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SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper



00:01

contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.



Jimmy Carper 00:33

Oh yes, you've tuned into 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 closets. 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.



01:57

Hello, Houston, and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude heard every Saturday night at midnight right here on KPFT Houston,



Jimmy Carper 02:08

and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight is



Sarah DePalma 02:14

Sarah dipalma. Howdy Houston. How you been? What's new in your neck of the woods? On television? I

J Jimmy Carper 02:21

know I know. How have you been?

S Sarah DePalma 02:23

Actually I've been doing just fine. I've been busy is a one armed paper hanger as they say.

J Jimmy Carper 02:28

I'll bet because you worked on the nice Parker's pimping and working

S Sarah DePalma 02:32

on an East Parker's campaign went and taught my first class at the Houston Police Academy. We're going to talk about that tonight. Honey, if the people they recruit for the Police Academy are reflective of a society. Yeah, have we got a long way to go? Oh, I haven't heard some of the stuff like they said since I left Texas a&m. So we'll be talking about that tonight. real interesting hill

J Jimmy Carper 02:59

if you're doing what sensitivity training, Oh, honey, they

S Sarah DePalma 03:03

got sensitized. But believe me with Mindy Snodgrass and myself. We did it. We definitely did some. But we have a lot. I mean, it's hard to sensitize them in, like three hours or less well, but we try. We tried. Let them know we're here, Danielle. And I went and spoke to a statewide hookup of doctors. This was arranged by Dr. Cole. And we're going to talk about that because that was very interesting as well. Okay. Very interesting. We too, I talked about how transgenders are treated in by many doctors in the way that they're treated as objects. And, hey, come on in and take a look at this. She's got boobs and brother and open some eyes. So we will talk about that.

J Jimmy Carper 03:47

I know in the past, you've talked about GID.

S Sarah DePalma 03:51

Tonight. Yeah, you've run into that article. And I'm glad that you did I

J Jimmy Carper 03:54

enjoy my work, you know you were talking about now GID stands for that is

S Sarah DePalma 03:58

gender identity disorder. That is and I guess we are explaining a little bit about that gender identity disorder. Let me back up even further. There is something called the DSM V. It stands for diagnostic and statisticians manual. Okay. What that is, is the official book that psychologists and psychiatrists use for the diagnosis of various mental or emotional disorders. Well, one of those is called gender identity disorder. And that is a disorder that they diagnose when they decide that someone is transsexual. Well, there are many of us who are trans, sexual or transgender activists who thoroughly hate this. You

04:41

know, I remember you always bringing this up, and I never understood why until I read a recent article in the advocate talking about GID and how it was used against gay and lesbian people.

S Sarah DePalma 04:54

It's been used against gay and lesbian people and well, I'm trying to get a guest for our Our January show who's written a book. That's called the the last, I believe the last day I wore it last time I wore a dress. Yes, I have just gotten through reading this book. And it has sent absolute chills of horror through me. This is a person who has died, who is a first of all, the victim of horrible child abuse, decides that she has, she doesn't go for the Femi, you know, girls grow up to be this kind of stuff. Basically. She's a dyke. Yeah. She gets into a clinic, she's forced into the clinic, actually. And what happens to her in this clinic, how they attempt to change her gender, she is put through the tortures of the dam. This is the sort of stuff Nazis do. It is just frightening. And we're gonna get into more about that tonight. That's a subject we've only kind of touched on on the show, because I never really could find a way to make it applicable to gays and lesbians. But having read the book, and with her possibly coming on as a guest, this is really good time. Plus, you've got this article from the advocate we want to talk about. I also want tonight

J Jimmy Carper 06:05

is actually veterans, the Veterans Day show.

S Sarah DePalma 06:10

Yeah, and you know, this is a show I've really been looking forward to, and I've been getting

quite an education. I always knew that don't ask, don't tell don't pursue, which is I guess what the policy is actually called. I always knew that it wasn't working. I didn't know how badly it was not working. This is I downloaded 23 pages of material off the internet, about the military, gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders in the military. And tonight, we're going to take our time and go through some of these examples. And they are just horrible. I did not realize the extent to which civil rights disappear the day you join the military. Right. And which is, I have a hard time coming to this subject. Because I was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War. I've never been a fan in the military. I've always been one of those people who felt like we build fewer bombs and build more schools. Right. But of course, having said they understand the need to have a military, right,

J

Jimmy Carper 07:16

and and many people feel like they want to protect their country and serve their country and belong to the military.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:25

The first question I'm going to ask of our guests was actually something was suggested to me my one of my co workers, we were talking about who we're going to have on the show. And he said, Well, if they know they're not wanting to the military wire, the wire the enlisting, and a lot out tonight, and I thought, you know, I suspect I know the answer. But it's a legitimate question. Actually, that's let's

J

Jimmy Carper 07:47

ask that. And we have guests tonight, who are going to talk from their perspective from a gay, lesbian, and trans gendered perspective of being in the military,

S

Sarah DePalma 07:57

one of whom actually spent 21 days in the brig for being gay, right? This is really going to be a very interesting show. As is usually the case with us. We have bought eight hours worth of material I know. And it's a three hour show.

J

Jimmy Carper 08:10

And somewhere in the middle, we're going to cram our news report where it's a new spot, we've started doing the news because I you know, there's been some nights that I've we've been such a packed show, that there have been things that we haven't been able to get on.

S

Sarah DePalma 08:27

We're going to be talking about the election, nationally 17 out of 35 Gay candidates one. Wow.

So that's quite a that's quite an excellent percentage of our own. And he's Parker is in a runoff. And we'll talk about the election results and where we go from here. There's just one there was the we had a hate crimes conference here with the National Gay Lesbian taskforce that I thought went extremely well. And we're going to be talking about hate crimes, particularly in light of President Clinton's talk with the HRC tonight, and there is a hate national hate crimes conference coming up on Monday. So this is one of those shows, I don't care how you label yourself, whether you consider yourself gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, some of the above none of the above the we have got it almost a little of something for everyone here tonight. We're even at one point tonight, we're going to be talking about folks who were born with both sexes and what happens to them. Yes. And

J

Jimmy Carper 09:31

we've been talking about that for three years, but the Advocate has just touched on it you know,

S

Sarah DePalma 09:35

it's interesting because you you were pointing this out and it's really true stuff we've been talking about for three years advocate is now catching up to me chuckle looks like Where have you been the last three years? And why haven't you been listening to us earlier? So anyway, but anyway, is interesting.

J

Jimmy Carper 09:50

And now for something completely different? Indeed. Indeed, we've got ticket giveaways.

S

Sarah DePalma 09:58

Okay, and you gave it to me who this person is Michael Feinstein and he is

o

10:01

Michael Feinstein worked with George Gershwin. And women now George Gershwin has been dead a long time. Well, Michael Feinstein's not very young. Oh, okay. Anyway, he he's worked with the family and he has permission to and encouragement to us all the material. And so he has made a career out of playing piano and singing Gershwin songs.

S

Sarah DePalma 10:26

Micah think it worst ways to make a living.

u

10:26

J Jimmy Carper 10:28

He's going to be in Houston next week, November the 16th. Okay, he's been, it's the theater at the bayou place than the new one downtown.

S Sarah DePalma 10:40

Oh, yeah. Okay.

J Jimmy Carper 10:41

It was the old convention center or something that's been redone as a theater. Yeah. So it just opened. Oh, that's

S Sarah DePalma 10:48

right. That's the old Convention Center, whatever it was called. Now, what is it called Chocolate something on the Bayou

J Jimmy Carper 10:53

theater on the Bayou? Yes, or something?

S Sarah DePalma 10:56

Something. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 10:58

Anyway. He's gonna be playing there. And we have pairs of tickets to giveaway. And all you have to do when you hear him start singing is give us a call at 526-573-8526 KPFT. And we'll put you on the list. Before we

S Sarah DePalma 11:17

get to the music. I want to extend because I want to extend some congratulation.

J Jimmy Carper 11:21

Ryan in the lobby doesn't know I'm doing this. Oh, that would be good. Yes.

S Sarah DePalma 11:25

i We were listening to the show from hatch last week. YEAH. Jimmy, that was outstanding stuff. Thank you. It really was, uh, Laurie and I were driving home. And we actually, we got home. And we stayed up and left the radio on to listen to this. And I thought it was just outstanding material. Yeah, they did a fabulous program

J Jimmy Carper 11:45

was really developing into something really great. And it was such a packed show, I could only give them a half hour. So we're bringing them back next week on the second half of the show. To continue this. They're talking about etiquette, sexual etiquette and dating. You know, and those are subjects that we just never talked about.

S Sarah DePalma 12:05

It's been a long time since I've had to worry about dating. And God knows, I hope I never have to worry about it again. The older we get, the more we dread it. Yeah. It don't get any easier. They say, Oh, but they were very interesting. They approached the subject well, and they were making points that honestly I had never considered. I was not aware that gays in high school dated or did so publicly. And I thought it was a maybe a positive sign of how times are changing. But it was a fascinating program. And I really want to recommend this for those of you who are out there. If you have not listened to hatch on the Pro on the on this station, check out this next show. They really did a terrific program. And if you're a few folks and listening out there, congratulations. That was good radio. It sounded much better. It sounded just as good out there listening to it in the car is probably didn't hear. Good.

J Jimmy Carper 13:01

That's what we'd like to hear. So let's get get down to the microphone Stein. And let's see if you know this song. It's one of my favorite Gershwin's and give us a call if you're the second caller. 5265738. How about the second and the third caller? We'll give away two pairs of tickets. How's that? Michael? bondstar were easy okay go phones thing. And that was one of my favorite Gershwin Someone to Watch Over Me. If

S Sarah DePalma 13:36

that doesn't make you want to take your partner and get out there and floor and hug tight. Honey, you don't belong in this country.

J Jimmy Carper 13:44

And Marilyn and Roger called in and got two pairs got a pair of tickets each. And what how we work this we put your name on a list out there the KPFT list. So you just show up and your name will be there.

 Sarah DePalma 14:01

Okay, we are Veterans Day is coming up. And Jimmy suggested this show and when he suggested that my first reaction was after it's been done, actually,

 Jimmy Carper 14:11

to tell you the truth. It wasn't my idea. It was Doug's. Really, yes.

 Sarah DePalma 14:18

Our guest who's waving at me saying I

 Jimmy Carper 14:21

was like he said, you know, Veterans Day is coming up. I said, Oh really when? And I felt really embarrassed. But

 Sarah DePalma 14:30

you can tell that we're you know, that we're really veterans, you know, yeah. Okay. And he

 Jimmy Carper 14:35

got to me through Brian keeper. Well, Brian, I know Brian resident event la this year. Brian Keever. Ryan caver is president of NLA. It's interesting,

 Sarah DePalma 14:46

okay. My first reaction was all well, you know, this, don't ask don't tell stuff. It's been done. So I went off and I did a little research and I realized statistics can be boring as hell but let me run a few numbers by you. This is from an air report and annual report that is put together by the service members Legal Defense Network. And this is very current. This is as of February the 26th of this year, every year they put together a report of violating violations of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, don't pursue. And here are a few, just a few numbers. Last year, the Department of Defense discharged 850 people under Don't Ask Don't Tell, which was a five year high. And the highest rate of discharge since 1987.

 Jimmy Carper 15:43

Kind of makes you wonder, you know, we've always screamed about being discharged and being bamboozled. And here since they've started this, don't ask, don't tell it's just blossom.

Well,

 Sarah DePalma 15:54

as this report points out, don't ask don't tell don't pursue means don't pursue the truth for the most part.

 Jimmy Carper 16:03

They, for the most part, lesbians are targeted much more than than men.

 Sarah DePalma 16:07

Yeah, in fact, that's one of the points that they make here. They documented 443 specific violations, were spas were suspected gay service members were asked, pursued and harassed 443 women were disproportionately targeted, accounting for 29% of gay discharges, despite the fact that women only make up 13% of the armed forces. In the army, women accounted for 41% of gay discharges. Three times their presence in the service. Women are often accused as as gay, after rebuffing men's sexual advances, or reporting sexual abuse, regardless of their actual orientation. So, you know, for

 Jimmy Carper 16:59

women, it's sort of like if you don't put out you're alleging,

 Sarah DePalma 17:02

yeah, because obviously, that's exactly right. And here are some numbers. And what all this is costing, the cost of training replacements for those who have been discharged in 1996. exceeded \$25 million. Bringing the cost under this current policy of Don't Ask Don't Tell two more to \$63.5 million. You know, what we could do? That's just a return the replacements,

 Jimmy Carper 17:29

you know, we could take that money and put it into breast cancer, don't you think that would be a hell of a lot better use

 Sarah DePalma 17:34

of money? Well, I mean, you know, they say here, these costs, estimates do not include the substantial cost of investigating service members holding administrative discharge hearings, or defending the new policy in court. The costs are based on figures and percentages put together

by the General Accounting Office. So we're talking since 1980, this is more than one half billion dollars, the government has spent chasing gays and lesbians in the military. There's something wrong here. I mean, excuse me, but like what's wrong with this? You know, so with that,

J

Jimmy Carper 18:10

that's, that's an opening for our guests, yet well.

S

Sarah DePalma 18:14

So with that, let's go ahead and bring our guests on. Now what we have a very panel that has some very interesting experiences. What I'd like you to do is each of you go ahead and introduce yourself and tell the audience something about your military past or history, whatever. Yeah.

Θ

18:30

Hi. My name is Marie. And I spent two and half years in the Air Force. And I separated just before people started wondering what was wrong with me. And what is it what

S

Sarah DePalma 18:44

is wrong with you?

Θ

18:46

I didn't fit the masculine mold they wanted me to be so as of 17, June of this year, I began living as a female. That's

S

Sarah DePalma 18:54

one way not to fit the mold. Yes, we've actually we've talked about this on the air. Do you know actually why it is the military doesn't want transsexuals? We did. We did some research on it turns out, they don't want to have to support the cost of transition.

Θ

19:09

I can see that it's costing me a bunch of money. Yeah.

S

Sarah DePalma 19:12

Well, the military didn't want to have to support it. And so essentially, what they argue is, it's

an unwarranted cost on the military, therefore, they're not welcome. Of course, they don't mind spending one and a half billion dollars throwing gays and lesbians out. I'm sorry, I just couldn't resist.

19:30

Hi, my name is Tom Zito. I put seven years in the United States Coast Guard as an aviation electrician. I was dismissed under summary court martial after being charged with being homosexual.

S Sarah DePalma 19:44

You actually spent 21 days in the brig. Is that right? Yes. Took

19:48

20 took the 21 days for the Coast Guard court of appeals to overturn the conviction.

S Sarah DePalma 19:52

21 days in the break for being gay at hard labor. Oh, I know if doing some of the research, I understand some of the terms are a little different. So we'll have to explain some of the terms to the audience. Okay.

20:07

I'm Doug Decker, spent eight years in the US Navy. Actually, I'm Tom's lover of 12 years. And we went through the break thing together. He went to the break, and I went out to see on my boat. So

J Jimmy Carper 20:21

you met while you were in the service? Yeah, both

S Sarah DePalma 20:23

of you. Yeah. So you're off to sea while your lover has been tossed in the break? Yep. Whoa, oh, boy.

J Jimmy Carper 20:32

Okay and it's lasted 12 years. And as I recall they have a nickname. The Bob is

Army, and it's lasted 12 years, and as you can, they have a nickname. The Bob is,



20:41

I think that refers to where we live.



S Sarah DePalma 20:45

Bob is that Bob is going to look like they're from Pasadena. Just just Hello, Pasadena. And who else do we have?



20:56

Hi, I'm Whitney. I spent six years in the Coast Guard. Really, my overall experience wasn't that bad, although I did have allegations made that I was a lesbian. But I was fortunate that my commanding officer kind of turned the other way in the investigation came out in my favor. Wow. Nice. I was fortunate.



S Sarah DePalma 21:17

Okay, I did. So I did a little bit of research, I called a friend of mine, who was a judge advocate in the military. And she explained to me that some of the terms that first of all within the court system in the military, you don't have the same rights that you have in a civilian court. And I thought that might be a good place to begin. Because I want people to understand that the prosecutions that take place, are not like you would be able to get if you went to court in Houston. Your rights are very, very different in the military. Is that right? Yes. Yeah, very. Okay. Let's explain a little bit, talk a little bit about the military justice system. First of all, because the audience needs to understand that they understand how you ended up being prosecuted.



22:01

To do that, you have to understand that when you join the United States military, you sign away all of your constitutional rights, you no longer have any rights under the Constitution. They're all subjected to what's called the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, you cannot only be charged with a crime, but you can be tried for the same crime as many times as it takes to convict you. There is no double jeopardy. And you usually are brought in under the assumption of guilty until proven innocent. You don't start off innocent until proven guilty. It's the other way around.



S Sarah DePalma 22:45

So it's exactly the opposite of a civilian justice system. You're guilty until you can prove you're not. And there



22:52

are no Miranda rights. You were not given a Miranda right. Matter of fact, the first indication that I had that I was under investigation. I wasn't on the medical hold. I had a second job. I was at my second job working. The Coast Guard intelligence officers showed up at my work, and basically pulled me out of work and told my boss, you don't like it. Too bad. He's coming with us. It was something straight out of a world war two jackbooted Nazi deal. They took my picture, they interrogated me. And then they then they basically sent me home.



S Sarah DePalma 23:34

All right, well, I wanted the audience to understand that because that's something I did not know. And he was explaining that as a judge advocate, he had had to be involved in some of the cases. And it was actually one of the reasons he got out of the military is that he just couldn't stand it felt like the whole policy was just kind of bankrupt and didn't want to be part of it. But I wanted to make sure that that was we went on talking about this, that the audience understands. It's not the same thing. When you go into the military, you give up all your rights in the military controls everything about you. That's it. Exactly. Okay. All right. Now, with that in mind, then what? Let me start out with a question one of my co workers, yes. When we were getting when I was getting ready to do this show, and I was talking to one of my co workers about it. And he said, well ask them something I've never understood. If they know they're not wanting in the military. Why do they enlist? Now? I think I know the answer, but it's a legitimate question. I think.



24:34

When I went in, I was 17. I didn't know I was gay. I came from a town very similar to where I live now a little more populated, but you know, a lot of people don't have that exposure to find out that they're even gay until they get there. So I think my my recruiter asked, he said, Are you gay? And I said, What's that? Is it Oh, Then you can't be and then you're in. Oh, that's all. That's all it took. You know, I didn't find out until after I was already in. Ooh. Okay, and that that's majority of what happens to people.



S Sarah DePalma 25:17

Now, when did you realize you were transgendered?



25:19

In my case, it was, I crossed dressed when I was a pre adolescent, and through my adolescence, and then basically went into denial as I went into college, and pretty much was in denial until, like, 1990 or so.



J Jimmy Carper 25:40

Okay, that's my question. Did anybody join the military? Because they thought, Gee, I think I have this attraction, or I think I am a crossdresser. And if I go into the military, I'll be cured.

 S Sarah DePalma 25:58

Anybody think that military isn't going to kill you a squat?

 26:00

I'll do I'll take article 31 on the

 S Sarah DePalma 26:04

self incrimination. Oh, like that's like their fifth amendment.

 26:08

Although we do have friends that have been in the Marine Corps that did that a

 26:11

lot. It's yeah, that's real popular with Marines, to do way that they'll go into the Marine Corps, assuming that that's going to straighten them out and keep them from being gay. Why? Because the Marine Corps to purchase one. Yeah. And actually, they're probably there are more there are more gay Marines than there are just about any other service. Wow.

 S Sarah DePalma 26:30

Is it true that there are more women in the army than in any other branch? Is that what I read?

 26:35

I think I've seen the same statistic someplace that the army does have the highest enlistment of females.

 S Sarah DePalma 26:43

Just kind of just kind of curious, I'd read that somewhere. And I wasn't sure if that was true. And I was curious why the army would seem to me, Well, I don't know. I'm not gonna make that kind of a generalization. I don't know. Well,



26:52

at the risk of sounding like a service slam, the Army does have some of the lower standards of all of the services, because they have some of the more menial jobs. And it's a lot easier to get into the army than it is most of the other services. The Coast Guard, the whole reason I ended up in the Coast Guard, I took a what used to be called an ASVAB test in high school. And the I had the Army, the Air Force and the Navy and the Marine Corps pounding down my door. Want me to go in? And I started asking questions. Well, where's the Coast Guard? Why aren't they there? And I went and saw the Coast Guard recruiter. And His attitude was, I don't need you. I don't want you. You want in. You're going to have to fight your way in. Wow. So that was the same situation with me. Yeah. And there and that that is the attitude that prevails through that entire service is we're the elite. We are the hand chosen and we don't take anybody's second rate trash. And their battery justice. Well, yeah, there. Yeah. What



S Sarah DePalma 27:56

is an as fab Armed



27:58

Forces vocational battery examination



28:01

they give you they give you a test score, and they tell you what they think you can do for vocation.



28:06

Yeah, it breaks clerical and mechanical and it breaks everything down and says, This is the job you're best suited for.



S Sarah DePalma 28:13

Okay, so you take this test, and then the military says, aha, okay, you're suited to this. Right? Well,



28:19

the way that I took it, in Oklahoma at that point in time, it was required that you take it to graduate high school, however, you were given the option of Did you want the results turned over to the recruiters or not? So you could take it and the recruiters would never see it. But if

you were looking at a certain at a military career, like I was, you could say, Yeah, sure, give it to the recruiters.

 Sarah DePalma 28:43

I wanted the audience to hear that learn something about that. When I was in high school, of course, that was back when dinosaurs roamed the earth. But there were when I was back in high school, we were required to take this test two, of course, this was the height of the Vietnam War era. And if you're smart, and you knew what it was, you made sure that they came back saying you're not smart enough to screw in a light bulb. And so we want to go back

 Jimmy Carper 29:06

and then we're gonna take you no matter what I mean, it was like, if they take you they're gonna take you in the army. And if you're smart, you'll enlisted in something else.

 Sarah DePalma 29:16

There was a joke that they it was I think it was a joke that they told during the Vietnam War about a guy goes into military doctor's office. Doctor says Sit down, and he does and the doctor says you're in you didn't check my heart, my lungs or anything. The doctor says Listen, stupid. You saw the chair. You heard what I said you did it, you're in it, it was just about that bad. So alright, let me let me go through some of what I've found here. Now. First of all, I want to talk about under what is called the don't ask, okay, apparently the way this is worded is the army is not supposed to ask, Are you a homosexual or bisexual or Do you intend to engage in homosexual acts?

 Jimmy Carper 30:03

When did bisexuals get it?

 Sarah DePalma 30:05

That's what it's that's what it says here. And what they're supposed to do is line through this section that's on the apparently, military never bothered to rewrite the reforms. So they're supposed to line through the section C, I got a heads in there nodding, going. Yep. That's right.

 30:21

The mill in the military is really good at that. They don't rewrite anything unless they absolutely have to. Oh, good. Forms don't change unless you force it. They have



30:32

to be they have to be for you know, you can't sue them unless the government allows you to sue.



30:37

Yeah, that's the other thing fair that it's referred to as the fairies doctrine.



30:41

Oh, wait, there was.



30:44

There was there was a seaman named fairies who attempted to sue the US government for some incident that had happened that had caused him physical injury at sea. And in his attempt to sue he set case precedent that stated that you cannot sue the federal government unless they grant you permission to sue them. Oh, sure. And it sounds it sounds very, very far fetched. But there are times that the government does grant lawsuits against itself. I mean, you've got to have a really good case. But it's it's basically it was originally intended to prevent frivolous lawsuits against the government.



S Sarah DePalma 31:27

Well, right. To some extent, I can see this. I mean, if you're an active duty and get shot, they don't want you to turn around and sue the government because you got shot. But



31:34

what it has turned into is, is that if you're mistreated or abused intentionally, the government turns around and says, I'm sorry, that's a service related incident, and you can't sue for it. It's only recently that we've seen cases where gross medical malpractice suits were both the mother and the baby die. And they're both civilians, that they die in a military hospital, and the family is permitted to sue.



S Sarah DePalma 32:02

So the women who are suing who are the



32:06

people that are suing are actually their first step to getting to that lawsuit is to pass the test of do you actually have a legitimate case. So

S

Sarah DePalma 32:15

the women at the Aberdeen training facility who are talking about sexual harassment cannot sue,

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32:22

they cannot sue the individual officers know, the officers are protected by the service. Incredible. It's it's a lot like what happened with me. I had seven years of service and I had not had any marks against my record at all. I was basically what they call the four Oh, sailor, I nothing.

J

Jimmy Carper 32:51

What this is, for our sailor me,

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32:53

a fluoro. In the seagoing services, when they give you an evaluation, the highest rate rating that you can get is for Oh, okay. And that's that's what I had. There were several different categories. I don't remember what they all were now. But basically, I was a Foro sailor. A friend of mine, who was stationed over at the anti submarine warfare base, was caught in some sort of a sexual activity in his barracks room by his roommate. And at this point, I was I was awaiting medical discharge on an HIV discharge, which was a whole nother mess, because the Coast Guard was trying to put me out with what they called a 10% benefit, which meant that I would get a lump sum payment from the military. And that was it. I get roughly about \$15,000. And I'd be discharged. And I'd have no rights, no medical coverage, not

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Sarah DePalma 33:55

your HIV \$15,000 Last year, about 20 minutes. That's about

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33:58

it. And I can tell you that of course, what you what you gotta keep in mind, though, is this was back in 1986. And there was not a lot of knowledge out there as to what was happening. The Coast Guard was interested in one thing and one thing alone, keeping their costs low. Fortunately, I had a gentleman who was a Navy captain that came to my rescue at that point on the medical end of it, and said, No, you're not going to do this to this man. The Coast Guard frequently uses military, other other services facilities because we don't have a lot of our own. And I had ended up at a Navy hospital for evaluation. They refused to cut me back to the coast guard so that I can be processed for discharge. So about that time the Coast Guard came out with their policy of what are we going to do with HIV people? And they said, well, our basis for

Attention is not a danger to themselves, not a danger to other co workers has a need that is unique to that person. That is a service wide need. And I, I petitioned and met all three of the criteria, I was asymptomatic. I was not going to be a threat to myself or any any of my co workers. I was one of what was probably at the time about 20 personnel in the entire coast guard that was trained on fault verification for avionics equipment for brand new helicopters that had to be run prior to returning it for warranty. Ah, and the whole that was that was about it. And when the Washington got this request for retention, they went ballistic. I also had the endorsement and my CEO that basically said, Look, you take this guy away from me, I need four men to replace him. When my CEO had a massive coronary about three weeks after he wrote the letter, that timing, yeah, very bad timing for me. And the my executive officer came up, which was what they refer to in the seagoing services as a rising star, he was going to make it to flag rank, which would have been an admiral at some point. And he's gonna go back and he's gonna go by the book, and he's gonna do pretty much whatever Washington wants. And this friend of mine had been caught in this compromising position. And he referred to me as one of his friends.



36:44

Yeah, fingers negations is that they want names will cut your deal if you give us five or 10 names and and it's an it's a if you read a lot of history books, it's a it's a naughty tactic. Sure. It's



36:57

what they don't cut you a deal. Not really, because with their with one of their tactics is that they threatened to do a lot more than they could ever possibly do. And then, of course, they tell you that they're not doing this because you gave them the names. Well, this brother, this guy, this guy, his roommate, I also happen to know quite well, we were on a first name basis, and the guy gave a physical description of the guy that he was supposedly having this sexual contact with, which was the guy who's about supposedly about six to black hair, mustache, wrote a motorcycle had a red and white motorcycle helmet, and was about 100 185 pounds. Well, I'm about 511. And at the time, I was probably about about the same way I am now. 155 To 165 maximum. I did ride a motorcycle, however, it was a tricolour helmet, Suzuki team helmet, and the guy knew me by first name. I mean, you know, there's no bingo, you're in? Well, coastguard intelligence got their hands on it, and decided to run with it. And bingo, I'm the guy in the in the room at the barracks. And of course, their big thing through the whole investigation was, why didn't Why don't you tell us where you were then? Well, my major problem was, I was taking a Marine Corps major to the airport. And if I turned around and said, Well, I was with major so and so. Now he's now he's now in the investigation, and he's been drugged down with me. Are



S Sarah DePalma 38:39

you now or have you ever been a communist? Yeah,



J Jimmy Carper 38:43

absolutely. Aarthi tactic.

38:45

It was actually more like, Have you ever been or are you now a practicing Jew?

 Sarah DePalma 38:52

Or are you now have you ever been a practicing homosexual?

38:54

Because when when it broke on my base, everything that was going on and my commands attitude was, I'm sorry, we can't keep this a secret. They keep the nation's secrets. They keep the drug routes secret, but they cannot keep the fact that one I'm under investigation and two, that I'm HIV positive. They keep that a secret. They could not keep that a secret. I had my motorcycle vandalized. They literally ripped side panels off my bike. Three different times.

39:26

They came by our house, they broke windows, they put a they put a grease zerk fitting

39:31

in the top of my locker with all my uniforms in it filled it full of grease. And these are the guys that I worked with for almost six years. Because

 Jimmy Carper 39:42

they just turned on Yeah. And approved

 Sarah DePalma 39:45

now to they're running scared. So now they have to be sure to prove that they're not like him. That's a hell of a way of doing it. Why went through that an e&m? No Jamie so I understand exactly because that went through the same experience when we took Texas a&m to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. My A car was vandalized at one point somebody slit the throat of my dog and spread the blood on the door. It turned real ugly. And a big part of that was they had to prove they weren't me. Yeah,

40:10

you know, well, most of this continued with me the vandalism and the harassment, all the way up until the point to where my attorney family said, it's going to get physical with him. You know, we know it. And if it happens, you're going to be responsible. And the judge like

 Sarah DePalma 40:29

you can't control yourself. Right. Yeah. You know, her self restraint. Yeah, I say the

 40:33

judge in the case basically turned around and said, they're right, and you will be responsible.

 Sarah DePalma 40:41

Oh, boy. All right. Well,

 Jimmy Carper 40:46

Doug, what was it like for you going through this?

 40:48

Oh, I had to hide a lot. I remember slipping out the back door to go to work to go through the alley, instead of going out the front door quite a bit. Sneaking out and finding my windows on my vehicles broken. And phone calls a lot of phone calls to the house, you could change your number as much as you want and still get phone calls. We had our house broken into a couple of times. How

 Jimmy Carper 41:17

long did this last?

 41:20

The whole investigation was probably about a year and a half.

 Sarah DePalma 41:25

Now, did you end up being well you mustered out by the military as well. I mean, did they discover that you were lovers and say that's it? You're out of here to know.



41:32

Now we managed we managed to keep him out of it.



S Sarah DePalma 41:35

It must have been tough. Well, I can't even imagine there was



41:39

there was a lot of pressure put on me to name who it was. They knew I was living with someone else in the military. But they had not been able to find out who who he was or where he was stationed. And you



S Sarah DePalma 41:49

learn to see well you learn when



41:52

they're watching your house too because they're not real conspicuous about parking their vehicles and sitting there with binoculars and there's there's a lot of jokes, that kind of



42:00

stuff. There's a lot of jokes about military intelligence being an oxymoron, right? To a lot of extent it's true. Because you know, when they start a a security clearance on you