeks and then go by Bonnie and, post with the security team arrived on the scene and, you know, tried to find them and they



were unable to to, find anyone who would acknowledge, that they had seen him or his whereabouts, etc.. So, you know, basically for a year, we didn't know if Jean was alive. We didn't know where he was. There was some theory that it was in the north or somewhere in the South, but really had no, proof of anything until one day, Belgium young man was, escaped and told us that he had been with with Jim in, in with the ISIS group in northern Syria.

00:57:48:00

BRIAN OAKES:

And how did that go on? You just received a phone call from him?

00:57:51:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Yeah. Actually, his father kept calling and wanted to talk to us. And he actually called Michael because he was the, I guess was on the website for listed person to call as he had been in Libya. But myself, I was crazy. So finally he said, you know, this is this guy that keeps calling, you know, maybe you want to talk to him. So thanks, I'll come right away. And, you know, obviously he was the father of just one genuine and genuine had, escaped and, he had seen Jimmy and had actually been part of the, prison crew who had, brought food, etc.. So he was working with ISIS at that point. And, but I think, Jimmy was in the process of unseating him and, he asked, you know, situation where if you get out, please call my folks and let me know, let him know I'm okay. So then we knew where he was.

00:58:56:00

BRIAN OAKES:



So you get a proof of life or there and. Yeah. And before that, I guess, you know that everything changes now. Or maybe it doesn't, but can you. I just want to go back. Is can you tell me what is for the security team? What exactly is what did they do? How did they operate? Did they actually send people in or the--

00:59:17:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Yeah, yeah, I mean--

00:59:19:00

BRIAN OAKES:

--how does that actually-- those guys work?

00:59:20:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, they were-- they were hired by the insurance company that Global Post hired. They sent they sent in this case to a young man into that area to talk with anybody they felt who might, know where she might be or who, in fact, was holding him. And they weren't able to determine that. Because, nobody was forthcoming, I guess. I mean, I don't know more than that, but they were really unable to determine that he was in the North and or who was holding him.

00:59:56:00

BRIAN OAKES:



So for the first year, it's until we get the call from Jose and we don't know where he is, who he is. We don't really even know that ISIS exists at this point. I mean, because I kind of didn't really come out of this, you know, I can't remember when, but.

01:00:11:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, ISIS was in fact a reality by then. It had been developing a year or so before, but it was, in fact, in reality. And like the concerns were, was was he with al-Nusra? Was it with ISIS, ISIL, or was it with the regime, the Assad regime?

01:00:32:00

BRIAN OAKES:

And what was the best? What was the best guess from the security team that was hired about where he was.

01:00:40:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Where they felt he was in the south, in the Damascus area. And I think they felt that the regime had him. We really had no proof of that. Obviously his captors weren't forthcoming in that regard. And I think by process of elimination, they felt strongly that they couldn't find him in North, and he had to be themselves.

01:01:04:00

BRIAN OAKES:



After we hear from Georgian and we get this proof of life from this Belgium. And what happens.

01:01:14:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Now within a couple of weeks, I think. It again, was able to go there and debrief. Himself and eventually the FBI, after getting permission from the Belgian government, was able to go to talk to someone. And it was clear that the stories he had told us were the same story that he told them. He, was in jail at that point because he had been, he had left Belgium to join the jihadist movement, but eventually he was released. But at the time of his initial interview, he was in jail. So we knew where Jim was, but we couldn't get any. We couldn't find any leverage to get him out. And. We got our first ransom request end of November.

01:02:22:00

BRIAN OAKES:

And I guess also in that first year, you and Diane, like your typical day, is a constant communication trying to communicate with people. Or I mean, how do you how was your life?

01:02:35:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I can only speak for myself. I would wake up in the morning. And my first line is, oh my God, this is real. You know, this is real. And I'd worry if he had enough food and worry about the temperature in Damascus, because that's all I knew. Or Aleppo, where we do either Damascus or Aleppo on the phone



and see what the temperature was there. I just wondered how much pain he was in, whether I could sleep or it was cold. You know, we just felt very helpless. Then, began making a trips to Washington to try to find somebody that would, help us understand where he was, who held him and what the plans were to secure his release. And everybody seemed to be very sympathetic. Told us that we were doing it. They were doing everything they possibly could to. He was the highest priority, but they couldn't tell us anything because it was all classified and went on for a year and a half.

01:03:39:00

BRIAN OAKES:

So the trips to Washington and the F.B.I. involvement did not pan out to be--

01:03:46:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

It amounted to nothing. Zero. There was no action there at all, you know?

01:03:54:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Were you able to find support from any other organization or group that's established in the United States?

01:04:03:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, I mean, our community was a tremendous support. But part of the problem is that there was no, hostage family resource. You know, and it's Dane's trip to Washington, all married to on the job training, you know, she



had to to, you know, go to this person and that person, you know, what can you tell me? What can we do to not do that? You know? And, nothing ever connected was never ultimately, there was never a coordinated, concerted effort to bring Jim home. Everybody everybody stuck in their own little, areas and, mouth platitudes, but nothing, nothing was done.

01:04:49:00

BRIAN OAKES:

It blows my mind to know that there's no sort of system in place.

01:04:56:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I mean, the first year we just trusted that the government would had this in hand and that, despite our lack of information, etc., they was they had been through this before and they knew what to do. And, you know, we were in good hands. At the end of that year, we realized that nothing was being done and that, we, we were really going to have to do something on our own. The James Foley Foundation is dedicated to establishing a, a bipartisan non-governmental organization, which is called, which will be called hostage U.S. to, help educate families as to who, what, where, when to see to the. You don't have to traipse all over Washington to find the right people to talk with. And yes, there was no dedicated organization or group within the government to deal with hostages. Part of President Obama's hostage review, which he has requested because of the death of the four Americans. Jimmy being the first is is an attempt to find out what our policy is and needs to be to establish a hostage in it, so that these issues can be addressed directly by a single unit as a responsibility for communication of information, as well as



retrieving the hostages. So, you're absolutely correct that you're correct.  
Assessment. We found nothing.

01:06:25:00

BRIAN OAKES:

And to not have any sort of public relations or support system was what  
seemed like it was was like another. It's another.

01:06:35:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Yeah. Well, we have a public relations person now, and we use her, extensively  
to, help us decide who who to, to talk with, who to interview, what our  
message needs to be, today, tomorrow and the next day or two and change,  
etc.. So we have those. Helps, which we didn't have to begin with, you know.

01:07:00:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Were you in able to get some support or were you able to communicate with  
the other families? Yeah. We loved the places.

01:07:11:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Right? We we, found out that they were for American families and that they  
were actually in, in the same cell. Three of the American males were in the  
same cell. And the fourth, the woman was in the same prison, but not in the  
same area. In, April. And then actually, we organized as a group with David  
Bradley in the center. And, she had her issues, which are essentially all the



same. You know, nobody knew who, where or when and what, why, anything. You know, and. Mr. Bradley worked as hard as he could to, you know, talk to congressmen and State Department primary to see if we could get any additional information, and none was forthcoming.

01:08:07:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Could you talk about David Bradley, or is he off the--

01:08:12:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

I don't know. I mean, there's a big article coming out about David, you know, in the, in the, in New York. Right? There's plenty of stuff out there. David was a wonderful, wonderful person who tried to help all four families, free their their loved ones. And he, the long time Washington resident, owner of Atlantic Media. And he tried to use every one of his contacts to get information that we could use to-- free--

01:08:42:00

BRIAN OAKES:

And he was-- he was-- he was the real champion for these guys.

01:08:44:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

He was a champion for all four families. Phil Balboni was Jim's champion. And, remain so because that's what his insurance contract, allowed wanted

him to do. It's a period, you know, I mean, so he was obligated to, work with Jimmy's issues, and, really couldn't, expand that into the other hostages.

01:09:11:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Can you tell me about the decision to go public? Because I know that when we were in Libya, what's the strategy between holding information and blocking out and going?

01:09:25:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, you know, this is the one of the big debates in in hostage related issues. You know, if you say nothing, does that protect the kept captive in terms of being less likely to be punished or more likely to be released, versus, saying something that would cause the reverse? My personal feeling is that silence helps two people. One is the government. It doesn't push them to do more sooner. And the captors, it allows them to do with whatever they want. If I had any regrets over to do this over again, I would be as loud as anybody could be. And I would, try, to gain the president's attention and ask for help at that level, because our understanding is and and the facts are that nothing happens without the president's approval.

01:10:23:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Can you tell us about the 4th of July rescue attempt?

01:10:30:00



JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Didn't work. You know, I mean-- in my humble opinion, it was too late. In my humble opinion, we had information much earlier as to where he was, particularly after the-- where they were, particularly after the French and Spanish were released. My humble opinion again, and it hasn't been refuted is that-- I believe the European comp-- countries told our government not to-- do any military intervention until they had all of their-- citizens out, and they knew they could negotiate them free and didn't want to take the chance that they would be killed in a military intervention. So by the time that all the other European hostages be released, if our country was going to do anything, obviously we didn't negotiate. We didn't pay ransom. The only thing left would be a military intervention. So we went there and nobody's home. So I think it was a, a tremendous sacrifice for those service people who had to make the raid a tremendously dangerous and very, very, very thankful that, our military, was willing to, give up their lives to bring citizens home there, the white House, as far as I'm concerned. But it seems like a policy that relies only on military intervention is very limited. And very dangerous and very, arrogant.

01:12:01:00

BRIAN OAKES:

American policy for paying ransoms is possibly changing right now.

01:12:07:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, we can't say that. Yeah. I mean, I think that we have to do something other than nothing. No negotiation, no communication, and no ransom, and



always wind up in either doing nothing, letting people die or attempting a military intervention, which in our case was. Not successful. I think that, this is such a complicated issue. I mean, obviously, the European countries pay ransom. Is this a naive, knee jerk reaction or answer here that if you pay ransom, you encourage capturing? Well, the capturing of, journalists, is up to hundred percent. And it has nothing to do with ransom because we're not paying for it. And the capturing is up 200%. So I mean, the European I guess what's what's hurtful is that despite the ransom being used for bad things, and I certainly understand that, I certainly wouldn't want to be responsible for paying money to show that ISIS could kill more people. I am, upset that our our citizens aren't worth the the effort to pay the rent, to negotiate and pay the ransom to get them home. We love the journalist that we met in France and Spain, and I'm thrilled that they get a chance to start their lives over again. But Jimmy doesn't. And he doesn't because our country didn't. Negotiate and wasn't willing to pay ransom. And the, military intervention failed.

01:13:48:00

BRIAN OAKES:

And I come across the story of the government. Trading five Guantanamo Bay prisoners for a military general. I try to wrap my head around how, if you have a policy of no negotiation, how does something like that get through the system?

01:14:06:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Yeah. Well, I mean, I think that's a very, very complicated issue.

01:14:10:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Is it one-- is it-- do you think it's worth pursuing that line of questioning, or is it-- would Jimmy be, like, "Guys, it doesn't-- it doesn't matter," or--

01:14:18:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, I mean, I think, I think that there's some aspects of it that are worth pursuing and some that are not. The one one area that is, immutable is the fact that, the military has a policy. I totally support it. No soldiers left behind. That doesn't mean that they do. Litmus test to check is character, or is war record, or is military record, etc. no soldier left behind. So if you asked me. Was it appropriate to trade five prisoners? Wonderful. Was probably back being a terrorist for one soldier. I don't have an answer for that, Brian. You know what I mean? On the surface, it seems not reasonable, but. But I, I, I accept. The situation it was, and I, I don't know if there are any other political motives or needs or whatever that went into that decision, but I think that, you know, no soldier should be left behind.

01:15:26:00

BRIAN OAKES:

The James Foley Legacy Foundation, is that organization going to start to bring the governments and what what what is it?

01:15:36:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:



Right, what what what what's going to happen? As best we can determine right now is, is that, the James Foley's Legacy Foundation will take on the responsibility of. Pushing our government to bring hostages home and monitoring their success and and being a watchdog in terms of what is or isn't being done. The hostage US group will be, you know, an offshoot of us, funded by us initially and not indefinitely. And they will work with hostage families to help them navigate this, this very complicated road to through our government, which will hopefully be, improved or straightened out with this hostage review. So they will there will be a, named, accountable, knowledgeable human being can be contacted, and no one can expect a call back from to give us the most recent updates in terms of where things are, where they're going, etc.. So so one organization will be a, family support education group, and the James Foley Foundation is going to be the pusher, the, the, the unrelenting voice to, make sure that our government does, if you will, does right by American citizens who are held captive outside of the continental United States. I think the word citizens is important. You know, we're not we all are citizens of the United States. And I would hope to be treated as well as the citizen of France or Spain. You know, I can't honestly say that, I feel that Jimmy was, but he I know he believed until the very end that his country would come to get him. So he wasn't asking to be others and who he was. And I'm not really asking to be other than who I am, but I am asking our government to do more than he did.

01:17:41:00

**BRIAN OAKES:**

But I see some amazing things that are coming to the surface, and-- and-- things that people are doing based on what--

01:17:50:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, you know, I think I think I hear what you're saying and I felt it in sector. I think the world needs a hero. I think the world needs a good person. Not a Superman or a Hulk or Iron Man or whatever else it needs a person who, is willing to give his or her life for another, who is willing to do to all he or she can to change the world, one person at a time. Something that is the best part of all of us can identify with, you know? And and I think that's what we found in the overwhelming support we've, we've, we've received states that people shouldn't even marvel at gym, but they're stepping up and wanting to help and do something. And they're inspired, as you say, by Jim. But I think they could be inspired by somebody else who did similar things. We need people to. Be for others. Without. Without strings attached. You know we need. The world is a difficult, difficult place these days. And, there's so much suffering so that if. If we find someone who, is willing to give without, without, without strings, and, I think that's somebody we can all admire. And I think that's part of the it's part of what you see happening and feel happening. And, but there is no there's no downside to calling Jimmy a hero. And in fact, his death was horrific. But his life challenges all of us to do more, to do something, to do anything. I think that's the hardest thing. It's the it's it's if you accept Jim's life as a, as a as a way to live, then the question is you have to ask we have to ask ourselves what, how, what are we doing that might that might even approximate some of the things that he was willing to do for others.

01:19:45:00

BRIAN OAKES:



Has Diane surprised you in any ways in the last couple of years of what she's been-- what she's been up to?

01:19:54:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Oh, so many ways. No, I think the obvious ones are her commitment, her strength, and her ability to, take on the responsibility of this hostage. Jane Foley Foundation. Juggle all these balls, media balls, financial balls. It's just it's just been, a miracle, much like Jim. I mean, I think of the anybody in the family most like Jim would be Diane. You know? She she has received great strength from her god. And, she's willing to accept challenges and failures and get up, back up and keep going. So, and I think, I think she speaks from the heart when she speaks. So nobody feels that she has any secondary, issues. It's all right out front. And so, and she's humble and is willing to receive criticism as well as praise. So it's, she's been a gift, gift to me and gift to Jim and give to all of us, you know, and I think, I think people can rally around her, pain and forthrightness and honesty and compassion as well as.

01:21:15:00

BRIAN OAKES:

I feel like-- you know, you and Diane have become-- representatives of the American hostage parents. Just the presence in the media and-- and all that you guys have been doing. What kind of responsibility does that-- does that bring to you?

01:21:35:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:



All I can say is that we only represent ourselves, and I need to make that very clear. But I think we have a lot of similar issues, you know, we were all kept in the dark. We were all, mistreated, etc.. So I think that our, our complaints are, our pain is shared by all the families. And so I think that, our goal is to improve the, the, the overall treatment of families, return hostages, which is what everybody wants. So, I don't know, that we do we resent we represent the other families. They certainly are welcome to speak out. And many of them haven't. We feel we cannot stay silent. We just can't. And, because I think silence will cause the issue to be, to go away without being rectified, you know? So, we we just can't be silent, and, we hope that we're what we're saying and doing will be of help to, the families who went through all this with us and the families to come. But we we aren't, trying to represent anybody but ourselves.

01:23:06:00

BRIAN OAKES:

Where do you go from here as far as the-- the near future or the far future?

01:23:12:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, I guess where we go is to continue to push our government to improve their ability to bring American citizens home. You know, whether that takes negotiation with, primary captors or third parties. And even if it requires ransom, to get, American citizens home, I am well aware of the consequences of paying ransom, but they didn't seem they don't seem to bother the French and the Spanish or the Danish or the Germans. The Italians. So, in fact, I feel like chopped liver. Or as an American citizen compared to the above, you



know, our, our, our goal is to, is to change the current situation so that American citizens are valued and brought home. They didn't wind the they're not doing reckless things. They don't deserve to be captured, tortured and killed. But I think they do deserve, as a citizen of this country, to be treated with the highest level of respect and urgency to to bring them home. And the family foundation will be, all about making sure that happens. We're trying to make sure that happens. You know.

01:24:29:00

BRIAN OAKES:

What is Jim's legacy as the-- as the parent of a journalist? And what is Jim's legacy as just the parent of Jimmy?

01:24:40:00

JOHN FOLEY SR.:

Well, I don't I'm not sure I understand the question specifically, but I think Jim's legacy is, that he was a man for others. And that he valued his fellow fellow men. He was willing to die with them and for them. And that he believed in freedom. And in this particular case, freedom of the press. He believed a right to know the horrors of war. He believed that we all had a right to a life where we could, you know, pursue happiness and improve our life. His is legacy today. And I was that he was a wonderful human being who were proud of his parents. And we feel that we must, try to figure out what he would want to do in this situation and be the arms and the legs that he can't be right now to get it done.

END TC: 01:26:12:00