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SPEAKERS

Harvey Milk, Buddy Johnston, Jimmy Carper



00:04

There is a crippling disease that no amount of medical research can cure. No amount of fundraising by telephones can prevent a disease most often transmitted from parent to child, and unchecked in its early stages can be fatal. The disease is called racism. It's early symptom is the belief that one's racial group is somehow superior to others. In advanced stages, the symptoms of racism are violence, death and destruction. A cure however, exists. It's a nonsurgical change of heart. It takes time, effort, and understanding compassion, forgiveness, respect. Let us agree today that in our homes, in our hearts and in our lives, we will all promote and encourage racial harmony, unity, and understanding this message in support of racial unity was brought to you by the by faith.



01:03

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



Jimmy Carper 01:13

Hi. Welcome back, baby.



Buddy Johnston 01:16

Oh, Lord, I'm glad to be back. Oh, we missed you last week. Did you really? Yeah. It was an awful trip. My father died. Did you know that? Yeah. And that's something we'll talk about this morning. Because it was an awful, awful trip. It was like, the fagot from Houston came home for the funeral kind of thing. Nobody really said that. But I could see it on the looks on their faces. And it was just an awful, awful

J Jimmy Carper 01:44

trip. You've never had that experience before I take it.

B Buddy Johnston 01:47

Yeah, I have gone home before but never so many people that I grew up with in my life coming to see me at one time to see you know, he really doesn't look that bad. I take my nieces and nephews out to the Walmart store. They're in Van Buren. That's where my mother and dad lived in Van Buren, Arkansas, and bought them some stuff. And when I get the check, approved, the woman that approved it, she came over and she said, I'm sorry to hear about your father. And it was because we grew up there. I mean, we moved to Van Buren in 1964. So mom and dad had lived, they've lived on that street since 1960. For however many years, that's been quite a few. So it was just an awful trip. Really, my father died, our relationship died about 15 years ago. You know what I mean? Yes. And that's something we'll talk about also. But there's something I realized, on the way home Jimmy on the plane, that for the first time, I really think my dad knows what's in my heart. And in my mind, if that makes any sense. I think that his physical being held him back because of the way society treats us as gay and lesbian people. Okay. And once he was released spiritually from that physical trap that we're all in, that he now understands. Do you know what I mean? Yes, I do. I saw the skyline tonight. And I was looking at it. And I think, you know, I thought that's really beautiful. But I looked at it a little bit different, because I think somehow, that the spirit of my father could see that through my eyes. And so this really is nice. And the same way on my job this week at the police department, how it really is wonderful. And I really do have a wonderful life, if that makes any sense. I think that for the

J Jimmy Carper 03:26

first time, did you ever change feeling when you came back?

B Buddy Johnston 03:29

I feel better now than I did when I was there. Because I've had time to reflect back on all this. Plus, I've had a chance to get some sleep. But does any of this make any sense? Yes, I've been through it for the first time. Now. I think my father's spirit understands what my life has been like, and I can feel him here with us tonight. So I want to dedicate this show to him if that's okay. That's more than no and we'll, we'll be talking more about him anyway. But they called him back and he worked for the highway department for years. And I've got some wonderful stories to share with you that no one else seem interested to hear about. But Daddy, this is for you. Okay, and it's going to be a toughy. But anyway, we always kind of start the show with Harvey Milk. And for those of you that don't know, Harvey Milk was the first openly gay person ever elected to public office. And in a very rare interview, he told Greg Gordon of this way out, which will be here at one o'clock, what the gay movement was truly about, by the way you're listening to after hours on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. Here's Harvey,

H Harvey Milk 04:33

Harvey Milk 07:38

and I'll tell you what the gay movement is about. After I got elected, I got the phone call. I knew I'd venture to get called a few of them. One was from a 17 year old child in a small town in Minnesota. And the boy is handicapped. And the boy's parents found out he's gay. And they want to put him into this anytime. boy needs help in the gay mood is about the letter I got from Southwest Africa when he read about a gay person getting elected here and that person has hope and that 17 year old kid in Minnesota has hope and we have gay leaders not understanding that in a more word about their own personal power elite is offensive right Come out come out America.



07:41

When we allow freedom when we let it rain from heaven, minutes and ever hamlet, from every state in every city, we will be able to speed up that day with all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and singing the words of the old Negro spiritual Free at last free at last Thank God almighty



Harvey Milk 08:24

we must destroy the myths once and for all shatter them we must continue to speak out every gay person must come out



09:19

going



09:26

to talk to you



Harvey Milk 09:33

do you ever feel orders for cambia come on out. Do you think about the smell it's never enough. We must destroy the myth Swenson for shattered we may continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out You must tell your immediate family, you must tell your relatives, you will tell your friends if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbor, you must tell the people you're working with. You must tell the people in the story we realize that we are indeed the children that we are indeed everywhere. Every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and run. Once you do, you will feel much better. I ask people in this country to do run



Buddy Johnston 11:04

I sure love to hear Harvey man. I do too. 17 minutes after midnight. You're tuned to 90.1 FM KPFT Houston

J Jimmy Carper 11:14

You know, I just didn't get my fix of Harvey last week. Really? Yeah. Well, we didn't have you to push all the buttons. Make those little tapes come alive. Well, Kevin pushed

B Buddy Johnston 11:23

the buttons and he did just fine. He did. He did anyway. We're talking this morning about my dad's death. He died. We could go what Thursday? Hey, about one o'clock in the morning. You know where I was when he died? Do you were at home? No child. He was sick and dying and went out, remember? Oh, that's right. That's right went out?

J Jimmy Carper 11:45

Yes. What do you know what I was? Yes. I know where you were, where you were at the tabs Exactly.

B Buddy Johnston 11:53

someplace that he certainly wouldn't have understood. Maybe he did at 120. In the morning, last Thursday. We feel thirsty. Who knows. But we're gonna sort it all out. Had I was doing real good at the funeral. We could go. It was last Monday. This past Monday. I was doing real good until they mentioned about how much my father loved this country because he was buried in the National Cemetery in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and a flag over the casket. I mean, it was really the service was real nice. But I was doing really good at the funeral until they talked about how much he loved this country. And he really did. And I think he would agree with us when we talked about how important the Constitution is and how it protects all of us. And I think it really if we could have ever sit down and talk to him that he would have understood why I say we the people in the Constitution includes gay and lesbian folks

J Jimmy Carper 12:42

that maybe that was the part he didn't quite understand or he living where he did he had the peer pressure. Exactly not to understand it but but you're right you've told stories about your dad and and how pro country he was.

B Buddy Johnston 12:57

And so we're gonna we're gonna play this for him. And I think those of you who who have fathers like this, we'll understand why he one year at Father's Day we gave him a flagpole. Oh my brothers and I have two brothers David and Terry both younger than I am both married

both with beautiful wives and beautiful trilled children. But one day for one year for Father's Day we gave him a flagpole. And it pulled out in his his yard and he was so proud of that and he would fly the flag every morning. Really? My dad

J Jimmy Carper 13:25

I'm kidding. No, my dad did that too. In fact, my dad is a pipe welder and he made this thing this flagpole. It looks stuck like 30 feet up in the air. It was really no free standing. I mean Yeah. And then when I did that, too,

B Buddy Johnston 13:40

when I got to Arkansas last week, the my sister in law had put the flag down at half staff daddy's yard. That's this is this is for him. It's it's everybody knows this is called the Stars and Stripes Forever. So this is the Boston Pops. You ready? Yeah. This is different for See, we lived in a little bitty town in Arkansas called Mountain Burg, or 303 people there.

J Jimmy Carper 14:14

My daddy's relatives came from Ozark Mountains. Rolling. Yeah. And they lived in New Jersey just like they lived back there.

B Buddy Johnston 14:24

Looking back on all that it was wonderful. Growing up in that. I remember my dad he had a barber shop in the town of mountain Burg. It was the only barber shop for miles. You know what I mean? He was your dad. He was a barber. I didn't know he was a barber. He used to borrow our hair off. We always had short hair. That's the way Do ya know well, now it's an A flat top but I mean he would burn it off maybe. And when I got in high school, I had to cry to get them not to burn it completely because I wanted to have longer hair in high school. We got one haircut a year, but I remember this reason I brought up this barber shop. I remember one time that was the barber shop AP was located in Main Street. It was a barber shop and I can't remember what it was next door, but the post office was there. And then there was a grocery store there called bathrooms grocery. And we went to school with the bass ham kids. In fact, on the way home from school one time I cut a kid's hair on the bus with a pair of those little plastic scissors like you get Yeah, in grade school. You

J Jimmy Carper 15:20

remember what you're playing Barber? Yeah,

B Buddy Johnston 15:22

well, I figured if my dad could cut hair, I can cut hair. Ah, so I cut this kid's hair. Needless to say,

I get into an awful lot of trouble. And a daddy was able to straighten all that out, I think with a free haircut. But the reason I was bringing up the location of the barber shop and mass times grocery, I remember one time walking into the grocery store and getting a candy bar just going in behind the counter and getting a candy bar and going back to the barbershop with it. Yeah, like it was no big deal, right? I mean, did that all the time? No, no, these are friends. So why not? Oh, kids, their kids were eating candy from the store. Oh, so I figured I could just go in there and help myself. And I remember going back down to the barber shop and eating the candy bar. And my dad said, Where did you get that? So do I got it at bedtime grocery? Well, how did you pay for that? Well, I didn't pay for it. Oops. And I got into an awful lot of trouble. He made me go back down to the store and tell them how sorry I was for stealing that candy. And I can't remember what the punishment was what I had to sweep or something I can't remember because it was so many years ago. But I'll never forget going and telling those people I'm sorry. I took this and it's not mine. And I'm sorry. And did you realize it was? Oh, of course not. I didn't really even realize it was wrong. Yeah, no, of course not.

J Jimmy Carper 16:49

Because there are kids that it's but I

B Buddy Johnston 16:51

remember the day my dad sent me back down to the store to give that that candy back. Also remember that he loved country music and I worked at ke yr radio one time. I don't know if you remember the program or if he ever listened to the program I did when I was in high school. Because I did my first radio show when I was still in high school called the school our on KFDF radio in Van Buren, there was a gospel station but I convinced the guy to let us on every Monday at three o'clock for an hour to talk about how important school was and to play records. In fact, I told you about that I gotten


J Jimmy Carper 17:26

to that way or the other way around. It was the other way around. Anyway.

B Buddy Johnston 17:31

I don't know if my dad ever listened to that because I don't ever remember talking to him about that program. But I know that he did listen to me when I worked at K yr radio. And he called up and requested records all the time and I was like What did you do? Okay, why are DJ played music country music it's really bizarre. I've done and said I know nothing about country music, but everybody does. I think there's a little and everybody but one of Daddy's favorite groups was the candles and I remember him calling to request this song a lot. It's called heavens just descend away. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah, I was lucky enough to find this album. He also liked the song by Jeanne Pruitt called satin sheets, but I couldn't find it. I think he's, I think as finally wind up sending him that album or something. But anyway, I know he did call a lot and request this song. It's called heavens just to send away by the Kindle. The Kindle Yeah, heavens just a sin away. It's 30 Morning, 30 min 30 More 34 minutes after midnight, and you're listening to 9.1

FM. This is KPFT Houston, the program is called after hours. I'm Buddy. And I'm Jim fagot. That works for HPD beyond the fact that he doesn't work at all. I'll trade places. Anyway, we're talking about my father and the funeral and the trip home. And most of it was just awful. But we're gonna get to your dedications and your calls, you want to say the number here is five to six 4000 Or five to six KPFT got a lot to share with you this morning. And I just told Jimmy it's gonna get considerably what sadder is not the word because I don't want it to be sad.

 Jimmy Carper 19:18

Or you don't want it to be depressing. No, but I want to remain I want

 19:21

to be able to remember my father and I wasn't able to do that in Arkansas. Wasn't able to share time with my family so I can share time with you because you are my family. You tune in every week. And you're always there for me and you listen to me and you just keep us going. So we're going to share with you this morning some memories that I have, you know what our fathers made of? I remember hearing this a long time ago. I've had this album for a long time. This is Paul Harvey. But fathers are the things that keep the little kids going. And my favorite story that my daddy used to tell us. We were living in mountain Burg Arkansas. And it was Oh my god. We had wild stories child we had a collie dog one time it was called Lasty. This is true it got hit. She got hit by a truck. It varied the dog out in the backyard and Daddy made us sing. Jesus loves me while we were burying this dog. Things your folks make you do when you're little bitty kids. But one of my favorite stories that I don't know why I'm telling you that everything's just kind of rushing, you know, right now what all the things are kind of rushing through my mind. But my favorite story that my daddy used to tell me about his three little boys was one Christmas in 1961, I believe it was we were living in Van Buren Arkansas in mountain Burg, Arkansas. Daddy and mother's bedroom was the front of the house and the three boys. We all slept in one bed in the back of the house. And it was Christmas time. And dad and mother had played Santa Claus and they were waiting in the bedroom for us to get up. And we had worked we had a we had woken up. But we had gotten you remember these blow up things that used to blow up and you punched? Yeah, you had like Bozo and whatever. We had a blow up Bozo thing that you punch a punching Bozo in the living room under the Christmas tree. Well, the three little kids saw this thing in the Christmas in the living room, and we didn't really quite know what it was. So we were afraid to go. We didn't know if it was already snuck in. Oh, no, no, we had looked through the door. But we didn't go because we saw this thing in there. Yeah. And it was dark. And we couldn't tell whether it was the boogeyman, or whether it was Santa Claus, or just what the hell was in there. So we stayed in the bedroom. And here my dad and mother were laying in the living in their bedroom waiting for us to get up. I say it was it was a standoff standoff. And I remember he said he finally had to get up and come get us because we just wouldn't come out of that room.

 Jimmy Carper 21:51

Boy, that must have been something because I can remember as a kid, nothing would have kept me from getting out there to see that tree.

B Buddy Johnston 21:59
And well, if you'd have had a big blowup Bozo you might not have came out of there so

J Jimmy Carper 22:02
fast. Well, I've had those many nights anyway.

B Buddy Johnston 22:08
We weren't. We weren't rich people. But we weren't poor people. We always had clean clothes to wear to school and always had plenty to eat.

J Jimmy Carper 22:16
Well, actually, we were kind of poor. I just never knew it.

B Buddy Johnston 22:19
I think we were but I just think everybody. Yeah, I mean, but we always had food. And I know they sacrificed for the kids. I know they did. Looking back you can see Yeah. But this is something that Paul Harvey did a long time ago and it's called Water father's made up. And it's really important to understand that my Daddy worked for the highway department. So a lot of times I saw him standing around and wait a minute. He just told me he was a barber. He was a barber until 1965. We moved to Van Buren, he went to work for the highway department. Oh, sorry about that. Oh, okay. He worked for the Arkansas highway department. In fact, he retired from there as an inspector. What that means that every time I saw him he was just standing around. As I never saw him do any work. That's about what he was doing. You don't never actually what he was doing was inspecting the the materials that they use the roads with an interstate 40 through Arkansas, he worked on that he built several bridges that we drove over and

J Jimmy Carper 23:17
just kind of keep everybody going make sure

B Buddy Johnston 23:20
there's done properly. State didn't get screwed by ill, you know, contractors that were out for a fast dollar and

J Jimmy Carper 23:26

oh, that's surely wouldn't happen. Oh, of course. Now.

B

Buddy Johnston 23:30

We know how screwed up the government is. That's another show on another day. But anyway, it's really important to understand that my dad worked for the Arkansas Highway Department for years and years and years and he's probably repairing those roads somewhere. You'll understand at the end of this this is Paul Harvey.



23:58

What are fathers made?



24:07

Well, a father is a thing that is forced to endure childbirth without an anesthetic. A father is the thing that growls when it feels good and laughs very loud, when it just scared half to death. A father is sometimes accused of giving too much time to his business when those ones are growing up. That's partly fear to fathers are much more easily frightened and mothers. A father never feels entirely worthy of the worship in a child's eyes. His never quite the hero his daughter thinks never quite the man his son believes him to be and this worries him sometimes. So he works too hard to try to smooth out the rough places in the road for those of his own who would follow him. A father is a thing that gets very angry when the first school grades aren't as good as he thinks they should be a scold his son, though he knows it's the teachers fault. A father is a thing that goes away to war sometimes He learns to swear and shoot and spit through his teeth and would run the other way except that this war is part of his only important job in life which is making the world better for his child and it has been for him. Others grow old faster than people because they in other wars have to stand at the train station and wave goodbye to the uniform that climbs aboard and while mothers can cry where it shows, fathers have to stand there and beam outside and die inside. Fathers have very stout hearts so they have to be broken sometimes or no one would know what's inside. Fathers are what give daughters away to other men who aren't nearly good enough so they can have grandchildren that are smarter than anybody. Fathers fight dragon almost daily. They hurried away from the breakfast table off to the arena which is sometimes called an office or a workshop. There with calloused practiced hands they tackle the dragon with three heads weariness, work, and monotony. They never quite win the fight, but they never give up knights in shining armor fathers and shining trousers there's little difference as they march away to each workday.



26:19

Fathers make bets with insurance companies about who lived the longest know, they know the odds they keep right on betting. Even as the odds get higher and higher. They keep right on betting more and more and one day they lose. But father is enjoying earthly immortality and the debts paid off to the part of me leaves behind.



26:47

I don't know where fathers go when they die. But I have an idea that after a good rest wherever it is, he won't be happy unless there's work to do. I mean he won't just sit on a cloud and wait for the girl he's loved and the children she bore. He'll be busy there to repairing the stairs, oiling the gates improving the street smoothing away



Buddy Johnston 27:32

I was thinking maybe it's not so fair to dwell on my dad so much this morning. But from was three years this show really has been a reflection of my life and what's going on. But it's not just my life, baby. It's every gay and lesbian person's life in this country. I think most of us space some



Jimmy Carper 27:51

of our face. Oh a lot of us do. So sharing



Buddy Johnston 27:55

it is a way to get rid of it. Anyway, this father this father, this program is dedicated to my father. His name was William Merle Johnston. In fact, I'm named after after him William Merle Johnston, Jr. But they call me buddy. Thank God and they called my daddy buck. He was born on October 28 1927 in mountain Burg Arkansas. And he died in Sparks hospital on April 5 1991 15 in the morning. Says here in the paper. And I heard one time that if you see it in the paper, it must be true or if you hear it on the news, it must be true. I remember when Mark Schmidt died. Yeah, I heard garland do it on the news. And I said it must be real Roger because we just heard it on the news. So it must be real because you're in the obituaries for the press Argus career which is the local paper. It says William Buck Johnston Van Buren died Thursday at afford Smith hospital after a brief illness. He was a retired inspector for the Arkansas highway department and a member of the highway 71 Free Will Baptist Church. He was a member of the fine springs Masonic Lodge number 439. Out of the Arkansas highway department's retirees organization and a veteran of the United States Army at the Korean conflict and he served in the Arkansas National Guard. He is survived by his wife Mary Katherine, three sons buddy of Houston, David Fort Smith and Terry of Van Buren, two daughters in law, Paula Fort Smith and Janine Van Buren. His parents Mr. And Mrs. R. E. Johnston of Memphis, Tennessee, and two sisters, Juanita Hobson, of Memphis and Pauline comma deco of Memphis 14 nieces and nephews and four grandchildren. Jennifer, Christopher, Amy and Timothy. Funeral sir verses were held Monday April the ninth at Edwards van Alma chapel in Van Buren, Arkansas, and he was buried in the National Cemetery in Fort Smith. pallbearers were Carl Sanders, Calvin Peavy, Harper Smithers, Harold Anderson, Johnny house, Jr, Brooks and Don Wilkerson, most of whom I grew up and never thought I would see in that circumstance. But it's all behind us now. And we're going to talk about it in our next hour some more. We're also going to talk about the Easter holiday. And hopefully it's real weird to me doing this show talking about my dad's death and Easter all at the same time.

J Jimmy Carper 30:43

Yeah, we're getting birth and death. But anyway, there's something that you read that, that struck me as odd. What's that? His parents are still alive.

B Buddy Johnston 30:56

My grandfather, my grandfather, my mother's mother was there. My grandfather died. My mother's father died when I was a kid in 1970. Something I can't remember what day. But Grandpa died when we were just kids. And my grandfather, my dad's father was there. 91 years old. My dad's mother was at the funeral. 87 I believe years old gosh, they had been married for 67 years. My father was 62 years old.

J Jimmy Carper 31:35

That's unbelievable. At the

B Buddy Johnston 31:36

funeral as my grandmother cried, my father's mother as she cried, I held her. And I looked down. And I saw my grandfather's hand holding my grandmother's hand. And I heard my grandfather's say, It's okay. Honey, it's gonna be okay.

J Jimmy Carper 31:57

Well, you say that that's part of what our community is facing what your grandparents faced in. It is unnatural, that they should have to attend a funeral of their own child.

B Buddy Johnston 32:14

And you know, I told my brothers that the morning of the funeral, I said, you have to be strong for your kids, and for our mother. But you have to understand that our grandparents are burying their only son. Yeah. And even though they're in their 80s, and 90s, that's still their little boy. Yeah. And it was hard. It was really tough. But I feel much better right now than I did an hour ago. I'm glad this show has been real scary. I, I want to let go. And I wasn't given the opportunity to do that in Arkansas. A lot of I mean, I'm not angry at my mother or whatever. I'm angry at society. I'm angry that society kept my father and I apart. I'm so angry right now at society that I don't know what I'm going to do other than continue to fight every week on this program until things change.

J Jimmy Carper 33:12

You know, that's something else that struck me during the Paul Harvey thing. He was talking about how the fathers can't cry. and they can't show their emotion. Exactly. And I was sittin

here saying, Why the hell not?

B

Buddy Johnston 33:27

Because society says, So this morning, if I'm anything, I'm angry as hell at society. I'm angry at the world that my father had to grow up and where he couldn't put his arms around his son. I'm angry that my mother was upset when I got off the plane last week that I had an earring in my ear. And I took that earring out. We'll talk about that after the news and everything okay? I'm angry that society wouldn't let them have their child and we'll fight it will continue to fight it. But we'll fight it after Greg and Lucien Jeff and everything else happened. Because we're on a schedule, right? Yes, we are and life goes on. And this is radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose you're listening to after hours on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston I've got to play this version of this song someone else someone else asked for it. Brian for Andy. Scott Summers called to say welcome home. We got calls from Carl and Jeff and Rick, who grew up in Arkansas wanted to know what highway nine looks like child it looks the same. Julie called play a song for Jeff or for Julie rather from Jeff says that he wants to be accepted for who he is. His sister just found out that he's gay. And are dancing are dancing Tang is an aunt. Yes seven o'clock the hunks child chunk

J

Jimmy Carper 34:51

Harper and his wife had a baby this evening at seven. So for all you

B

Buddy Johnston 34:56

folks and for daddy. I want to play this song. I want to play this version of it because I've fallen in love with this version of it since we found it. This is Gladys Knight and the Pips This song is called hero

⦿

35:25

must have been cool

⦿

35:46

I remember when I first heard about getting high, my so called friends said