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SPEAKERS

[Music], Ray Hill, Jack Valinski, Jimmy Carper

 Jack Valinski 00:02

Voters began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar the Stonewall on Christopher Street in the heart of the West Village

 00:32

savor this next moment the task of

 00:43

the LSVT is

 [Music] 00:54

we must destroy the MRS ones and draw shatter them we must continue to speak out and most importantly most importantly every gay person must come out

 01:32

now you're gonna watch

 02:02

your phone

J

Jimmy Carper 02:17

you may come out?

o

03:44

As president as President of the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed we're not in Kansas anymore.

[

[Music] 04:59

We must destroy Already the reason for our shattered dreamers continue to speak out and most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out the other if your wish for KPFA to run out You must tell your immediate family, you must tell your relatives you must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends, you must tell your neighbors you must tell the people you're working with you must tell the people the stories you shopping once they realize that we are indeed their children and we are everywhere every every lie every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And I ask people all over this country to do one thing come out come out America.

o

06:38

following program contains language or images of a sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable or discretion is advised.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:08

Well, that's engineering goof up number one for the evening. Let me try that again. Let me try that one more time here.

o

07:24

The following program contains language or images of a phrase or sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by this question is it?

J

Jimmy Carper 07:59

Oh yes, you've tuned in to after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston. 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends. Hear it after hours. We may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closet. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do

that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours. Hello, Houston in College Station and Galveston in the world and welcome to the June 28 edition of after hours. Jimmy Carper, I'll be your producer for the evening and my special co host for this evening is a voice that you usually hear Monday nights from eight to 10 Jack Valinski.

J Jack Valinski 09:48

Well, I'm very pleased to be here and actually we hijacked a segment on Thursday with Amy Goodman about when the news came out about the Supreme Court decision and that's really what we're celebrating tonight. We really are just incredible. I mean to talk about what had happened after so many slow starts and false starts and reversals on overturning the sodomy law and people don't realize how basic that rule was against us. Amy was talking about some people who lost custody of their children because of that saw and couldn't even see their children's and their children ended up being in custody of somebody who was a child abuser, rather than and, you know, we don't you know, sometimes in our own tight knit community, we don't always see that, but

J Jimmy Carper 10:33

people didn't realize that. First of all, it was only a misdemeanor, right? But it was used against us to Absolutely. Gays and lesbians from becoming police officers because we're criminals to kick us out of our jobs because we're criminals to kick us out of our homes because we're criminals. And that has gone by the wayside

J Jack Valinski 11:00

well, as well Sue? Well, as we all know, Nina Totenberg, the God of the Supreme Court reporters on NPR, of course, we have our own Supreme Court reporter here at KPFT. And that's Ray Hill, Jr. and he is and you know, that's interesting to have our grand marshals have dealt with the Supreme Court Ray Hill and of course, Mitchell Katyn winning this case and no less winning it in Harris County is just unbelievable. I mean, the eyes of the world media

J Jimmy Carper 11:30

that's exactly what I was thinking the whole world is looking at Houston. Absolutely.

J Jack Valinski 11:33

And you know, the the story about San Francisco over Castro, where they took the gay flag down and put up the US flag for a short time is an incredible statement. Yes. I mean, they sometimes look so down on us that we ranked number one in pollution that we sent George Bush to the White House,

J Jimmy Carper 11:49

just to get rid of them. Yeah.

J Jack Valinski 11:54

That whole tone that was set on Thursday, and you know, two days before the celebration, and you know, people don't realize that we work all year for three hour parade. Three hour boat ride on Gilligan's Island. There you go. Um, and, and, you know, a lot of people see me as as the face of pride, but it's not me, there are so many people involved. I mean, tonight, it probably took about 100 volunteers. And we didn't do everything right. But a lot of stuff was done. Right. And we are just the people behind the scenes who do this parade. It's the people you know, in the parade, who are the stars, but we do it for the people on the

R Ray Hill 12:31

wards. Jack goes through this routine.

∅ 12:33

I know. I know. I know.

R Ray Hill 12:35

I love Jack's modesty. It's badly misplaced. Jack is a prime activist. I've been in this business, maybe a week or two longer than Jack. But let me tell you, I would trust Jack was any assignment of organizing and I can guarantee would have certain characteristics that would work like a charm. Among those is it would be absolutely inclusive. Nobody would be left out without any question at all. Nobody would be treated better than anyone else. Or it would be treated less or than anyone else. John Berlinski is I'm always I don't know what happened. Is it my elbow if it was my head, I'm always just overwhelmed with Jack's ability and his capacity to keep a cool head in the face of various crises. I didn't see him run a while tonight. But you did. But before we get too far on Jack, I want yeah, I could spend the whole night.

J Jimmy Carper 13:45

I do want to say that I want to introduce you. For those who don't know Daddy Ray Hill. Right here in our studio. We've got a whole bunch of folks in the studio because pride night I just invite everybody in and let's talk about the parade and how much fun you had and what the floats look like and all of that kind of stuff. But tonight is extra special. Because we are celebrating our freedom. And and our

J Jack Valinski 14:12

DEATH ANNIVERSARY AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY WHICH CELEBRATE THE HISTORY AND OF COURSE YOUR BEING AND

25th anniversary, our 25th anniversary which reflects the history and of course you being one of the Grand Marshal. Yes, we're on the first float that was in celebration of the 25th anniversary and the grand marshals and, you know, is really incredible. A good friend of mine, Troy Christiansen did a documentary on you all we know about is wonder which played I mean, play not on access TV, which was really really incredible. You know, it just just so fabulous that what he did, and it's not like they've had a lot of special effects but what the stories are told of where we came from and, and Larry binaries, who was one of the founders of the Pride Parade was here as a judge today

J Jimmy Carper 14:59

and Isn't he looked hot with that bald head going

R Ray Hill 15:02

Actually Actually, he's aged so much less than the rest of it sounds not fair. And

J Jimmy Carper 15:07

I knew Larry's 30 years ago and he hasn't really changed.

R Ray Hill 15:12

Larry binaries is the Throw Down person of color. I mean, I passed him off as black I pass them off as mulatto, I passed him off as Mexican. I mean, he you, you could pass him off with any person of color, and he will adapt very well. He is one of the founders of gay Hispanic Caucus and he doesn't speak a word of Spanish.

J Jack Valinski 15:38

Those days. Those of us who know him, it's Larry back vignerons. Neris, east of the Sabine Ryrie boundaries west of the world when

R Ray Hill 15:46

he came to us and he decided to print it up and it might be a little up market. But when he answers the telephone, his mother might call it's Larry back narrows. But But But Larry is wonderful, wonderful. He was a creature who, before we had parades and anything Larry binaries used to come up to me before or after marches and saying, you're doing it all wrong. This is really screwed up. And, of course, my response to that is he will do it yourself. And so and I team and 79, he was we were all got kind of kind of high on 1978, which is the 25th year ago that we celebrate this year, because we had town meeting. We got out together, we took a look at one another. And most of us liked very much what we saw because gay and lesbian people were not unlikable people, they were professional people. They were good people. They

were capable people. And we didn't know that before 1978 in the macrocosm, I was writing on the grand marshals float down the line with pokey Anderson and I love pokey Pokey, and I have allied and fought over so many issues over the years. But she's she just wonderful reservoir of knowledge. And she said there was a meeting one time where Tinder 12 of us got together and we were hoping there might be 75 lesbians. There were 75 lesbians on motorcycles.

J Jack Valinski 17:28

That's one of the things we're really proud of the fact that the parade has all this diversity. I'm sorry, this diversity that that we have. And you know, we've become a lot more professional. Thanks for all the hard work of a lot of people. But we've also tried to keep the grassroots the fact that we still keep the fees relatively low for the nonprofit.

J Jimmy Carper 17:49

Yes, that's right. That's right. That's right. And those of us who are part of nonprofits really, really thank you for that.

J Jack Valinski 17:59

And I know the judges, as I said, Larry binaries was one of the judges along with my co host. Yeah, Joseph Devlin. Yeah. And Carol Wyatt, Pam Ziggler, I believe of Red Bull. And, and Brenda Thomas, of course,

R Ray Hill 18:14

these awards are going to be given out tomorrow tomorrow at

J Jack Valinski 18:17

Oh, which is the new Pacific street and on Pacific Street, to 5pm. The party starts at four but 5pm, we make the public announcement. And honestly, I don't know who won. I mean, I have it in my pocket. But I don't know who won because I didn't really look at and that's the thing. It's not the people in the pride committee that live out you work. And also I do have to make the statement to is that there is nobody in the pride committee that writes down in convertible in the parade. We're all working it at the end, right? We get to jump on the float. The people who are down there, so a lot of us are working but but you know, the incredible thing was the focus today. I mean, I was talking to a reporter from the LA Times today, it was pretty incredible. And and of course, you know, it's so wonderful to be able to talk to somebody outside of Houston, who's reported because they don't know the stories. Yes. They don't know the stories of 1984 how we lost the election 81% to 19%. They don't know the fact that KPFT was bombed off the air in 1970 by the Klan twice. And, you know, the resources, just as we were talking Thursday on the air here with with Amy that, you know, through so much of this stuff. KPFT has been fighting the battles and we've been able to come here and access the airwaves and talk about things like this, like we're sitting around in the living room and doing it and you know,

sometimes KPFT is dysfunctional as we know, like any family. But you know, the reality is, is they don't come in here and tell us what to do, when to do it usually because they're so busy fighting with each other. But the reality is, is were we able to come in here and do our shows and talk to people in the community. And I feel very fortunate that we have this opportunity to do this is this really incredible? And I don't know if some people realize, but there was a couple years that we actually broadcast the parade live on tape. Yes, we did. I did that one year, I had those tapes. And yeah, so it was just incredible.

J

Jimmy Carper 20:15

You know, it was a blow by blow as things came down the street, you know? Well, so, so to speak. Well,

J

Jack Valinski 20:22

you know, we hope that that now this year, it was actually videotaped. Yes. And last year, the person who videotaped it passed away. Yes. So, we got the tapes, and we were in Troy, Christian was able to edit it. So but we didn't get it out. So late this year, we hope to have it much closer. But we also plan to add to broadcasts on public access. And you know, that sometimes people, you know, look at our community and say, we can't get along. We don't do anything. But it's amazing sometimes how we do. I mean, when Troy did the documentary on the grand marshals, and re saw it that night, he took it home and watched it. And then he went over to access and basically handed them the seat the DVD and says, Here play it. And they say, Well, you can't do that you're not a producer. And and Ray Hill says, Well, let me get my throw down producer. And within I think 24 hours, it was still within

R

Ray Hill 21:10

within 20 minutes, they had found map producer, yes, yes,

J

Jack Valinski 21:14

sure. Which, which was Dennis feathers, who's, you know, part of no

R

Ray Hill 21:18

actually found me another one and I interpolated in his house. Okay. But the thing about it is that within this community, and I'm talking about the gay and lesbian community, and transgendered and bisexual community, of course, but I'm also talking about within this KPFT community, which is inclusive as well, gay people, lesbian women, transgendered people of any variety that comes forward, bisexuals and slash EQ, sexuals, and embarrassed actuals. And we've got that, but let me tell you about Public Radio, Public Radio, we you notice, if you're listening tonight, and I hope a lot of people are listening tonight, because you knew this was Pride Week. And you knew that after ours was on the air, and you knew that we were going to be talking about something that you may have missed at home. But we have been bringing you

what you have missed at home for a good many years. I was active in the community of this radio station in 19, and 68. We did not turn on the electricity to the tower until 1970. I am one of the co founders. And the reason I'm one of the co founders is that the real co founders if you count co founders two, that was Larry Lee, and Don Gardner. And the real co founders came forward and recruited me because I had just got through doing a television show about gay and lesbian people. And they wanted some open gay and lesbian people here because that's the kind of programming this station was intended to do. And our sister stations in San Francisco and New York and Los Angeles at the time, we have since added a sister station in Washington, DC seeks out people that have not as much voice in other media as the majority. And guess who that was in 1968 in 1970. And guess who to a large degree that is now yes. What you're hearing here is the solid gold of real people sharing their excitement. And this week, it's two things. It's Pride Week, which was so phenomenally successful. And it was the decision by the United States Supreme Court, which surpassed anything we any of us could have anticipated. And I'm the watcher, so I know that.

J Jack Valinski 24:05

Well, I thought you had it pretty close right on.

R Ray Hill 24:07

Well, I call the vote but I didn't I missed it. I thought we were going the decision was going to read equal justice. And I knew that we had six votes on equal justice. But the decision was on privacy, which one only had five votes. And privacy is a much more important issue because this is the first expansion of the definite legal definition of privacy since Roe v. Wade,

J Jack Valinski 24:37

but you know, it's so interesting the fact that we got that privacy thing and it's that's usually what the Republicans stand for. But But getting back to KPFT

R Ray Hill 24:45

but back to KPFT since we don't have commercials, and this radio program has a goal just like every other radio program of KPFT to bring in listener support. I want to prevail on you I mean, the gold tonight is 360 bucks. And that I raised that in the first 15 minutes of the prison show. Just yesterday. Of course, I started a little earlier, and I played to a little larger audience,

J Jimmy Carper 25:15

the overnight shows don't just they don't,

R Ray Hill 25:17

they don't come down here and beat you to death with high gold. Yeah. But somebody needs to go to the telephone, and call 713-526-5738. That's 713-526-5738. Now there are people out there that spell better than they count. And for you, it's 71352 6k PF T. And we would like for you to do that. So that we can reach our goal, and get on with all of this exciting talk. For some of you, the whole thing, 360 bucks, hey, you can do that without a sweat. If you don't want to do it in one chunk, you can put it on a credit card to dry interest, you can do it that way thing. Or you can you can make an arrangement with a volunteer that answer the telephone, to have it withdrawn from your bank account or some other way so that it doesn't hit you all at once. But we're talking about basically, less than coffee money, you're gonna spend that much money and coffee in the next year. You're gonna I mean, I mean, if you if you go to a star buckles or whatever the name of those places are its tax ID, whatever, yeah, whatever you go, you're going to spend a lot more money than that than 360 bucks. All right. So a year. So we're asking you to make a pledge. And you call and a volunteer says What's your name? What's your dress? How much would you like to pledge, and we'll send you a statement with an envelope, and you can put the cheque in it. Or you can give them a credit card number, our folks are very trustworthy. Yes. And, but But you know, I'm, I'm, I'm not a real flush person. I mean, granted, my career has been to create a movement for change. And that's working out real well this week. And I'm a listener, subscriber to KPFT in Houston. And I don't subscribe for the prison show. Because that you can take for granted, I go to the prison show, because that's where I volunteer my time. I subscribe for other programs, frequently music programs on KPFT. And I would like for you to do the same things that I do, and support this form of media. We live in a time when all kinds of international conglomerates are becoming monopolistic about the media, trying to find an alternative voice about the recent war. And I don't say the recent past war, because people are still dying. But you wouldn't know it if you didn't listen to KPFT is reported in the general media as an incident. But then Amy Goodman will tell you the next morning how many people died and what the circumstances were? Or is that alternative voice? Well, it is right here.

J

Jack Valinski 28:26

Do we have somebody thank we have

J

Jimmy Carper 28:28

two people to thank actually, Jim gave us a nice pledge. And John actually was gonna give one pledge and then upped it because he wanted to get a cap. So we're happy about that we can

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Ray Hill 28:46

it'll keep that bald spot from turning red, which I should have done today. They don't actually yours is red today. So it's mine a little pink and but that's the way it works. And as we talk about things, some of you are going to be motivated and give us a call. We got little goodies. I mean, if you give 35 bucks or more, or if you're a senior citizen or a student 25 bucks, you get to vote in our election, we'll send you a membership card, right? We're going to elect a board of directors here one of these days, as soon as our good friend and his fetters figured out how to make that work. If you want to hit us with 75 bucks, hey, we got a sneak red t shirt that we'll throw on you that it'll make your heart warm and nice. And as you go up the scale. You get all

kinds of goodies and matter of fact, if you get way on up there, and you make a sacrificial gift KPFT as one of my listeners did last night prison show, then they'll give you a call and and just negotiate all kinds of things to suit your special needs. But what you're paying for my friend is not the goodies. I mean, we are not the shopping bag radios Stage and we are Pacifica and you're listening to after hours. And this is vital stuff. And Jimmy and before him, the host of the program used to say, well, you know, you're sitting in your closet and you're listening to jazz radio, and it's turned down so your mother can't hear. And that's literally true.

J

Jimmy Carper 30:22

And in fact, it's to the point now, where I have one of my assistant producers on this show was one of those kids who was sitting and listening to this show in his closet. And you

R

Ray Hill 30:35

know, there's another kid we're going to have home soon. Yes, my Williams. Oh, we'll be home soon. No kidding. Mike Williams, we will be home soon. And let me tell you, can I tell the story of Mike Williams?

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30:47

Sure.

R

Ray Hill 30:49

When Mike Williams was just a kid. I mean, just a kid before the age of consent, he and another kid, before the age of consent. Were you know, having a circle jerk in the woods behind the trailer park? Yeah. Channelview. I mean, that's what kids do. What kid doesn't do that?

J

Jimmy Carper 31:09

Everybody almost don't want to hear about that. But they know that gives it to with it. Yes.

R

Ray Hill 31:13

Michael was doing that. And, and, and he was a little bit older, but not significantly older than his partner. And everybody had a wonderful time, except the mother of Mike's friend. And so they both the kids had been in a little trouble. And they had the same probation officer. Oh, so they reported it to the police. And it got back to the probation officer and the probation officer looked at her file. And to me reminds us, I mean, cromac have a lot of troubled southern kids that are having trouble with my. And so she didn't do enough to it. So they screamed in jail. And the sheriff actually came out and interviewed didn't say, lady, that's kind of what kids do. That's not a big deal. And so but they insisted, and they went in, they found a pastor that had some friends in political places. And so when Mike turned into adulthood, he was charged with

sexual abuse of a minor. And you say, well, that's a big problem. We'll get that straightened out. So they went to court. The court took a good long look at it and said, Well, you're here and why don't you take a probation and we won't have to have a trial. So we took a probation, a deferred adjudication probation so that when it was over, it would be go away. But you still had that political influence stuff going? And so a year later, when Mike was a little older, they said, Oh, you didn't report to probation officer every Monday or every third Monday of the month, like you Rumsey Sippel. I did. I mean, there was one time that I called and said, I was going to miss a meeting, but I came the next day and, and they said, Well, you didn't pay all your fees, and up, but I did pay all my fees. I mean, I'm not behind on my fees and and go, can you produce the receipts? Well, no, we didn't keep them. And so they violated him and sent him to prison for eight years. And then they have been repeating Lee denying him per row because of the nature and the seriousness of the crime.

J Jimmy Carper 33:35

But it's a frame up.

R Ray Hill 33:37

It's was never it should never have been litigated. Now, the repeal of 2106 would not have had any effect on this case.

J Jack Valinski 33:46

Right. And I really think that, you know, where are we celebrated tonight? We had an incredible celebration. But Monday morning, we need to continue the fight. Oh, yes. And the fight is in so many fronts, the fight is on discrimination, and we can still get fired. Without any reason. There are so many other universal issues such as health care, that affects everybody. There is all types of issues that we you know, we can't get complacent. I mean, if you look at what's going on in this White House right now, they're turning back everything in the past 40 years that we all fought for in the progressive community.

R Ray Hill 34:23

But Mike is going to join us soon and he's going to be afraid he's going to have all kinds of scars left on his emotion, bad experience in prison. Sure. And that's going to be difficult for us to manage and we're going to have to manage it better than we have managed such things in the past. But my point is that the war is not over. Absolutely, until that sort of thing doesn't have any gay or lesbian or transgendered person. The other issue of course, is the violence. One of the things that always happens I noticed that the religious demonstrators against our pride celebrations this year, were a little more numerous. Yeah, about twice as much. And I suspect that the reason that is true is because they're really upset about our recent victory. Sure, the same victory that we celebrate, angers people. And it is right now that our vulnerability to their anger is heightened. So I would encourage everybody, number one, to be very, very alert and report anything that looks suspicious, because the police are now interested in that sort of thing. There was a time when they weren't. But those times like other things have passed. Your

safety is important to me and my safety is important to you. So be careful where you go. Stay alert, you know, the same advice we give women to protect themselves from the predatory soil that see them as weak and vulnerable, is true of us. I mean, Jack's one of the stories I read about Dec this week, said his whistle is shrill and there was a time when we all had whistles. And you might think about getting a whistle, to attract attention in case something comes up that you need to do that.

J Jack Valinski 36:20

And I also remember a syllable getting in front of the rally and city hall and Thursday evening saying, Don't ever give Ray Hill a line because he's gonna steal it.

R Ray Hill 36:32

Actually, actually, I asked Sue, we were but we were both testifying today on the redress districting issue. Yes. Which was very important to the important issue, because after the proposed redistricting plan, the Montrose will be represented bunch on Culbertson,

J Jack Valinski 36:47

right. Oh, my God, and Chris Bell probably won't have an hour and Chris Bell

R Ray Hill 36:52

won't have an office and others won't have an office. But the deal is, is I said, Look, right now I'm represented by Sheila Jackson Lee. I'm represented from Garnett Coleman. I'm represented by Ada Edwards. I'm represented by Rodney Ellis. I'm represented by El Franco Lee. And if you take those people and me, I'm the one with the lightest complexion. I've always been white, but I will never be white enough to be represented by John Culbertson.

J Jack Valinski 37:22

Sort of a side story. I think Sheila's a little upset with me because she showed up late for the parade and she had a wait. She couldn't just join the parade in the middle of the parade.

J Jimmy Carper 37:33

Yeah, well, I know you're getting the Pride Parade. Folks are getting a little bit stricter about but everybody else has to show up and I want three. Yes, that's our number seven, we need your 713

37:49

Jam. Katie. Yes. Yeah.

R

Ray Hill 37:51

So when time jam got

J

Jimmy Carper 37:53

a studio full of people Stephens here with his his very supportive

R

Ray Hill 37:57

parents and I want to listen to PFLAG folks, even experienced.

J

Jimmy Carper 38:02

We've got some hatch folks in the lobby. We've got three lawyers that were making weight. Now now, I love that and I've never said is that poetic justice or what? No, no, these are good guys. Short blue path. Yes, yes. We have a pan

♂

38:19

another another. Another chair. They're not here in the three, four chairs. 14 was pregnant with four mics.

J

Jimmy Carper 38:27

Listen, you can just tuck these mics will pick up anything. At least they'll pick up enough. Yeah. Steven. Yes. Would you introduce your parents to the audience?

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38:39

Oh, this is these microphones feel weird. That's a headphone Stephen. Yeah, headphones microphones in front of me. My wonderful mother Linda is here beside or went over in my wonderful dad. Mike is sitting next to me. They helped. Will they build the P flag float this year? Built it last year? Excellent. Float. Barcellos dad and my brother in law. My new brother in law year they got married last year, my sister and dad built most of it. And then in between working when I'm off, I drove down and helped them. But we've

J

Jimmy Carper 39:16

had some tremendous support this year, with all the PFLAG with all the PFLAG parents and

we've had quite a few people helping us along the way and we could not have done it without them. So and what a fantastic parade. We're thrilled that the Supreme Court ruling came down during Gay Pride Month. Oh, what a perfect timing. nastic. One day off the anniversary of Stonewall. Yes, yes. We are rolling. And we have a lot of work ahead of us. Still, but crucial beginning and a wonderful, wonderful Gay Pride Month. What reason to celebrate this evening. So I'm alighted as a member of PFLAG. And as a PFLAG Mom, I am very delighted for my son and for all the GLBT kids. Well, let me tell you I love dearly over the last months and years that Steven has been hanging out here. And I certainly have encouraged the audience has really got to know you through him, cuz he talks about how supportive both of you are and things you do together and what you're doing when people PFLAG. And that, listen, when I was 17 years old, my parents found out I was gay. They kicked me out of the house, and they never looked back. And there are a lot of stories like mine out there, and to hear about supportive parents for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people is just, it can be overwhelming. It's it's something that I can't Well, apprehend PFLAG is a wonderful organization. I can't say enough about PFLAG. PFLAG helped us personally. And we're just trying to do everything we can to make the world a better place for for these young people. Who dearly you know, they we love them and and I'm trying to do everything I can to make the world a better place for them really saw



41:28

that. The what Jimmy was saying tonight is when all the other organizations come through. There's certain groups that Yeah, but when PFLAG comes through, everybody stands up and just yells and absolutely thought awesome. Yeah. So what we tell new people that come in and PFLAG we tell them, you know, went to the Pride Parade way to walk down Westheimer. And everybody just gives a huge applause for you. Yeah. It's this was



J Jimmy Carper 41:54

my really hard gay pride parade. And each year, I was amazed at that my very first year I marched, I think, Steven, it was two months after I became involved in PFLAG. Wow, as a matter of fact, and I was just amazed at the outpouring of support for PFLAG who actually it was very emotional. I cried. The, the outpouring of love and support along the way, was just unbelievable. And it's very rewarding out as a mother. And suno pointed out something to me about, she mentioned that the well and Fred and rosemary Wilson also the guy community has just been overwhelmingly supportive of them. And that's something that Mike and I have mentioned that we have met so many wonderful people in the gay community. So it's, it's, it's rewarding to us but at the same time, it's it's a gift that we have been given. With these these young people, they give back to us to so. So we're very, we're very happy to be here tonight. It's the first time that I've been able to, to come and support to be here with Steven and we're delighted to be here. What was your reaction when you first found out he was gay? That's actually I'm glad Yes. At first I cried. I first I cried and I screamed. I didn't scream. I cried. And I cried for quite a while. And that went on for several months. And then I I, as time went on the hurt. Actually, it took about a year. Yeah, Steven.



43:55

Well, to tell the whole truth. I was outed to them. Oh, oh friend at work.

J Jimmy Carper 44:02

He did not officially

∅ 44:05

tell us that.

J Jimmy Carper 44:07

He was outed. That isn't that's traumatic on both sides. Yes,

∅ 44:10

I was at work and mom left me a message on my phone. I was working in Kima and they're like mom, or my mom was crying on the phone. Please come when you get off work and now you're at work please call me. Please call me and I called her and she was like, Please tell me you're not gay. Please tell me you're not gay. I'm she is constant. She was asking me but this one was she was just in tears. I'm like, No mom. I'm not I wasn't living at home at the time. I was like, I'm coming home. I walked in and I was like, Mom, let's go to your room. I don't want to go to my mom. Let's go to your mommy what

J Jimmy Carper 44:43

you were going to tell me and I I was avoiding it. I couldn't face it at that time. And it was it was very scary. It scared me frankly. It scared me and I didn't know how to cope with

∅ 44:57

it and told the whole family all at once about What two hours later dad? Yeah. Oh well family told everybody but did Dad react?

∅ 45:07

You know, that's the second time he's lad

J Jimmy Carper 45:08

was in shock. But I think he was in shock initially.



45:16

It's really tougher on



45:17

dads. Well, yeah, it is. It's I couldn't understand because society has people placed into these stereotypes. Yeah, stereotypes of what's gay and what's not gay. Steven has been running the bulldozer since the time he was 12 years old. He's been, you know, running a crew and our office for years and years. You know, I mean, it's just kind of flabbergasted me and I just couldn't believe it that that was what was happening. But once we did realize that this was actually him and not something that he chose to do, then it all kind of fit together really easy.



46:04

And we went through the, what your my uncle, your brother, mom's brother, got us hooked up with a Methodist minister, that I would see them with them on once a week, once a month, and they would see him on the opposite month. And they were telling when I wasn't there. They were telling them that I can turn straight and a whole bunch now he was



Jimmy Carper 46:25

trying. He was encouraging us to become involved in the Exodus ministry as a matter of fact, and and we did not you have to understand this was something that was brand new to us and we at that time, we were not educated about the issue. And we thought well