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DOUG MCCAIN INTERVIEW
JOHN MCCAIN: FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS
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DOUG MCCAIN
Son of John McCain
November 16, 2017
Interviewed by Teddy Kunhardt
Total Running Time: 43 Minutes

START TC: 01;00;00;00

QT: 01;00;11;05

TITLE

Doug is the oldest of the McCain children

QT: 01;00;14;19

DOUG McCAIN:

Well, I'm the oldest from the first marriage. My mom and dad got married and he adopted my brother Andy and I when I think I was five and Andy was three. Four or two. Somewhere when we were living in Meridian, Mississippi.

QT: 01;00;30;05

DOUG McCAIN:

Then shortly after we moved to Meridian, mom and dad had our sister Sid. Sidney, we call her Sid. She lives in Milwaukee now. She's a music person.

QT: 01;00;42;05

TITLE

Difference in age between Doug and Andy

QT: 01;00;46;20

DOUG McCAIN:

Maybe three. I have to think about it. Two and a half. You get old, you forget. We got along very well. Yeah. Still do.

QT: 01;00;56;06

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TITLE

What he remembers from before John left for Vietnam

QT: 01;01;00;10

DOUG McCAIN:

Well, I just remember living in Meridian and being around all these pilot people. Even though I was young, they were just kind of a different breed of people. And then, you know, I remember going to first grade in Meridian. It was segregated. Then moving to Orange Park, Florida shortly after that, which was not segregated. Things happen pretty quick, but I remember he was going to go on the Forrestal. I remember flying to Europe and picking up the VW Bug like my mom talked about. In Germany, we were going to spend a year in Germany and go to school. And we weren't there very long and then the fire on the Forrestal happened. His dad was CINCUSNAVEUR at the time stationed in London. So we drove back to I think it was Asti, Belgium. Took the ferry over to Dover and drove to London where we eventually met him.

QT: 01;02;06;11

TITLE

Life in Meridian, Mississippi

QT: 01;02;11;20

DOUG McCAIN:

I tell you, I do remember—I don't remember a lot of chores. I remember living on the base in Meridian, Mississippi, which, two things I remember most about that. One, a young man up the street who taught me how to ride a bike. John Stump, his father was, I can't remember. He might have been skipper of the squadron or I don't know, who later died in a plane crash, but he taught me how to ride a bike. Many years later, in New Hampshire primary I ran into him at the night of the primary. And then one of the other things I remember about Meridian was watching, sitting in the living room with my dad, watching the original Jeopardy with Art Fleming, and there he is on the TV. He won one episode and had a chance to win the second one, but didn't get the final question right, so. But in terms of—I just remember him being around the house. There weren't a whole lot of chores to do in Navy housing I don't think, so.

QT: 01;03;13;01

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DOUG McCAIN:

I mean, we did normal things that fathers and sons and kids do. The housing we were in was all basically Navy pilots and their families. I mean, there were a gazillion kids around. They tended to kind of rotate in and out because people were always getting transferred, but there was just a lot of fun things to do.

QT: 01;03;38;04

TITLE

The planes that John flew

QT: 01;03;41;20

DOUG McCAIN:

I mean, we went and looked at them, certainly. But they can't take you for a ride. I mean, to sit in that plane with an ejection seat, you got to be a certain size, so.

QT: 01;03;52;12

TITLE

When John left for the Forrestal

QT: 01;03;57;06

DOUG McCAIN:

Yeah, that was a long time ago, I mean I was, I think by the time he left for the Forrestal I was probably six, maybe seven. I do remember going back to France and staying two weeks on a hotel in the Riviera Con. We drove all through France, went to Paris. We had to go see the Tomb of Napoleon, in addition to the Eiffel Tower. I remember going to Avignon to see where the papal deal was and a few other things. Right I mean, I remember a fair amount. It was all fun.

QT: 01;04;36;23

TITLE

Finding out John had been shot down

QT: 01;04;41;08

DOUG McCAIN:

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I came in from school one day and my mother was sitting at the kitchen table crying. I said, "What's a matter?" She said, "Well, your fathers been shot down. That's all I know right now, but I expect to hear more from your granddad pretty soon." She's right. That night, I did, in fact, go to my first cub scout meeting.

QT: 01;05;03;03

DOUG McCAIN:

Went with a family across the street. The Crumpelers, I think, took me—which, bit of a sideline, their father Carl, at that point, was an Air Force F4 pilot who'd also been shot down, but they—he was still technically missing in action.

QT: 01;05;22;11

TITLE

They found out John was alive quickly because of who John's father was

QT: 01;05;26;22

DOUG McCAIN:

We were very luck in that regard because of who his father was the Vietnamese made it known pretty quickly. The family across the street that I'm talking about, they didn't know for another two or three years. I remember being in class one day and their mother coming and knocking on the door saying he's on the list. That was this guy Doug Hegdahl had gotten released. He was a, I think, a mess cook who fell off a destroyer and was captured. They finally realized that he wasn't really a combatant, and he was offered release. They said you need to go because he knew all the names of everybody who had been captured.

QT: 01;06;07;18

TITLE

Jack McCain, their grandfather

QT: 01;06;12;12

DOUG McCAIN:

They used to come visit. Mom alluded to the cigar, but he would get up every morning. He would go out in the backyard or in the patio by the pool and go through this work out with a jump rope and sit ups and push-ups and the

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whole nine yards. He would come in and brew the pot of this just ungodly strong espresso, which really nobody drank back then. Have that and a muffin and some juice. Then he would light a cigar and take about four puffs. A cigar, at some form or another, was in his mouth the rest of the day. But he was an interesting man.

QT: 01;06;51;11

TITLE

Roberta McCain, their grandmother

QT: 01;06;56;01

DOUG McCAIN:

Roberta was a piece of work. I would say she's a one of a kind, but she had an identical twin, so that wouldn't be the total truth. But she was a very unique—I don't know if kinetic's the right way to describe her, but she was just constantly in motion, constantly trying to learn something, do something, teach something. She was a pretty unique, extremely attractive lady.

QT: 01;07;24;05

TITLE

Their mother kept them busy while John was a POW

QT: 01;07;28;18

DOUG McCAIN:

She basically just—when you're the ages we are, you're a little bit bulletproof. But basically she just got us involved in every kind of sporting extracurricular activity thing that we could do. When there weren't seasons going on, be it football or baseball, weather permitting, we'd go to the beach and go surfing. I mean, we did all sorts of things. That was pretty much what we did. I mean, there were a bunch of kids on our street. The Crumpeler family across the street and a lot of other kids in the neighborhood. Then once you start going to school you develop friends there, as well. But we stayed real busy.

QT: 01;08;11;17

TITLE

Communication with John while he was a POW

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QT: 01;08;16;17

DOUG McCAIN:

I think all the time he was gone, I think we got two letters. Another time there were some black and white films that the Vietnamese had released. Anyway, the guy, I think it was actually then Lieutenant Fallon who was later my technically Air Wing Commander out at Oceana. Fox Fallon, he brought him out to show us the tapes that I think had Dick Stratton in them. You know, blinking his eyes all this time. There wasn't a lot of discussion about it. We knew he was alive so we just assumed he was going to come home. We just didn't know when.

QT: 01;08;59;00

TITLE

Praying for John

QT: 01;09;02;22

DOUG McCAIN:

I don't know that we did it at the kitchen table. We certainly did it in church on Sundays. Certainly did it in church.

QT: 01;09;10;06

TITLE

Christmas while John was gone

QT: 01;09;14;03

DOUG McCAIN:

All the Christmases save one were good. I mean, Christmas is a happy day, but the one where my mother had her accident that wasn't such a good one. I woke up and my grandmother was sleeping on the sofa and I said, "What's a matter, Meme?" She said, "Well, your mother's been in a really bad car accident. We don't know if she's going to live." She wound up in Bryn Mawr Hospital for six months. So it was—that's an easy one to remember.

QT: 01;09;45;13

TITLE

As a kid, he knew his grandfather was an important person

QT: 01;09;50;08

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DOUG McCAIN:

I remember before my dad left on the Forrestal, my grandfather was the admiral at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and I remember going on the admiral's barge and going on a little scenic tour around Manhattan on the admiral's barge. Then the next day going to the World's Fair on the admiral's barge as a five-year-old. I mean, you pick up on those kinds of things. And back in those days, all the admirals, they all lived in housing on these various bases that were all staffed with stewards so that they could entertain and the like. You know, you just—you get a sense that they're important people.

QT: 01;10;37;05

TITLE

On feeling pressure as the son of a McCain

QT: 01;10;42;10

DOUG McCAIN:

Yes and no. I mean, it has its advantages. It has its disadvantage. But on balance, I would say no. I mean, nobody's going to live up to the role my dad's plate. I knew that along time ago.

QT: 01;11;02;07

TITLE

He joined the Navy as well

QT: 01;11;06;19

DOUG McCAIN:

Yeah. I took a bit of a circuitous route, but yeah, I wound up in the Navy flying A6's. Got my wings back in 1985 and did two deployments. Both peace time. One on the American. One on the Eisenhower.

QT: 01;11;24;13

TITLE

John influenced his decision to join the Navy

QT: 01;11;28;17

DOUG McCAIN:

He did. I mean, there was a point in time when my parents got divorced that there was no way it was ever going to happen. But when I got out of Virginia

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in 1982, I was going to go work in the oil business. But the cartel collapsed in June of '82. I had been in ROTC for two years. I quit it, which financially, in hindsight, was a bad move. But I wound up walking into a recruiter's office one day and awhile later went to Aviation Officer Candidate School and got a commission and went to flight school. In hindsight, being a junior officer in a fleet squadron was the greatest job I ever had in my life. I didn't know it then, but I know it now.

QT: 01;12;19;14

TITLE

On being a McCain in the Navy

QT: 01;12;23;11

DOUG McCAIN:

Yeah. I mean, you were always asked, "Any relation to the"—ya know, Yeah, sure. Sure, but nobody treated you unfairly. I mean, people may have done things to make sure they didn't treat you unfairly to advantage you over other people, but nobody treated me unfairly.

QT: 01;12;45;17

TITLE

The CBS News taping

QT: 01;12;50;00

DOUG McCAIN:

They came a couple of days. They just came and spent time at the house. I think I had a football game they went to and did some film. You know, it's hard to recall a lot of it just because we were just busy. We were doing our normal thing. I remember there was a visiting football team from out of state that we were playing that weekend. A couple of the guys were staying with us. I remember when it finally came on the news, we had to call them up and say, "Hey. You need to watch the news tonight. You might be on TV." So everybody got a kick out of that.

QT: 01;12;30;22

TITLE

Going to church

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QT: 01;13;35;07

DOUG McCAIN:

We typically did that. So the church was probably pretty important back then because when my mother was in the hospital, Joyce and Ricky Block came and stayed with us. Miss Block worked so it was hard for her to cook every day, so ladies from the church would bring us food I think on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which was unbelievably kind. The only downside to it is to this day I won't eat a tuna casserole.

QT: 01;14;09;09

TITLE

The day John arrived back home

QT: 01;14;15;13

DOUG McCAIN:

They brought him and Pete Shoffle. I think there were five of them all told out to NES Jacks and we met them out at the airport or at the field there. There was a lot of people, a lot of press. I was actually hobbling around on crutches because I had broken my leg playing soccer a few weeks, maybe a month earlier. Lots of hugs and tears. Then shortly thereafter, him and my mother disappeared, which was good.

QT: 01;14;51;07

DOUG McCAIN:

I thought aside from the fact that he was limping a little bit, I thought he looked fine. I mean, he'd always had gray hair, so that was nothing new.

QT: 01;15;00;20

TITLE

Learning about John's time as a POW

QT: 01;15;06;01

DOUG McCAIN:

I would never talk specifically with him about it where I had garnered most of my knowledge about what happened over there was we had a lot of people that would come visit us, both in Orange Park and out at our beach house. And those gents, especially maybe after they got a drink or two in them, would start talking amongst themselves. I'd learn to just keep my mouth shut

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and listen. I mean they were—you know, but they—I think, for the most part—part, it wasn't something they really cared to relive.

QT: 01;15;47;04

DOUG McCAIN:

I mean one thing they all learned how to do over there while they were in captivity, especially once they were beyond the days of the solitary confinement was, they were very good at telling stories. I remember one gent, in particular, gentleman named Bob Lilly. I think grandfather or somebody was like one of the original Texas Rangers. He could tell a story. It was just like reading a book.

QT: 01;16;12;11

TITLE

His dad is an emotional guy

QT: 01;16;17;17

DOUG McCAIN:

I mean, I heard him tell some stories about going down to sick bay on the Forrestal and talking to these guys who were so badly burnt, they were basically unrecognizable. He knew they were going to die and that—you could tell it got to him.

QT: 01;16;37;04

TITLE

John's physical injuries

QT: 01;16;41;17

DOUG McCAIN:

Well, I remember when he came back from the Forrestal, he had shrapnel wounds. That's an interesting thing because it's actually a puncture in the skin that takes a while to heal. Then when he came back, one of his knees, legs, he had trouble—couldn't really bend it until he started going to physical therapy. Then both his arms, he was limited to how much, especially height wise, how much mobility he had with those. I think it bothered him some because before he left, he was just an insanely active guy. I mean, he loved to play tennis, which he tried to some extent when he came back but was not real successful from a mobility standpoint. The one activity that he could

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really do and really enjoy was swim. Be in the ocean, body surf, that kind of thing. He did it a lot.

QT: 01;17;43;17

TITLE

John could no longer do physical activities like throwing a football

QT: 01;17;48;00

DOUG McCAIN:

Not really. No. We had so many kids on our street and in the area. We had plenty of people to toss the football, the baseball. I mean, we used to play cork ball. You know how to play cork ball? You take an old wine cork and you wrap white tape around it and you take a broom handle and you pitch it. You go to try and hit it with a broom handle. That's the kind of things we did to have fun.

QT: 01;18;18;09

TITLE

How the war affected John

QT: 01;18;24;05

DOUG McCAIN:

I think the only way it might have changed him was it might have put the seed in his head that hey, I should have been gone a long time ago. I think maybe I was put here for bigger and better things. You know, surviving a couple plane crashes in Hanoi, I think might do that to you. I mean, a lot of those gents—one of his real good friends, Bob Craner, who's deceased now, which is really sad because they were really close. They went about pursuing their careers. Again, I think Colonel Craner went on to be like the defense out of shade in Prague. But I think they also viewed the rest of the life as bonus time. They were going to make the most of it.

QT: 01;19;13;19

TITLE

Carol and John's divorce

QT: 01;19;18;07

DOUG McCAIN:

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I mean, there's not a whole lot I can really say to it other than I was third year at Virginia. I was on a leave from ROTC. It left a bad taste in my mouth because I knew it wasn't what my mother wanted, but by the same token, you know sometimes things are beyond your control. Really nothing you can do about it. In hindsight, I think if you look, I think the divorce rates among the POW's were extraordinarily high. I think probably above 90%. In hindsight, it's probably not unexpected. I mean, that semester, fall, third year at UVA, I probably didn't need to be in school. For a number of reasons, that being one of them.

QT: 01;20;11;20

TITLE

John's second marriage

QT: 01;20;16;03

DOUG McCAIN:

It was just different. Took some time getting used to. You know, I have a good relationship with Cindy, as do my brother and sister. You know, and I have a good relationship with Meg and Jack and Jimmy and Bridget. We're not extraordinarily close, but if I ever need something, I know how to reach them. The modern world's very different than it was 30, 40, 50 years ago.

QT: 01;20;51;05

TITLE

Jack Junior's wing ceremony

QT: 01;20;56;01

DOUG McCAIN:

That set of wings, my dad had actually given me in B-ville in 1985. By the time Jack got his wings, I was already out of the Navy flying for American Airlines. So I just thought it'd be a nice gesture to give them to Jack. It was genuine on my part and he sincerely appreciated it, as well. But we're aviators, we're not pilots. We're different, so that's a good thing.

QT: 01;21;23;05

TITLE

Lessons learned from his dad

QT: 01;21;29;09

DOUG McCAIN:

Well, I think the bravery part is pretty self-evident, but you know, I think the biggest lesson learned there is even ordinary people can do extraordinary things, which is you look back at the history of our country, World War II in particular. Things that went on in the Pacific and Europe with D-Day. Ordinary men are able to do extraordinary things when necessary. The principle, ethics kind of thing, he spoke at our high school graduation. It was the same thing that he talks about now country, honor, duty. I think the relevant news point at that time was Watergate.

QT: 01;22;21;12

DOUG McCAIN:

And he was talking about how he did not think that history would reflect that people like John Ehrlichman and Mitchell and I'm probably not getting the names exactly right, but he thought history would show that they were not honorable people. You know, it was very important to him. A lot of that goes along with what he endured with his colleagues in Vietnam. They were there not to let each other down, as well as themselves. So that was very important to him.

QT: 01;22;54;00

TITLES

Orange Park celebrated John when he returned from the war

QT: 01;22;58;08

DOUG McCAIN:

I remember when he came back they had a parade in Orange Park for him and there were several others in there. I can't remember all the names, but the other thing I probably remember the most was for like two weeks ... Orange Park was a small town. There weren't very many restaurants. If we would go out to eat dinner or get something to go or whatever, there was no bill. Somebody picked it up.

QT: 01;23;25;21

TITLE

The presidential primaries in 2000

QT: 01;23;31;02

DOUG McCAIN:

It was a fun experience because he caught a—ya know, from a retail, politicking standpoint, and this goes back to when he first ran for Congress in Phoenix. He went out and pounded the pavement in Phoenix in 100-degree heat. Knocking on doors. Trying to do everything he could to ensure the outcome of the election. He basically took the same approach in New Hampshire in 2000 and took a unique approach because they weren't well funded. Didn't have a whole lot of money for advertising, etc. And so he brought the press on board the bus. Ya know, nicknamed it the Straight Talk Express to try to get an much publicity as he could.

QT: 01;24;17;18

DOUG McCAIN:

Kind of caught lightening in a bottle. It was fun. I remember going up two days before the primary. New Hampshire's a unique place because the people really do go to these meetings and ask questions. You got to be able to convince them face to face. It's a shame we can't do that in every state, but the time it would take to do that. But I just remember the night before election night, talking to Bill McInturff who's a pollster then, saying what are we doing? He told me a number. I was like, "Are you sure?" He said, "Yeah, I'm sure." Sure enough, the next night it was a big win. Then we went on to South Carolina where they had been trailing badly.

QT: 01;25;09;04

DOUG McCAIN:

And I decided to go on the stump sum and at that point, the gloves kind of came off in the campaign. Some nasty stuff went on. Bush wound up winning South Carolina. I think my dad won Michigan a few weeks later, which kept him in it. But then he lost like Virginia. At that point, essentially, he ran out of money. If he had the money, I think it's possible the outcome of that. But that's part of the deal. I mean that, you know, Bush did very good at getting the necessary resources to win.

QT: 01;25;50;17

TITLE

On the loss in 2000

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QT: 01;25;54;12

DOUG McCAIN:

He was very disappointed. He was very disappointed. I don't think he would ever get another chance. I mean, he was very close to getting the nomination. I mean, one South Carolina primary win away from basically being the nominee. I remember going back, he suspended the campaign a couple months later. I went out to visit him out at their place out near Sedona, outside of Cottonwood. He was just very disappointed. Very disappointed.

QT: 01;26;31;22

TITLE

McCain's presidential campaign in 2008

QT: 01;26;36;21

DOUG McCAIN:

I don't remember exactly when he decided he was going to do it. I've never been real, real involved politically. I mean, I've raised money for him and donated money. In certain instances, gone out and campaigned. In fact, we did a fundraiser back here in 2000 where we did pretty well, which for him to raise the amount of money we raised that night, that was a good thing. But we knew he was going to start, and when he decided he was basically going to be the front runner.

QT: 01;27;13;13

DOUG McCAIN:

So they put this model in place of trying to raise x amount of dollars, which was kind of a flawed model to begin with because you now have a two term incumbent president who was leaving. To be able to plan a campaign around the amount of money they were talking about raising was a bit unrealistic. Consequently, they spent it all. At which point, he fired John Weaver. I can't remember the other gents name. I think Rob Nelson. Firing John was very difficult for him. They were very close. He had a lot of fondness for John and everybody wrote him off. He went back up to New Hampshire—

QT:01;28;02;10

DOUG McCAIN:

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The other co-chair he had worked for George Bush too, was Rob Nelson or Bob Nelson. Consequently, the entire media, everybody wrote him off. He had gone from front runner to has been. He started going up to New Hampshire by himself, maybe one staffer, and just started town hall meeting after town hall meeting after town hall meeting. If he didn't think a voter liked his answer to his last question, he'd chase them down in the parking lot and go discuss it with them.

QT: 01;28;42;11

DOUG McCAIN:

Eventually he did well enough to win New Hampshire then down to South Carolina to do the same thing. Although prior to that, the Michigan primary was held. It had gotten moved up prior to South Carolina, which Romney won by eight points. But that's where Governor Romney's father had been Governor. And so then South Carolina happened. We eked out a victory there. Then Florida was next, eked out a victory there. And that was pretty much a done deal from that point on.

QT: 01;29;20;16

TITLE

Running Sarah Palin

QT: 01;29;24;19

DOUG McCAIN:

Of course, I supported it. In hindsight, do I think it was the right choice? I honestly can't say. In hindsight, I'd probably wished he had picked Governor Romney, but I also understand the uniqueness of the candidate he was running against. He was certainly trying to look outside the box. I don't think the media were particularly fair to Governor Palin. They may say otherwise, but I don't think they were one bit. You can say what you want about her, she's a very engaging individual and person. Very engaging.

QT: 01;30;07;21

TITLE

On political events and the 2008 campaign trail

QT: 01;30;12;23

DOUG McCAIN:

Yeah, I went out and campaigned some and continued to raise money. They would send me out to do things. I'd go to things around the state of Virginia. But I still had two kids in Norfolk Academy. I'm trying to think. Yeah, I didn't have anybody in college yet. So I had a lot of education expense. I couldn't quit work. I had to go fly planes and stay ahead of the bill collector. But going to some of the rallies, a really good political event, is a really cool thing to go to. I'll tell you this, when we did a very early stage fundraiser here in Norfolk before the campaign imploded everything, we were at a thing, it was a fundraiser and everybody was saying that Hillary's who you got to watch.

QT: 01;31;12;16

DOUG McCAIN:

You got to watch. My wife made a comment to this gentleman and she said, "Well, I think Barrack Obama's who you got to watch." This guy kind of poo-poo'd my wife, which is not smart because my wife's very smart. Then my dad got up and was giving his thing. He said, "You know, everybody's saying Hillary," but he says, "I want to tell you," he says, "when it's your first event in 18,000 people come out in the rain in Springfield, Illinois," I think is where it was. I can't be certain. He goes, "That's somebody you got to watch out for." That's the nature of politic events. When they are really good, you really can capture lightening in a bottle. Things start rolling.

QT: 01;31;55;02

TITLE

On McCain defending Obama at a townhall meeting

QT: 01;31;59;13

DOUG McCAIN:

I remember reading about it. I was not there. But that's just not something he was going to stand for. I think if you went back and looked at his speeches ... If you were to go back and see his concession speech in the South Carolina primary in 2000 where some similar type stuff had happened the other way, I think he used a line in there where he essentially said, "I don't want the president in the worst way. I don't want to be president in the worst way. I want to be president for the right reasons."

QT: 01;32;32;19

TITLE

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In 2000, McCain said, "I'd rather lose and run a clean campaign"

QT: 01;32;37;07

DOUG McCAIN:

He certainly said something along those lines in 2000. In 2008, the line was he would rather lose the presidency than lose a war. Talking about the situation in Iraq. That's the way he feels. It's country first. It's always country first.

QT: 01;32;58;07

TITLE

His dad's diagnosis

QT: 01;33;02;10

DOUG McCAIN:

I got a call from Cindy saying that he had to go to the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale. He had to have brain surgery. They thought it was to remove a brain clot. When she called me initially that time, we were convinced, everybody and I think the doctors even thought initially that it was probably melanoma related because he had had a history of melanoma. So it took about, I want to say, four or five days, I think, to get the biopsy results back. I had just landed in JFK. I just flown a plane back from L.A. and she called. I answered the phone.

QT: 01;34;02;00

DOUG McCAIN:

She said, "Your dad has glioblastoma, glio." But they're saying if you're going to have it, where it is and how soon they think they've got it, this is about the best you can have in this situation. So I, of course, then said, "Well, we'll pray for him. Keep us posted," etc. etc. So the first thing I did was call an oncologist friend of mine who had went to Virginia with me and said, "What's the deal?" She said, "It's not good, Doug. It's not good. It's a nasty disease." I mean, the thing is that same gal ... He's 80. He's had a pretty good run. She calls me like three weeks later, four weeks later. Sends me an email. "We just got the biopsy results back. My 31-year-old nephew has glio." So I of course texted her. We immediately got on the phone and that's the people it really stinks for.

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QT: 01;35;08;21

TITLE

His dad is in constant motion

QT: 01;35;14;00

DOUG McCAIN:

He's a kinetic. I mean, he's just like his mother. I mean, he's constant motion. I mean, I went to visit him when he first got diagnosed after the first surgery. He came back. He made the speech on the senate floor and then they had the healthcare vote. We had already had a family thing scheduled a few weeks later in August, but I didn't want to wait that long. So I flew out. Drove up to the cabin. Spend the weekend with him and Mark Salter and Megan. The next day we got to go on the obligatory hike up the hill to the little bench that he likes to sit on. Whenever we're out there you always have these hikes. He always says they're optional. Well, they're not really optional unless you're Lindsey Graham or Joe Lieberman. They participate, but if they don't want to they don't have to, so—

QT: 01;36;09;18

TITLE

His dad loves birdwatching at his ranch

QT: 01;36;14;22

DOUG McCAIN:

Well, he loves the birds. The hawks. I don't think they have any eagles on that property, but there's a couple hawks that have taken up residence. He just enjoying it. He's taking it in. It's a beautiful spot. I mean, you know, to be in the high desert like that, but to have a creek going through it, have it water, and everything so green. It's pretty neat.

QT: 01;36;38;13

TITLE

The three amigos

QT: 01;36;43;02

DOUG McCAIN:

Joe Lieberman, Lindsay Graham, and John McCain. I think they were named by David Petraeus. So, for their coat tails they've got out around the world

trying to learn about defense stuff. Joe's a kind man. I remember doing a campaign event with him in South Carolina. I went to a synagogue in Charleston and went to a few other places with him. He's a very nice man. He was kind of the last of a breed in term of a hawk-ish Democrat when it comes to defense, which is a shame because I think it's understandable that we all just don't necessarily agree on social issues, but I think it's important that we agree that if we can't keep America safe, then social issues don't really mean a darn thing. That's I think one of the biggest schisms in American politics to me right now.

QT: 01;37;45;01

TITLE

On his dad's regret for not running Lieberman

QT: 01;37;50;00

DOUG McCAIN:

I still—no offense to Senator Lieberman if this makes the film, but I still probably would've preferred Governor Romney, who I like and admire a great deal, only because my dad's weakness is Mitt Romney's strength and that's economics. I think that would've been—I was very disappointed when Mitt Romney didn't win. I thought he was going to win that election. I think some remarkable things happened that he didn't. Super Storm Sandy being one of them. But no, it doesn't surprise me that dad said that. Not at all.

QT: 01;38;29;11

TITLE

He thinks the financial crisis sealed his dad's defeat

QT: 01;38;33;17

DOUG McCAIN:

We all have regrets in life, but we can't change. Hindsight's 20/20, but you can't go back and change anything. To be honest with you and I think my dad would tell you this, I think anybody who wants to be totally honest about it, the day that Lehman brother's failed and the markets started going haywire, he lost the election. There was no—when people look at their investment accounts and it's the single biggest drop in 70 years, they're not voting for the party in power. It's just not going to happen. I actually think he did quite

well for it to be as close as it was. I mean, some of that might have been due to the fact that as charismatic as he was, Mr. Obama was relatively young and inexperienced.

QT: 01;39;33;01

TITLE

People connect to McCain's POW experience

QT: 01;39;37;08

DOUG McCAIN:

I've been at campaign events and it—ya know, the Mike Christensen story, he was the POW who tailored the American flag that they had said Pledge of Allegiance to. Then the Vietnamese found out about it, beat the crap out of him, took the flag. Then they're all in the big cell and they look over in the corner one night and there he is trying to make another flag out of his clothes. You know, I think the first time he ever told that story was when he was still in the Navy and he spoke at the California Prayer Breakfast when Ronald Regan was governor and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. I've seen him tell that story at some campaign events, especially one night. I think it was in Buffalo at a war memorial there where they just did—him and Orson Swindle and Ed Alvarez were the only people kind of really participated aside from the crowd. There were tears just all over the place. People make that connection.

QT: 01;40;38;06

TITLE

On McCain's vocal political stands in the age of Trump

QT: 01;40;43;18

DOUG McCAIN:

I think the fact that I think it has less to do with his diagnosis then it does with the fact that he knows he's never going to run again. Okay? But I think even if he was going to run again, I mean, maybe the diagnosis does, but there's a point where at the end of the day he just believes there's a right way of doing things and a wrong way of doing things. We've gone down a track in our political system that's become so partisan. The Affordable Care Act didn't get a single Republican vote. The Democrats will acknowledge that it has problems, but they don't want to participate in fixing it. So we've just—I

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don't know if it's the diagnosis or just the way it feels right. There are a few times, they're not a lot, but when Mr. Trump has done a couple of things regarding defense, my dad's been very vocal about supporting. You don't necessarily see a great deal of media coverage about that.

QT: 01;41;55;08

TITLE

On his dad's legacy

QT: 01;42;00;02

DOUG McCAIN:

For the overwhelm—to the overwhelming majority of people, he's going to be remembered as somebody who 'til his last breath did what he thought was best for the United States of America. Period.

QT: 01;42;13;07

TITLE

On his dad's famous temper

QT: 01;42;17;12

DOUG McCAIN:

I've been on the—probably the most recent time when his favorite spirit was missing from the freezer out in Arizona, I probably got on the butt end of that temper. It doesn't last long. It doesn't last long. I mean, and it's not—ya know, I'm trying to think what else could have—he's got a very quick wit and a good sense of humor. Sometimes the wit can be a little barby. Can be little picky, but that just means he loves you so. You know, if he's not picking on you, then somethings wrong.

QT: 01;43;08;12

TITLE

Old friends

QT: 01;43;12;03

DOUG McCAIN:

I know he misses ... I think to this day, he probably still misses Bob Craner. I think they were real close.

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END TC: 01;43;22;13