

**TAPE # JK O3, 1 OF 4**  
**JOSEPH KEENAN**  
**07.28.02**  
**JIM WHATAKER, DIRECTOR**  
**PROJECT REBIRTH**

03.00.45 PICTURE UP

03.00.49 JOSEPH KEENAN: (MID-STATEMENT) do that. I was on my way to the airport, we were, I was leaving that morning. So I had to, uh, rush and change back into my uniform and (~JW~) Get to the, they picked me up, rushed me to the new set (~JW~). Then I had to change back again and, uh, go by the, rushed me to the airport and I was sitting in the airport and I had on a, uh, a, uh, I travel in this, uh, I use the same thing every time.

03.01.10 If you ever see me wearing it, you know I'm traveling (LAUGHS). I have a, uh, a warm-up suit from my football team (~JW~) (LAUGHS) Just a, uh, blue pullover shirt and blue pants, but really comfortable. You can sleep in it, you can walk it. And I'm sitting in the airport and I got my baseball hat on, reading a book and a guy comes up to me and he says, saw you on TV this morning.

03.01.28 And I said, wow, (LAUGHS) you're good. (LAUGHS) I don't know how you recognized me sitting in the airport here.

JW: That's amazing.

JOSEPH KEENAN: Yeah.

JW: It's amazing the power of, you know

03.01.40 JOSEPH KEENAN: And it was within maybe however long it took to drive from, we were in (~JW~) Union Square in San Francisco to Oakland Airport. However long it took. That's

the time that lapsed. (~JW~) And yet this guy was there and he, so I said wow. A lot of people see this.

JW: Yeah.

JOSEPH KEENAN: You don't think so.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: But your voice is great. Uh, so we were talking downstairs about being a police officer (LAUGHS)

03.02.19 JOSEPH KEENAN: Right.

JW: Uh, and I wanted to know, uh, when you became a police officer.

03.02.28 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, I've been in police work since November of 1975. I started with the, uh, New York City Police Department in 1980. Before that, I had worked for, uh, I worked for the state in, uh, District Attorney's Office in New York State, every county has their own District Attorney's Office and they have, uh, state investigators that work for them to, uh, work on the cases. So I had started there in '75 and left that after a few years and went with the police department.

03.03.02 So I've been with the police department since 1980. Over 22 years with the police department, but just 25 years or so totally in police work.

JW: Right. Do you remember the day you were graduating and became a police officer?

03.03.16 JOSEPH KEENAN: The day graduated from police academy? Uh, I do remember it. We graduated from, uh, a place in Brooklyn, Brooklyn College, a large area in, uh, in Brooklyn. It was a nice day. I was, uh, my wife was there. At that time, I, uh, I had two children.

03.03.35 So I was a little bit different than the other people in the police academy. I wasn't, uh, a youngster right out of school. I had worked before, uh, so although I do remember it, uh, it was a nice day. It was really a moving on situation. I was ready to get to work. Yeah.

JW: And you worked, you said, before you had which job were you working before? Before you became

JOSEPH KEENAN: (~JW~) Uh, before '75?

JW: Right.

03.04.01 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, when I came out of college, I went to work for City University as a, in the counseling department. I was a, I was the director of tutoring for a local college after I came out of, uh, school, but, uh, I moved, I left that, uh, partially on my own, partially not on my own. Uh, the city ran into, 1975, the city ran into a very heavy financial crises and all the, across the board, all the city departments were cut in budget. And I was in one of those situations where I wasn't really in and people who were newly in are usually first to leave.

03.04.33 And I left there and I started with the District Attorney's Office. And I've stayed with police work since then. Since '75.

JW: So that's a pretty big decision. I mean, that's a pretty big change regardless of how it came about to go from what you were doing in at City College (INAUDIBLE). I'm not, you know, it's not my inclination personally to like become a police officer, it wouldn't have, so I sort of see it as like, wow, from my outside point of view, that's a pretty big (?)

03.05.09 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, it was, maybe for somebody else it was. But for me, I came from a police family. Uh, so I grew up in that atmosphere. I was familiar with the workings, although I had never been in the police department, I was familiar with what went on, how police officers worked, shift work, uh, how they talked.

03.05.30 Uh, kind of things they became involved in. So it, although I had never done police work before, it wasn't a tremendous jump for me. I guess it might have been a little bit in my blood. Uh, maybe in the beginning I was trying to avoid it by going into the academic field, but, uh, I guess I wound up where I was supposed to be (LAUGHS).

JW: Right. So you had history. Can you tell me about that (?)

03.05.53 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, my father was in the police department and my father's brother. And, uh, my cousin. My father even told me that, uh, he had an uncle, somebody I had never met, who had been in the police department, probably as early as the, uh, maybe the early 1930's or the late 1920's. I'm not too familiar. One of my father's uncles. But when my father came out of World War II, like many others, uh, he had been called for the police department while he was in Europe. It was a long haul to come back to join up (LAUGHS) so he had to put it off, and when he came back from the service after the war, he went right into the police department and that was before I was born.

03.06.33 So, before my older sister was born. So we grew up in that atmosphere. That's what we knew our whole lives.

JW: And do you have memories of your Dad as a police officer?

03.06.43 JOSEPH KEENAN: Yes, no. Uh, my father was the type, and I think I'm pretty much the type also, we really didn't bring our work home. He didn't bring his work home with him. I knew he was a police officer. I saw him at work. I saw him in uniform. I saw a picture of him in the house.

03.06.59 But when he came home, we were small. And were really weren't concerned with what Dad did, when, uh, when he came home, Dad was home. And, uh, he wasn't the type who came home and sat at the dining room table, or the kitchen table, at supertime and discussed what went on during the day. No. What was always discussed in the house was what's going on with us, you know, the family matters, or what we saw on TV that day. What we were going to do tomorrow. He didn't force his police atmosphere on us, in the family. And, uh, I don't think I've done that either at home.

- 03.07.31 I, I've tried not to. Uh, there are plenty of things that happen at work that are funny and you bring the funny stuff home and talk about it. Usually with your wife because your kids wouldn't understand. Your children don't understand. But also a lot of things you don't want to bring home. So you don't talk about them. Uh, on a whole, uh, it's probably more. Uh, more things you don't want to bring home and speak about. You talk about that with your police friends. With the other guys. And, uh, I think that's pretty much what I've done.
- 03.08.00 But I was very, very familiar with the atmosphere as I think my children are now too. It's all my children have known me do. Uh, known me to do. Uh, now, of course, my oldest girl and my second girl were born before I started this work. But they were babies. They didn't, you know, the didn't know anything. So they've grown up in a police family also.

JW: And , uh, you talked about that, you mentioned that there may have been a you talked about that there may have been a, uh, a slight resistance that could have been the case, you know, about choosing to do the line of teaching before you went in to police work. Uh, I can tell you from personal experience my Dad worked in government and politics. And I have four older brothers that are in very different fields than I'm in. And all went to different colleges than I did. It's just there was a sort of, a natural resistance to, uh, to kind of not, to not do what they have done (?)

- 03.09.07 JOSEPH KEENAN: I understand that. I don't know if that so much comes from the individual as from their parents. Uh, I can see that now that my children are older. My oldest is 26. My youngest is 20. And I know how over the past ten years, I've tried to direct them. And I'm, pretty sure my father and my mother tried to do the same thing with me and my brother and sisters. Uh, so they probably guided me away from it.
- 03.09.31 Just as I tried to guide my children away from it. Uh, emphasizing education and, uh, getting a better job, sort of speak. You always want just a little bit more for your children than you had for yourself. And I can see that now. Now that I'm in the situation where my children have, uh, finished or are finishing college. Uh, I want them to not have to work as hard as we did, you know. My wife and I put in a lot of hours over the years.
- 03.10.00 It's a, when you're in a police family, and you're married and you have children, your wife is as much a part of that as you are, because you work the shift work, so does she. Uh,

because you're not home. And you're leaving the children to her. Many times, uh, she had to keep the children when they were small quiet 'cos I was sleeping, because I had come home at eight in the morning and eight, or after working the night shift, you come home and it's the middle of the summer, and you're trying to sleep and the kids want to play and jump on you.

03.10.31 So it's just as difficult for the wife. So, when we got to the point where we were getting ready to send our kids to college, we tried to, we never told them what to do or what not to do. We just tried to help them move away from that. And I think that's probably what happened, uh, with me. And my brother. Yet, we both wound up going back towards law enforcement. My brother is in law enforcement also. He lives in Michigan. And I'm in it now. So, uh, I've been in it a long time. Uh, maybe there's something to it being in our genes, I don't know.

03.11.04 Or it's something that we just became familiar with and understood.

JW: You're comfortable with it.

JOSEPH KEENAN: Comfortable with it, yes. (~JW~) And if I had to do it over again, I would do it again.

JW: No question.

03.11.15 JOSEPH KEENAN: No question. Well, uh, all things equal financially, I definitely would do it again (LAUGHS). Right.

JW: Tell me you mentioned your wife, uh, Jane, who, uh, you met. Sounds like you guys met on the younger side (?)

03.11.31 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, we know each other a long time. We know each other since we were 15. Uh, we grew up, uh, three or four blocks from each other and, uh, at that time, uh, living in Brooklyn, I live in Brooklyn, and, uh, I'm a Roman Catholic, and the way you identified yourself in Brooklyn if, in the late '50's, early '60's, was what parish do you live

in. That's how we used to refer to each other. What parish do you live in. What church did you go to. And we both went to the same church and, uh, that's how we met.

03.12.00 I'm not trying to make it sound that we met, uh, spiritually or through church, but that was the crowd we traveled in. You, uh, you stayed with the other guys and girls in the neighborhood who lived in your parish that played ball on the same church teams. We belonged to the same clubs, everything came out of, uh, the church as a focal point, and, uh, that's how we met. We met at a little local teenage club and, uh, at that time, in the early '60's, teen clubs were a big thing.

03.12.31 And that's how we met. So, we know each other since we were 15, 16 years old. We only lived three blocks from each other. We traveled in the same group of about, uh, ten or 12 of us and then, as we got older, as with the others, started to gravitate or one or two people would pair off, so we know each other a long time.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Do you have any memories from back then?

03.13.15 JOSEPH KEENAN: Uh, we do, but we don't, you know. You think it, uh, you think it was just yesterday and you remember it, but, uh, it's, uh, it is a while back in the early '60's. Uh, I remember that, uh, you know, we, I used to play ball a lot.

03.13.30 I was always involved in some sort of ball playing and, uh, with my friends, myself and the girls would come to the games with us and, uh, everything was local. Everything was in Brooklyn and we would either, uh, take the bus to the game or we would take, uh, our bicycles to the game, uh, that was the type of, uh, life we lived back then. It was just a little bit simpler. It was before electronic games and before cable TV and, uh, it, the social life was outside the house.

03.14.03 You went outside to meet your friends and either play in the street when you were younger, or, uh, hang out on the corner, sort of speak, as is the term, uh, with your friends as you got older. And, uh, that's pretty much what we did. Nothing, we were nothing out of the ordinary. We were just like everybody else who lived in Brooklyn at that time.

JW: And how old were you, you guys were roughly the same age, I would say?

JOSEPH KEENAN: Uh, yes. I'm just a few months older than my wife.

JW: And how old were you when you guys got married?

03.14.34 JOSEPH KEENAN: We got married in 1974, so we were 23 years old. Yeah.

(SIMULTANEOUS CONVERSATION)

JW: And like me, a good Roman Catholic, you have the children right away (LAUGHS).

03.14.44 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, we had, uh, after about two and half years, my first girl was born. My Jeanine. She was born '76. She's a Leap Day baby. She was born on February 29 in 1976, so we still to this point, tease her about that. She's only about six years old now. (LAUGHS) She's only had a few birthdays.

03.15.05 Yeah, but, uh, yeah, we, uh, when we after we were married, we lived locally. We, uh, got ourselves set in an apartment in a two-family house, probably, uh, about a mile from where we had grown up. Everybody stayed locally. There was no, the exodus had not happened yet. It wasn't, uh, wasn't something you were looking to run away. Uh, we got ourselves a little; actually we got a nice apartment in a two-family house.

03.15.28 And we stayed there and the girls were born there and they lived there their first few years of their life and then we bought our own place. Yeah.

JW: And, uh, tell me if you would, about, kind of in stages, if you would, a little bit, about you're years as being a police officer. You talked a little bit about the early years (?)

JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, I was (~JW~)

JW: And also, on a kind of level of, kind of, you're (?). 'Cos I have a feeling that you have a strong sense of, uh, what it means to be a police officer. So I'm kind of curious about how maybe that (?) Come from a strong family (?)

- 03.16.11 JOSEPH KEENAN: I come from a, uh, police background so I always, I feel I always looked favorably upon the police department. Uh, when we were kids growing up, my brothers, my brother and sisters, uh, when you're younger, you really never know if you're rich or poor. It doesn't come into play. Uh, but looking back on it now, we were, we, we lived a nice life.
- 03.16.30 Uh, my father, my mother provided for us very well. We had a, uh, comfortable life growing up so, probably because of the many hours they put in, but we didn't realize that at the time. Uh, so I never had a negative, uh, negative thought about the police department. I didn't, I didn't look on it as being a, uh, hard, uh, lowly job. I looked at it as, in the favorable sense because my father, and I saw his brother and my cousins were older than me, uh, provide for their families.
- 03.17.02 So I, it appeared to be a good way to go. I've been very fortunate. I consider myself very lucky. I think I've always had good assignments in the police department. You can be in the police department and, and work in terrible, terrible places and have a very difficult time. I worked in some places that weren't nice, but I always felt I had a good assignment. I started off, I'm part of the Brooklyn police department. I worked almost my whole career in Brooklyn. Uh, it's a, uh, a little thing that we have amongst ourselves because, although it's one police department, it's odd.
- 03.17.35 Uh, you, areas you work in. Guys in Brooklyn do things differently than fellows in Queens. We do things differently than guys in the Bronx. I don't know why. It just seems to be that way. But I worked, uh, almost my whole career in Brooklyn. Uh, I started off in a local precinct in Crown Heights, in the 71<sup>st</sup> precinct as a rookie cop and I worked there. I spent many years, uh, over eleven years in highway patrol. Which I really enjoyed.
- 03.17.59 It was, uh, it was a good part of a, a good part of my career. I worked in something that we call accident investigation, which other people might understand better as vehicle homicide. I was an investigator and detective in, uh, in fatal accidents. So I did that for eight years. That was a, a very good and a very rough assignment at the same time. And from there I was

promoted twice and I moved on. Now, I work in detective bureau (?) that's where I'm currently working right now.

03.18.30 In the detective bureau. So I, I can't look back and say, gee, I wish I hadn't done this. I wish I had better assignments. Maybe you make the best of what you have. Maybe since I had a favorable view on it to begin with, I was happy with what I was doing, was never unhappy that I was with the police department and if you go to work every day, and want to go to work, I think that's good. I, that, that, that means you're enjoying what you're doing. There will always be people who dislike what they're doing.

03.19.00 My advice to them is leave. Do something else. It's, it's not the only job in the world. But it's a job you have to want to do. And you have to be committed to it to do it correctly. So I'm, I'm happy with where it's lead me.

JW: What do you think it means to be a good cop?

03.19.17 JOSEPH KEENAN: You have to understand, uh, where you stand in relation to people. You have to understand that as a cop, uh, you're really dealing with people when they're having problems. Rarely does a cop do something good for somebody, where he either, at a scene, where something bad has happened to you, or you've done something bad, or you've had a tragedy.

03.19.38 We very rarely, it's, it's, it's not often that the police (?), if you, if you were to drive down your block this evening going home and you saw ten police cars, you wouldn't say oh, good, you'd say oh no, what happened. And, uh, that's what police have to deal with all the, all the time. So if you can understand that and understand that every time you're dealing with somebody, they might be at their worst, or, or they might be depressed or very unhappy, something's terrible, terrible has happened to them.

03.20.04 You have to allow for that. You can't jump right away. You can't, uh, uh, you can't be annoyed with them for the way they're behaving. And, if you can remember that, if you can learn, I don't know how you learn it (LAUGHS). I think you just learn it through experience. You learn it through working. Uh, you learn it through watching older fellows doing the same thing you're doing and, and, uh, mimicking them.

03.20.28 But if you can conquer that and realize who you are and where you stand in to the, in relation to the people you're working with or for, I think you can do a better job. Might make your job easier also. You have to be aggressive at the time, at the right time. But you don't have to always be aggressive. Sometimes you have to listen. Cops are, uh, cops are priests. Cops are EMTs. Cops are marriage counselors. Divorce lawyers. Uh, years ago we used to marry people in their apartments, and divorce them in their apartments (LAUGHS) just to stop them from arguing with each other.

03.21.04 We would tell them, okay, you're not married anymore. Take a walk (LAUGHS) and they'd walk away. But you have to, you have to be able to walk into a situation and diffuse it. And if you walk in there with the attitude of, I'm the boss, you're going to do what I say, it might now always be the right way. Sometimes you have to do that. Sometimes you have to walk in and take control. But not always.

JW: There's a, there's a phrase that (?), that sort of came into vogue maybe, uh, three or four years ago where people talk about various intelligence and they talk about (?), you know, I.Q., which is, you know, like your, what your, book smarts (and stuff like that?). But another term that they, they, that came into vogue is emotional intelligence? It sounds like you need to have a lot of emotional intelligence. You know what I mean (?)

JOSEPH KEENAN: Well I never heard that expression before.

JW: It's, it, it's sort of like being able to, uh, as you say, hold on to yourself, but also be emotionally attune to the pain.

03.21.59 JOSEPH KEENAN: I think you might have to be emotionally mature. Uh, you can't walk in situations, uh, a police officer always has to be aware of where he is. And who he's with. Because most times, it could be a dangerous situation. So you can never let your guard down. But you also have to understand how the other people feel. Uh, and, uh, if you're mature in your own emotions, if you don't, if you're not the type that acts quickly, if you're not the type that makes quick judgments, uh, I think it serves you better in that situation.

- 03.22.32 Even though you are keenly alert, you have to be keenly alert at all times. You and your partner. You have to rely on your partner one hundred percent. Uh, whether you like the person or not. At that particular moment, when you're working, he's your partner and he relies on you and you have to rely on him. But, at the same time, you have to realize where you are. And I think if you're mature, regardless of your age, if your, if your emotions are under control, then you probably have a better chance of understanding the other person's emotions.
- 03.23.01 Because usually, they will be a little bit out of control. Uh, they'll be very unhappy. Very excited. Uh, depressed. They want action. They want, they want to know, if it's as simple as their stolen car. Or maybe their lost child. Or maybe somebody's dead. Uh, they want action right now. And you're the person that has to do it for them. When you walk into that room, they see you as the authority. The one and only person who can and will help them and you have to make, you have to convince them that you are willing to help them.
- 03.23.31 Even sometimes, you can't. Uh, but you have to let them think that you're willing to listen to them. Willing to help them. How do you teach somebody that in the police academy, I don't know. Uh, I think the way you teach them is to open up the possibility to them and then convince them that they have to watch others work. And, uh, when you begin to work it's always best to work with somebody who's been around longer. When you, when you come out of police academy and you go to a precinct and you start to work, you always want to work with the guy you just got there with.
- 03.24.02 And that's wrong. You shouldn't do that. A good boss won't allow you to do that. A good boss will put you with somebody who's been around. Uh, somebody who can, uh, so to speak, show you the ropes a little bit. Who, maybe keep you out of trouble. Hold you back a little bit. Put his, put your hand on the back of the belt and pull them backwards a little bit. But, but that's how you learn. And maybe one day, it clicks. It turns on for you. And then when it turns on, I think it helps your work. Helps, helps your work.

JW: It's really, uh, the learning process is important in terms of teaching. In terms of, because they, uh, the knowledge is really passed down through the events from, from generation to generation. Seems like. And, I mean, in a way, as good police, it sounds like police officers can learn from their (?)

- 03.24.54 JOSEPH KEENAN: (~JW~) Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. When you, when you go to the police academy, or when you're in your first training assignment, they teach you, they show you what you need to know. But then you have to learn how to use that. Uh, you can, you can be aware of everything you're supposed to know, but if you don't know how to do it, uh, you can't function properly. So you take all that knowledge and you watch other people and, uh, and you see how they use it. And maybe once in a while you'll see a guy who acts a little gruff, who doesn't speak the way you speak or doesn't use the same language you use. But you'll say, wait a second, that's what he did. Okay. I catch on now.
- 03.25.30 That was pretty smart. And, uh, and you, and you learn how to deal with each (?), situation. And then maybe you, you reach a point where you'll be going into a, uh, a job and the, the older guy will say, okay. You handle it. You, you, you go first. Then he watches you. And that's how you have to learn. And you'll make mistakes. You have to make mistakes. And that's the only way to learn. Hopefully, you're mistakes will be small, and it won't have, uh, major repercussions, but, uh, for a short time, early on, I taught in the police academy.
- 03.26.01 They had a, uh, in the early 80s, they had a large influx of police officers and they needed, uh, to put uh, a class in immediately. And they, they checked, they did a computer check within the department to see who had teaching experience in the past, and, uh, they sent me to the police academy to teach, teach a class of recruits. And that's what I tried to tell them, uh, I tried to tell them, look, you'll, we'll show you here what you need to know, but you're not gonna learn how to be a police officer 'til you get out on the street. And watch others.
- 03.26.35 And, uh, I've had guys, 18, 20 years come back to me, later on, and say, I remember what you told me once. And that's good. That, that makes the whole experience worth while. Uh, sometimes you don't remember them. (LAUGHS) You're thinking to yourself, gee, who's this guy (LAUGHS) and he's saying, I remember when you told me, simple thing. Uh, police officers work shift work. And it's, it's easy, it's easy to sleep until it's time to get up and go to work.
- 03.27.02 But what you do then, is you're, you waste, you waste your own portion of the day. You waste your own life. When a police officer works a four to twelve at night, and he, and he comes home, I used to tell the kids in the, in, in my class, look don't fall into that pattern of sleeping until, going home and going out with your friends. That's okay. Or, sitting up and watching TV all night and then sleeping til twelve or one o'clock, get up and then you have

to go to work in the morning. It's not good. How do you, how do you deal with your family? How do you get your own personal business taken care of?

- 03.27.32 You have to allow time in the day for you, plus time in the day for work. Now, is that important. I don't know. But it does make life simpler. It, it allows you to be able to take care of what you have to take care of while at the same time, work doesn't take over your life. Uh, as a police officer, uh, I said a couple of years ago, one day when, when we were at uh, a meeting somewhere that a cop, a police officer is not what I do, it's what I am.
- 03.28.00 Because 24 hours a day, no matter where I am, I know I'm a police officer, and I always have to be careful of that. And I always have to be aware. So if you know that, and then you still can make time to deal with your personal business, to take care of what you have to take care of, I think you have it under control. Uh,

JW: Can you say that one more time?

- 03.28.21 JOSEPH KEENAN: Police officer is not what I do, it's what I am. I'm a police officer all the time. When I sleep, I'm a police officer. When I'm going to my son's baseball game, I'm a police officer. When I'm at work, I'm a police officer. I always have to be aware of who I am and where I am. I have to conduct myself that way, while at the same time, if I see something happening around me, I have to realize who I am. And, uh, and, and do the right thing at that particular time. So it's difficult. If a, if a young police officer gets involved in a, in a situation of being somewhere he's not supposed to be, well, gee whiz, he should of, he should have known better. He should have realized who he was.
- 03.28.59 And where he was and what he was doing at that time. So we have a 24-hour job. Even though we only work our eight, eight and half hours a day, uh, all day long, we're police officers. We have to be aware of that. It's important.

JW: Before you talked about early on, you talked about your, you were in a little bit of a different place going into, uh, coming out of the police academy, uh, a little bit more mature and I find that interesting. 'Cos we also, we're talking about being, how maturity is important to being, uh, a police officer. Do you think in a way, well, (?) you were, a, (?) not

only a little bit older, but you were a little more mature it sounds like than a young kid coming out of (?)

- 03.29.44 JOSEPH KEENAN: Right, I, I was, I, I feel I was more mature. I was older also. I had worked, uh, outside of the police department. I was married. I had children. I'm supporting my family. Uh, in a real world, in a perfect world, not in the real world, in a perfect world, I think you should have to be a little older to become a police officer.
- 03.29.58 Uh, somebody who comes directly out of college, uh, we're looking for good people in the police department. We're looking for college people who are willing to work, who are smart, who are sharp. But they, at that point in their lives, they really have no work experience. They have no interaction with people. Maybe they should go out and work someplace else first. And, uh, and then come on the police department later. The real world doesn't allow for that, though. You have to bring people in, uh, it's a, we have an expression that it's a young man's job. And it is. Uh, it's a young guy's job. I couldn't do, out in the street, in, in the 7-1 precinct, in a sector now, what I did when I first came on, my first day on the job, I might know more.
- 03.30.38 But, (?) I don't move as quickly as I used to. (LAUGHS) So I couldn't do the same things. So it is a young person's job. Uh, but it has to be coupled with the maturity of experience. And, I think it's always better if you had worked someplace else first. And then came on the police department. Years ago, we were sitting around, uh, when I was in highway patrol one day, we were sitting around the, the lunch table.
- 03.31.02 Uh, during a lunch break of, two or three teams were in at the same time and we, sitting there talking and, uh, uh, you might have heard stories about young people in the police department being ostracized a little bit. That they're not talked to. And, uh, yes. Uh, uh, that's true, but it's not done in a negative sense. It's just that, I know the other fellow better. I, I worked with him longer, so I tend to stay with him more. So, there's this young guy sitting at the table who had, uh, pretty much, just come on the police department.
- 03.31.28 He was working with us and we're talking about, uh, what we had done in the past and, and, and, uh, uh, types of jobs we had and he took the unfortunate time to chime in (LAUGHS). And one of the old timers at the table who had been on the, at this time, had been on the job much longer than me, he told him, hey, young fellow, be quiet over there. You're last job

before this was delivering newspapers (LAUGHS) and, uh, and he laughed. Because, you know what in a way it was true. He had come right out of school, to come on the police department. It's some that we're looking for, but he hadn't yet gained the experience. The, he almost hadn't gained the right to chime in yet.

03.32.10 Uh, so, uh, now, 20 years later when we see him, we still tell him, hey (LAUGHS) you're still delivering newspapers. He says, that will never leave me. You guys give me a hard time all the time. But, uh, it's just all an example of, the police department involves a number, being a good police officer, involves a number of skills.

03.32.33 And it's just not what you learn in the police academy. What you learn in the police academy is very important, but you have to couple that with your field experience. And when, once you do that, then you're a police officer. Then you can confidently walk down the street, (?) cops walk down the street by themselves. And they turn around and there's nobody there but them. And they have to, in the best situation, you're with one other person. So you have to be able to, uh, you have to know where you are, you have to know what you're doing.

03.33.01 You have to know how to handle yourself. Sure, there's plenty of help around, but a lot can help, happen before that help gets there.

JW: Do you consider it dangerous?

03.33.12 JOSEPH KEENAN: You know, it's, it's an odd thing. If you ask any police officer that, he'll tell you it's usually dangerous for the other guy. Uh, you never, uh, you never see it for yourself. Uh, but yes, it's a dangerous job. Sure it is. Sure it is. There aren't too many jobs where, uh, your client tries to hurt you (LAUGHS) and the police department, your client (LAUGHS) is the one, he's trying to get away.

03.33.38 Uh, you have two, you have two types of people you deal with. You have the victims and the ones who victimize them. Now the victims, uh, you deal with them on their level. You try to help them. Take care of them. But the other guy, the guy who victimized them, uh, he doesn't really want to come with you to the police station to go to jail for a few years. Uh, so you have to, you have to realize that. And it is dangerous.

03.34.00 Sure it is. Sure.

JW: But you said, you know, they (?) a lot of officers don't think that it's dangerous but, is that a, is that a, is that a mentality that's helpful to do the job?

03.34.10 JOSEPH KEENAN: I think so. Because, uh, if you were always thinking of the danger, you might now react as quickly to what you've been trained to do. What you know. Sometimes you'll, uh, do something in the street and when it's all over, you'll go, (LAUGHS) why did I do that (LAUGHS). I must have been out of my mind. But it was the right thing to do at the time. It was the right way to react, uh, you got the job done and, uh, again, it's that mentality of being a police officer at all times.

03.34.37 You have to, have to be confident in what you do. You have to be confident in the way you react at any given moment.

JW: Any experiences (?)

03.34.47 JOSEPH KEENAN: Every police officer has them, but we don't, we really don't talk about them. Uh, uh, that's sort of a John Wayne movie, and we don't (LAUGHS) we don't get into that. There, there have been situations that I've been that I wish I wasn't, uh, and I've seen things that I wish I hadn't seen, but, uh, that's what we signed on for.

03.35.07 Again, as I mentioned earlier, if you don't like what you're doing, leave. (?) if you were a school teacher and didn't like school teaching, you'd leave. And you'd do something else. If you were a banker and you didn't like that, you'd leave and become a stock broker or, or something else. Well, if you were a police officer and you don't like it, there's no shame. Leave and become something else. Because you can only hurt yourself or not do a good job for the public, maybe hurt your partner.

03.35.32 And, uh, that's very important. You can't do that.

JW: When you talk about the police officer, I appreciate and get the feeling underneath what you're saying, uh, a sense of, of, uh, this may be from your history of having a family, uh, strong family connections. But is there an honor, a certain ability about what it is you do. Do you (?)

- 03.35.57 JOSEPH KEENAN: I think so. I think if all things were considered equal in the world, if all, if we lived in a society where, and it would never happen, and it shouldn't happen, where all jobs were exactly the same and everything cost the same for everybody and everybody made the same money, I think police officer would be high up on the list. High (?) high up on the food chain. I think it's a very important job. Uh, but, I'm a very pro-police. Uh, I'm, I, it's just the way I am. Uh, I grew up, as I said, I grew up in that atmosphere. I enjoy being in it, and I don't look forward to the day where I'm not going to do it anymore.
- 03.36.34 Uh, I wish I could do it forever. Uh, but the, uh, you know, reality of life is that it's not that way. Uh, I might be, uh, I'm a, I'm a good, I'm a good spokesman for the police department. Uh, maybe other guys wouldn't see it that way. Maybe you'd get a, uh, a different answer from somebody else who had a tougher career. Who maybe things didn't go right for him. But as I mentioned earlier, I had good assignments. I always enjoyed where I was.
- 03.36.58 Uh, I'm, I'm happy that I did this.

JW: Well, it seems that way. Uh, you talked a little bit earlier about, I think it's really important what you're saying. There's, there's a bit of an analogy, although somewhat of an analogy, which, uh, you know, in the film business we work pretty long hours and there can be a pattern when you're working on a film, for example, where you get your work in 18 hour days and, and you come home and (CLEARS THROAT) you're tempted by sitting in front of the television set for an extra hour and a half and then you go to sleep. You wake up and, you get into that pattern. But it, uh, but it, it's, it's not necessarily good as you say, for the whole person. It's also something, if you're, if you're as mature as you were when you got into it, it can be hard on the family. Can you talk to me a little bit about that challenge, specifically with you (?).

- 03.37.55 JOSEPH KEENAN: Sure. That is difficult. There, there were many times, a police officer doesn't work 18 hours every day. It's a rare thing. Uh, but there are times where, where you'll string in two, three weeks together where you, especially detectives. Guys in, uh, office, police officers and special details will catch a case and they run with it, as we call it. And they work a lot of hours. And sure, it takes away from, uh, it takes away from your home life. You have to, uh, come home and make sure that, uh, when your child, your son or

your daughter wants to show you that little cow that they drew that sort of looks like a, a star as opposed to a cow, you're not quite sure what it is until they tell you what it is, you have to make sure that you look at it.

03.38.36 You can't, you can't push them aside or shun them aside, because although all day long you've been waiting to go home for whatever reason, they've also been waiting for you to come home. And when you walk in that house at that particular moment, you have to be, uh, uh, careful and, and, and, and deal with the (?) it's so easy, and I've probably done it at times also, it's so easy to say, just not right now, just let me, let me get in the house.

03.39.03 Uh, I'll see what you have later. And later on they'll show you. But it's not with the same emotion that they had at the moment you walked in the door. Uh, so police officers have to be careful about that. I guess all people, whatever your profession is, you have to be careful about that, you know, and doctors work long hours. Nurses work long hours. And they're tired when they come home. And, uh, they have to, they have to do the same thing. Uh, maybe in, in, in police work it might be a little more emphasized because if a, if a, a doctor or a nurse or a, a lawyer working on a big case, works a lot of hours, they concentrate on a certain area.

03.39.40 But maybe the police officer was out doing rough things that day and he's tired and he really doesn't want to talk about what he did when he got home, when he gets home, uh, so it's very easy to come home, uh, tired and not wanting to listen. Sometimes it's, it's good. You come home and everybody's already asleep. You say, oh good.

03.39.58 And you relax for a few moments (LAUGHS). You, you, you know, make yourself something to eat or whatever you want to do, and then you go to bed and you had that moment to unwind. But, uh, a police officer has to unwind when he comes home after a tough day. Just like everybody else. But, uh, I think we might do, when we have a tough day, it's usually tougher than somebody else's tough day. Uh, long hours in an office are long hours and tiring. But, uh, long hours in the street, uh, if a police officer worked fifteen, sixteen hours in the street that day, there was a reason.

03.40.29 It wasn't just because he was working extra hours. Something happened. Something, uh, something happened to make him have to stay. And, uh, we get wound up. We get caught up in the situation. And it takes time to, to wind back down when coming home. You have to be, uh, uh, I think cops are aware of that even though they don't know it. Uh, when they

drive home in the car and they turn on the radio and they listen to whatever they're listening to, when they get in the house and maybe they play with the dog or see what the children are doing. I think they're aware of it without being aware that they're aware of it.

03.41.07 Uh (~JW~) Aware of, uh, knowing that you have to put aside. You can't bring home the bad stuff. You have to put it aside. If you bring home the bad stuff, it makes it bad wherever you are. Uh, you don't want to come in the house, uh, angry over what happened at work. Whether it be a confrontation you had with the boss or a confrontation that you had with somebody in the street or, or you saw a terrible thing in the street.

03.41.35 You, you really don't want to bring that home and, uh, uh, put that on a, a seven or eight year old who's been waiting for you to come home so you can, uh, play catch in the back yard. Last thing in the world is, that you want to do at that moment, is play catch in the back yard. But, uh, if you do it for two or three minutes, then they run away and do something else (LAUGHS).

03.41.56 So, uh, uh, you get your time to, uh, uh, to wind, unwind yourself.

JW: But you need time for yourself too.

03.42.04 JOSEPH KEENAN: Police officers need time for themselves and that's pretty much why they tend to (?) social with other police officers. Because, uh, uh, a number of things probably lead into that. That hours that we work. Uh, police officers and, uh, you'll see that in, in every jurisdiction no matter where you work, uh, you'll find a lot of police officers and nurses together. Because of the hours they work, uh, police officers are in hospitals a lot.

03.42.29 Uh, and they, and they tend to have free time at the same time. Uh, understand each other. I don't have to explain to somebody, uh, another police officer how I felt about today. He understands. It just goes without saying. Uh, when you have Tuesday and Wednesday off in the middle of the week, and everybody else on the block is working except for the cop who lives down the block, you tend to, tend to socialize with him. So, police officers, uh, stay together because of their hours and, uh, they can tell each other things. (~JW~)

03.43.04 Camaraderie, yes. And that, and, uh, uh, it's not that they, uh, do that at the exclusion of others, it's just, uh, that's it's easier to be with people who are like you. Uh, in a, (?) free situation, you would (?) normally pick people who were like you. Other police officers are

like you and they're, and they're time schedule fits with yours, your wives tend to become friends with their wife's, uh, so we travel in our own little circle, which I think other people do too.

03.43.37 Probably film people travel in their own little circle and, and, uh, stock brokers travel in their own little circle. It's just sometimes it becomes a stigma for us. People don't understand it. They think we're trying to keep everybody else out. Uh, look at those cops, they're always together. Well, yeah, but so were you and the people who work in your factory.

03.43.55 You're always together too.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.43.59 END OF TAPE # J.K 03, 1 of 4

04.01.00 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Nick, Nick also had this interesting experience. He was doing a eulogy for Mom and, uh, in the middle of it this bird came into, into the church and landed right on his head.

04.01.54 JOSEPH KEENAN: Really? Wow.

JW: And he thought it was something on his head and he grabbed it like this and the bird just sat there on his finger, just looking at him. It was amazing.

04.02.04 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, I'm a, I'm a believer in everything. I don't, uh, I don't make fun, we used to have, uh, (LAUGHS) years ago in Brooklyn, uh, it's still there. There used to be this cult called Santaria. And they used to go in the parks at night and they used to, uh, uh, sacrifice and build little fires, whatever. And you'd come, somebody'd be walking their dog the next morning and find, uh, uh, bones and they would call the police.

04.02.29 It was always like chicken bones or stuff like that from their little sacrifices. Which were illegal, of course. But (?), I always used to tell the guys, I don't, you know, maybe their right and we're wrong. You know, I'm not making fun of anybody. I don't want to wake up tomorrow with this little head sitting on my shoulders 'cos I made fun of some guy last night (LAUGHS). I believe in everything. I believe in ghosts, I believe in no ghosts (LAUGHS). I believe we, somebody says they talked to somebody who's dead, okay. You believe it. I believe it (LAUGHS). I don't make fun of anybody.

04.03.00 I just don't want to take the chance. I'm a coward (LAUGHS). We might be wrong and they might be right.

JW: Well, you never know. I mean who's to know. (?) I always have this image, I have this reoccurring image when I was, I was living in Nova Scotia, which is where my family lives, when I was, I, I grew up in Washington D.C. til I was 12 years old and then my Dad was sick, had a heart attack and doctor said, you know, you should, you should consider a life style change. So he moved to, uh, we moved to Nova Scotia where we had gone every summer for all of my (?) Big, change. He was, he wrote for a newspaper and, you know, just got out of the rat race as he puts it. Uh, but I went up there and, uh, and, uh, learn, learned how to play hockey, right. So I was, I was skating actually in Washington, D.C. But I went up there and I thought, okay, I'll play hockey and you know, all these kids have been playing hockey since they were in, in the womb practically. They were skating around. And so I was this little bean pole of a kid, anyhow, I was like, 135 , 6 feet tall, 135 pounds (?) with my, wet, (LAUGHS) with my clothes wet. And, uh, I got slammed into the boards going through, for a puck and everything just went out. And I thought, I wonder if that's what's gonna happen to you when you die (LAUGHS). Just all of a sudden, boom, you get hit and who knows. You know?

04.04.29 JOSEPH KEENAN: It's a big difference. Big, my son played, uh, my son was football player and, uh, he, he was pretty good. And he played locally, you know, at the high schools, whatever. Then when he went on to college, uh, I asked him, uh, he was like two or three days into his first football camp, and I was talking to him on the phone, I said, what's the difference. Because I had always, I had been telling him, be ready now, you know.

Everybody on every team is the best guy from the team they came from. So, remember that, you know. You're not gonna be able to just dance around these guys. I said, what's the big difference. What's the meaning, you know, what's the camp difference and what's the structure difference.

04.05.4 That's what I meant. And he said, oh, when these guys hit you, you stay hit. (LAUGHS) And I said, oh, that's a big difference. (LAUGHS) He said, wow. These guys hit. There's no fooling around. So that's the same thing. Being a little, being a little, uh, beanpole, (~JW~) I mean, uh, I mean you, saw him. He's not, he's not an overly big kid. He was, he was, he was quarterback and he's (?) oh if one of these guys hit you, you stay hit, you know.

JW: I saw actually a picture of him on (?) your table number 7, I think was his number?

04.55.33 JOSEPH KEENAN: Yeah, that's uh, a picture from college. Yeah, when he was, he, he actually got hurt and had to come home. They, they pulled his NCA eligibility because he was hurt. They honored the scholarship, but he was, (?) NCA wouldn't let him play anymore, so he wound up coming home. Then it was a whole 'nother story. Yeah, something we had to deal with 'cos he got, came and he was, he was depressed over that and, so we had to, we were in the re-grouping stage right now (LAUGHS).

04.06.02 So, I hope we're on the same page. Yeah.

JW: Seems like from yesterday, given, you know, the way we saw you guys interact and you seem like a very close family.

04.06.11 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, he can be, he, he, he tries to be the comedian. He's a, you know, it's, uh, he grew up in a family with two older sisters and a mother all the time I was working. So, uh, in a way that was good for him because he grew up in a, in a house with three older females.

04.06.28 And he's learned how to, he's learned how to play that situation (LAUGHS) so he's, he's the family comedian. But the girls don't, they don't give him any quarter. They don't let him get away with anything.

JW: I kind of noticed that. I saw that in their interaction. It was nice. Tell me a little bit, if you, if you wouldn't mind, (STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Tell me if, if you wouldn't mind, uh, a little bit about, uh, the girls, if you (?)

- 04.06.54 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, uh, I guess Jane and I have been fortunate, uh, the kids are good, uh, my eldest girl Jeanine, she was our student. They were all athletes and, uh, my oldest girl Jeanine, she was really our, uh, a student. As, as, as was Karen. Karen and Joe were good students. Uh, Jeanine being the first, she was the first grandchild on either side of the family, so it was a, it was a big deal. Uh, so she was a little, a little princess when, uh, when she was little, but she always did, uh, she always did well in school.
- 04.07.34 And, uh, she won a, a scholarship to go to Manhattan College. She's a CPA now. Uh, she did and went to Manhattan College, did very well. Uh, she played sports through high school. She could have played sports in college also but she, she chose not to. She, uh, uh, accepted an academic scholarship from, uh, uh, uh, Manhattan College because she didn't want to, she said she didn't really want to continue playing, playing ball and she did very well in school.
- 04.08.00 We were very happy with it. She came out, uh, at first she went to work for, uh, uh, Arthur Andersen. She, she interned with Price Waterhouse, but took a job with Arthur Andersen. And, uh, at one point was assigned out, I'm not exactly familiar with how they work, but the impression I got is that they send teams out to companies and, uh, she and others were sent out to work on a job for, uh, Rupert Murdoch, with, uh, uh, Newscorp.
- 04.08.32 And I could tell, I got the feeling from the way she was speaking when she came home from work, I told her, I says, you know, be prepared. It was a two or three month assignment, maybe four or five month assignment. I told her, be prepared when you come home. I said, I think they're gonna try to steal you. They're gonna offer you a job. She said, oh, no, they'll never do that, they'll never do that. So she was, finished the assignment and she was home two or three days, and people she worked with called her up and invited her to lunch.

04.08.58 And I told her, I said, be prepared now. They're gonna offer you job. Just, uh, listen to what they have to say and tell them you'll get back to them tomorrow. Then she came home, she said, you know, I couldn't believe it. They offered me a job. And, it, it turned out to be good and better for her and she left Arthur Andersen and she now works for, uh, Newscorp. She works for, uh, Rupert Murdoch. And she's doing very well there. And, uh, she'll be married in uh, September, September 6<sup>th</sup>, uh, a nice boy who she met in college. Uh, they, uh, as I mentioned earlier, Jane and I traveled in the same crowd.

04.09.32 Well they traveled in the same crowd also in, in college and then after a couple of years, they coupled off. So she knows Andy about, uh, probably knows him about six, six years or so, and they're, they've been together probably about four of that and they'll be married in September and, uh, I think it will work out. Hopefully. Uh, Karen, the second one, Karen's two years younger than Jeanine.

JW: That'll be a big day?

04.10.04 JOSEPH KEENAN: That will be a big day. Yeah, be a big day, uh, September 6. So it's a Friday night and, uh, so it will probably be a big weekend. My family, uh, uh, in particular my wife's family, although my family also, they, they know how to have a party. So, (LAUGHS) I think it will be, I think it will go a little longer than Friday night. They'll probably (LAUGHS) probably do well into Saturday. Uh, but it will be good. It will be nice. Everybody's looking forward to it. And again, now, now it's the, uh, she was the first grandchild so now she will be the first grandchild married, which is a whole 'nother experience and, uh, everybody, all her aunts have views on that, you know, on how to help her (LAUGHS).

04.10.40 But I think she's, uh, I think she's level headed enough to, uh, uh, she's taking control of the whole situation and she's gone on on her own so it will, it will work out.

JW: First out of the next for you.

04.10.53 JOSEPH KEENAN: First out of the next for us. Yeah. Uh, it's good. Uh, of course, a piece of you is leaving, you know, it's, uh, you know I, I think it's probably different when

it's the first but there are others still home. Maybe if she were the, the one who was the last to leave, it, it might be, uh, it might have more of an effect. Uh, I'm sure there's going to be a hole. There has to be a hole after she leaves. Uh, but the house will still be busy. She's not moving far away. She's only moving to Valley Stream, which is, uh, you know, a close distance from Brooklyn. Uh, so I'm sure there will still be that, uh, uh, constant contact.

04.11.30 But it's, it's, it's gonna take an adjustment. It's, uh, because she's, uh, reliable at home. Uh, she's always been there when her brother and sister needed her. It's a, a good situation. The three of them get along. And, I don't know how it's going to be. I'll tell you, uh, on the 7<sup>th</sup>. (LAUGHS) I don't know how it's, how it's gonna work out exactly. Yeah.

JW: Especially, you know, I, I appreciated, uh, (?). I appreciated, uh, yesterday, being able to see how close your family is. Not only in the kitchen but right next door (LAUGHS).  
Want to tell me a little about that.

04.12.13 JOSEPH KEENAN: Yeah, well that's, that's, it's an unusual situation. I don't think, uh, I don't think too many people have that situation. Uh, a lot of people who don't know us a long time, uh, they assume that, uh, Jane and I grew up next to each other. That's how we met. But that's not, that's not the way it happened.

04.12.30 My parents bought a house, uh, on the block I live presently, in 1963. We had moved from a different part of Brooklyn out to the Flatbush area in 1963. And, uh, my wife lived two or three blocks away at, at, at that time. Uh, the house, uh, directly next door to my parents, an elderly couple lived in it and, uh, when, when the husband retired, their children were married and, and moved away years before we even moved into the neighborhood.

04.13.04 And, uh, when he decided to retire, they moved to South Carolina. And, uh, a cousin of mine bought that house. Bought the house next door to my parents. Which was nice. He was a, he was just getting married and, uh, uh, he and his wife, uh, bought the house. I, I, I, don't know what more to say than that, but they did. They bought the house next door to my parents.

04.13.28 Sometime later, uh, I don't know exactly when they, they bought that house, I don't remember, but sometime later I was in the market. Jane and I were married and we were uh, our apartment was growing smaller as the kids grew bigger. The two girls were born and

Joseph was on his way and we were, had a nice apartment. We had a two bedroom, four room apartment, but it just wasn't going to work for, uh, three kids. So, we started to look for a house. And friends of mine who lived in the very next house now, uh, the third house in the row, uh, the house went into an estate situation.

- 04.14.01 The father died and the brother and sister owned the house and the brother called me and he asked me if I would be interested because he knew I was looking for a house. So we went and we made a deal. I was interested and, and Jane and I bought that house. Now we had three houses in a row. We had my mother's house, my mother and father, my father had passed away in, uh, in 1980, so, uh, it was my mother and my sister living in that house, my cousin and his wife in the house next door, then Jane and I and the kids in the, uh, third house.
- 04.14.30 Uh, I guess, maybe eight or nine years after we moved in, my cousin became ill. He had cancer. And, uh, he died from the cancer. And his wife moved back to Staten Island where her sisters live. Now that house became available. At that time, my, uh, in-laws were looking to move from where they were. They were in a two family house that used to be, uh, uh, my wife's family and my, my mother-in-law's sister lived downstairs.
- 04.14.59 But, uh, they were older, the sister was much older than my, than my mother-in-law and she and the, and her husband had passed away. And they didn't really want the two family house any longer. They wanted to move out. And they wound up buying the house in between my mother and I from, from my, uh, cousin's wife. So it was a very unusual situation, because we have a, we have the, the mother-in-laws both living next door to each other, and we have the families both living next door to each other. I think it was great for my kids. I don't know how good it was for everybody else, although everybody's always gotten along.
- 04.15.31 My mother-in-law and my mother are very, very good friends. Uh, but the kids had the availability to just, uh, almost like a maze. They'd walk out the back door of one house, into the back door of the other house, out the front door, into the next door, go down the basement. There'd be times where we would have to look for them, because we would say, where are they. And, and go into my father-in-law's house and I would say, Joseph here. He says, well, he just went out the back. And, uh, I go out the back and he would be in the next back yard playing basketball or so for the children, it was great.

04.16.00 Uh, for everybody, it actually worked out. But it's a very unusual situation I think to have a, uh, a married couple with their family and their parents living right next door on both sides. It might be more of a, uh, 1930's or 1940's situation, but it's not something you see too commonly now. Uh, just something that sort of happened. Nothing that was planned. Uh, if that house that I bought hadn't gone in to estate, we would have bought some place else. We were looking in the neighborhood and, uh, when that house became available, we jumped on it and the, my cousin hadn't become ill, uh, he would still be living there.

04.16.35 My in-laws would have moved someplace else. So it was an unusual situation that, uh, pretty much has worked out. Yeah.

JW: Uh, I interrupted you (?)

04.16.48 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, Karen, my second girl, uh, she's, uh, she was a, although she and her sister look alike, they're really different. They are, uh, different personalities. Karen's a little more outgoing.

04.17.01 Uh, there were times where, when, when Jeanine was in her mid teens where I would have to tell Jeanine go, go, uh, go out with your friends tonight. Stop studying. Uh, go out and have some fun. With Karen, I never had to say that. I never had to say, Karen, go out. I had to say sometimes, Karen, come home (LAUGHS). So, uh, when, when she finished college, she went on to, uh, she was working. She was out there in the business world working and then, uh, about, uh, a little more than a year after she had graduated, she came to me one day.

04.17.35 Last December I think it was, around last December after the, after the attack in September and she said to me, she was, uh, thinking of going on the police department. Which was kind of a surprise. Uh, while they were in college, I had always encouraged all of them, all three of them, to take tests. You never know what's going to come in the future. Take tests, uh, for jobs. Uh, you don't have to take the job. It's, uh, all you lose is a couple of hours on a Saturday morning.

04.18.01 So all three of them did that. They always took various uh, job tests for the federal government or for the state or the city. And Karen had done so probably about, uh, I don't recall, three or four years ago, uh, for the police department, but she was too young at the time, when the police department called her, uh, she wasn't of age to go, so they put her on

the back burner and they sort of forgot about her and she sort of forgot about it and went in a different direction was out working.

04.18.30 But then, uh, sometime around last, uh, December or January, she came to me and she said she wanted to talk about it. She was thinking of going on the police department. Uh, (~JW~)

JW: How did that make you feel?

04.18.42 JOSEPH KEENAN: It's, uh, two feelings, you know. Happy and apprehensive at the same time. Uh, happy because, uh, I had always, you know, I could sometimes be accused of being a shill for the police department, because I always, I always try to speak well of it because I, I, I enjoyed my time and I, yeah, there were a lot of bad things happen in a police department.

04.19.03 And uh, sometimes it's our fault and sometimes it's not our fault. But I think on a whole, it's, uh, it, it's, it's a good life. It's a good experience. So I always enjoyed it. And, uh, so I was happy that I thought she could experience that also. And I was proud of the fact that she was doing something I had done. I guess just as a, uh, a surgeon would feel proud of their, uh, son or daughter become a surgeon, just like, uh, you know lots of times you see signs, and son, whether it be on a, a fuel heating truck or a, or a dentist's office, you know, and son, or and daughter.

04.19.42 So, uh, in that, in that aspect, I was happy. But I was apprehensive also 'cos I knew that a lot of bad things go with it, uh, as I mentioned before. You don't always bring the bad things home, although you do know they happen and you do experience them. So you don't want them, you don't, you never want your children to experience the bad things.

04.19.59 You want them to learn and gain the experience of it, without having to go through it. Uh, but, uh, so that, uh, and as you mentioned before, you said, is it, is it dangerous and I said, well, it's always dangerous for the other person, never for you. Uh, because you don't, you don't feel that way. You always feel in control. And there's that element also. Uh, but if you want to do it. You have to really want to do it and if you want to do it, uh, then you can't stop somebody.

04.20.27 So what we did was, I told her, I said, look, you caught me by surprise here. I wasn't ready for this. I said, why don't we wait a few days and we'll talk about it. And then, uh, you tell

me why you want to do it and I'm telling you right now that, uh, I'm gonna tell you the bad things about it. I'm not talking you out of it, I just want you to convince me that you really want it. I want you to understand. And a few days later, she came to me. We talked about and she convinced me she was interested.

JW: Why did she say she was interested?

04.20.55 JOSEPH KEENAN: Oh, she said that it was something that she had really always wanted to do. Uh, and then when she was in college, and they called her, she wasn't old enough to leave and she was still going to college and she sort of got distracted, but she, uh (~JW~)

JW: So they, they, they called her.

04.21.11 JOSEPH KEENAN: (~JW~) Oh, they called her, but she wasn't old enough. (~JW~) She wasn't old enough to go in. (~JW~)

(SIMULTANEOUS CONVERSATION)

04.21.18 JOSEPH KEENAN: Oh yes, yes. They were, they were willing to accept her, but when they, uh, when you take the test, uh, uh, any, any, any test for a job, you're really just a number. And, and when her number came up, the investigators called her not, without realizing she wasn't old enough at the time, and then when she told them she wasn't old enough, they put her in the hold file.

04.21.34 And that sort of sits on somebody's desk until you have to reactivate yourself. You have to say you're interested. Uh, she said she wanted to try it. She thought she would like the work. Uh, again, now, she grew up in the same atmosphere I grew up in. So was something that although she didn't know, it wasn't unfamiliar to her. Uh, so maybe there's a little draw there, that, obviously there is a little draw there.

04.21.59 Uh, and she was going to, uh, she's willing to try it. And, uh, you know, she's old enough to do what she wants to do. I really can't say yes or no. But, I can advise her. Tell her how I feel about it. And, uh, we discussed it and she started. She started, uh, July 1. So she's a

recruit in the police academy right now and she's only, uh, three, three and a half weeks in, but, uh, she seems to be doing what she's supposed to do. She's enjoying it. I think she, she has a good personality.

04.22.31 She has the type of personality that, uh, I think, fits. Uh, she's willing, she always could talk to people. She has a lot of friends. She's, listens. Uh, it's just going to be a matter of her harnessing all the, uh, all the knowledge that she, that she needs. I don't think the, uh, I don't think the academic part of the academy will be a problem for her. She's gonna have to do her work. It's not a pushover, but she's capable, more, more than capable of doing it.

04.23.01 And, uh, we'll see what happens. You never know. You just have to, you just have to see what happens.

JW: Kind of scary?

04.23.10 JOSEPH KEENAN: Joseph.? (~JW~) Is it scary. Uh, yeah. It's scary, but, uh, you know what, you know what's rough about it, uh, probably now Jane has to go through it all again. Uh, because she went through it all with me and now where it might be coming to a close with me, and you can probably relax about it, now she has to worry about Karen.

04.23.32 And, and you do. And, uh, you always have your little rules. Like I always made sure I called every day when I was at work. You call home. Even if it's just to say, uh, uh, I'll be home on time or, uh, what's going on. (?) get report cards. I don't want to know about it. I'll, I'll see it when I get home, uh, you always make that contact during the day. Because if you don't make the contact, the person who's waiting for it is wondering when it's coming. Uh, when, when am I gonna hear from them. What are you doing. So that's gonna start all over again, now.

04.24.00 And, uh, I find myself doing it. Uh, she was working the night shift the other day and I was, uh, I asked Jane, I said, what time she get home last night. How come she's not home yet. And she said, it's, she's not even finished yet. (LAUGHS) Give her a (LAUGHS) you know, she doesn't finish for another half hour. She can't be home yet (LAUGHS). But I was thinking then like a father as opposed to the police officer. I was sitting there and all of a sudden, she popped into my mind and I said, wait a second, why isn't she home yet. Uh, because she was still working (LAUGHS).

04.24.29 She couldn't be home yet.

JW: In a way, you're kind of thinking like the father and (?) and not the police officer.

04.24.34 JOSEPH KEENAN: Right. Right. All at the same time, you know. Uh, I'll, uh, I'll be able to, if she comes to me with a question, I'll have more knowledge to answer that question than somebody else might. I can't, uh, I can't tell her what to do, 'cos she's gonna have to figure that out herself, but at least I'll be able to offer something. Or if she comes home, where I would, I would see, years ago when we were kids and my father's brother would come over to visit and I'd be playing with my cousins in the, the yard or the house, I'd always see my father and my, and his brother and, and with my other cousin who was a police officer was there.

04.25.06 They were always sitting together in a different room, and they were talking about work. And, I don't really know what they were talking about, but they were always bouncing things off each other and they were laughing and they would be talking about what happened, or what's going on. So, uh, uh, she'll have that availability through me. I'll be able to, uh, understand if she wants to talk about something. I mentioned before that you don't really come home and bring your work home and talk about it because who am I gonna talk to about it at, in my house right now.

04.25.34 There's nobody that understands. If my father was still alive, I would probably talk to him about it. Uh, so if Karen comes home, I'm sure there will be times, five years from now, where we'll be sitting in the back yard together, uh, talking about something at work, as I used to watch my father and his brother and my, and my cousins sit and talk about it. So that will probably happen also.

JW: Do you look forward to that?

04.25.59 JOSEPH KEENAN: Uh, I guess so. Uh, Karen and I, uh, Karen and I are close, you know. When she was teenager, she did all the things that, uh, you know teenagers do and, uh, you know, a couple of times we banged heads, but, uh, on a whole, she talks to me. She tells me things. So, uh, I'm sure she will feel free to come in, she's already telling me stuff, you

know. Police academy (LAUGHS). She hasn't learned anything yet. In the three weeks, she is coming home and telling me things (LAUGHS).

04.26.28 So, uh, that's good.

JW: Uh, that sounds like it's nice.

JOSEPH KEENAN: Yeah.

JW: Uh, so I wondered if (CLEARS THROAT) I wanted to, to move in to talk about September 11<sup>th</sup>. Uh, and what I wanted to ask you to do if you could is, is, is kind of help me, I wasn't there, I wasn't in your shoes, and kind of take me back, if you could, to that day. Uh, and I, I always put it in terms of, you know, when I'm talking to people about something that's important, I try and, I try and think of the things that are like, sort of, things like, how you felt, like what, the touch, the sight, the five senses kind of thing. What you smelled, what you felt, what you heard, what you saw. That kind of thing. Uh, we all have our moments in our head about what that was. Some are, are, you know, yours would be more direct than mine, because as I told you yesterday, I was in Detroit. So, I'm, I'm curious about, if you could give me a, a sense of that day and (?)

04.27.35 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, as I mentioned earlier, I said that, uh, police officers are police officers all the time, 24-hours a day is what, what we are, what we do. But at the same time, we're people also. Uh, and we usually do a good job of keeping that separate. Uh, September 11<sup>th</sup>, that didn't actually happen. Uh, we were people and police officers at the same time.

04.27.59 It was an unusual situation. Nobody in the world had ever gone through what people in New York and, and in some way, you know, uh, in, in Washington and in, and in Pennsylvania, uh, went through that day. Uh, unfortunately, uh, a lot of times we forget about Washington and, and, uh, Pennsylvania because New York was so spectacular that day. Uh, but that's where I was. Maybe if I was in Washington I would have a different aspect about what happened there, but I wasn't. I was, I was in New York at the time.

- 04.28.27 And, uh, I experienced it as a police officer and as a person at the same time. It was really difficult. I was in my office. I had a meeting, uh, that day, Tuesday, at, uh, I don't know, I had a 10:00, 10:30 meeting with one of my bosses about, uh, a program we had been working on. So I came in early that day, and my, my staff and we were sitting, working on our report, getting ready for what we were going to do, what, what, what, uh, what meeting, what we were going to discuss at the meeting. I don't even remember what that was about now.
- 04.28.58 But, uh, at that moment it was important. We had, uh, we had to take care of our report. I have, uh, at that time I had, I guess, six detectives who work for me. And, uh, one of them came into me, I, actually I don't think she came into my office. I think I went into her office. I, my office is separate. All six of them are in one room, and I'm in a smaller room right next door to them. And I think I got up and walked into a, uh, into their room.
- 04.29.27 And, and one of the, uh, detectives said, gee (?) she was listening to the radio, she had a radio next to her desk, she said, a, a plane just hit the World Trade Center. So as most people I think at that time, my immediate reaction was some little Piper Cub pilot must have had a heart attack or got lost or couldn't pull out and hit the World Trade Center. And I said, oh, wow, how could that happen. You know, it's so big, how could you, how could you miss it. You know, how could you not see it. Our building in Brooklyn, we're right on the, uh, we're the very first building on the Brooklyn side of the Manhattan Bridge, where our office is.
- 04.30.04 We're, we're right there. When you come over the Manhattan Bridge, uh, the first building on the left hand side, that's where we work. So, although we're in Brooklyn, we're as close to Manhattan as you can get and not be in it. Uh, we're also fairly close to the World Trade Center. So one of the detectives, I don't remember who, said, let's go up on the roof and look. We're, we're on the fifth floor of a six, six story building. And we had been up on the roof many a time. Sometimes you just, you use to just go up on the roof and sit on the side and talk, you know, was a nice cool day, whatever.
- 04.30.37 So, it was a beautiful day on September 11<sup>th</sup>, so all six of us or however many of us went, we left and we walked up the stairway still in our mind thinking a little, a little plane, little Piper Cub got lost and hit the World Trade Center. When we walk up on our, on the roof of our building, we have a complete view. We had a beautiful view of Manhattan.
- 04.31.00 As we walked up on the build, up on to the roof, two people from the same floor that we work on were already up there from a different office. And, 'cos when we got up there, the

floor was open, the door was open. And when we walked out, and we saw the burning of the tower, we were absolutely shocked. Couldn't believe it. Uh, at that point, I think we were people. We weren't police officers. We were, we were, our door, our jaws dropped. We just couldn't believe what we were seeing. Now, I know, everybody in New York who you speak to will say the same thing.

- 04.31.29 We couldn't believe what we were seeing. It was absolutely true. The building was completely engulfed in flame. The, uh, the, uh, we were up there, uh, I don't how quickly, uh, less than five minutes after the incident, uh, three minutes, I don't, however long it took us to realize it happened, say let's go upstairs and go upstairs, that's how, that's how long it took us. And we went up on the, we went up on the, on the roof and we watched it and we couldn't, we couldn't believe what happened.
- 04.31.58 Uh, somebody else from a different office, although we work in a building that's not a city-owned building, it's policy only in the building. So somebody else came up from, uh, a different office and he had a little portable radio and now we're listening to it and, uh, we realize it was an airliner crashed. How could that happen, you know. We're in, we're in a no fly zone, you know, no, airliners don't fly over Manhattan, uh, just for this reason. (?) anybody crashing. And we start to talk about it. Now we start to go into police mode a little bit. Wait a second. What happened here.
- 04.32.28 How could this happen. Now, uh, as of yet I don't believe, everything's a little mixed up, everything's a lot mixed up. But I don't believe there were reports of hijackings yet. I don't think we knew that. And, uh, as we're watching it, one of my detectives was standing next to, well, not next to me, who was, uh, also one of my friends. When you work, when you work close in a group, we have, uh, a six or seven man team. I'm, I'm the sergeant, they're the detectives. Uh, it's a good situation, it's a bad situation.
- 04.32.59 Uh, it's a good situation because we're friends, we've become friendly. It's a bad situation because I have to be the boss of my friends. So sometimes it's awkward. Uh, but I had an excellent crew. I had a, a good mature, experienced crew. And one of the detectives standing next to me, female, Lisa, uh, we've become friends over the years. She's been at my house, I, we've been out to dinner, we (?), she knows my kids, and my wife and, uh, and we've become friends, and she's standing next to me and all of a sudden I, I feel, I could still feel it, she grabs my arm and she says, what's that.

- 04.33.31 And we look to our right, and as we look to our right, the second plane was coming and it, uh, and it, uh, buzzed is the wrong term, but it was so low that we could see in the windows. Uh, we couldn't see people, but we could see in the windows, and it was coming from our right, which would be, I guess, uh, the area down by the Brooklyn Navy Yard, I'm not exactly sure where it was coming from. But when we first looked, it was at our right. And, uh, we watched it turn and go towards Manhattan.
- 04.33.59 It was going over the, over the East River, I, I don't know if was flying over the Manhattan Bridge or the Brooklyn Bridge, but at that moment, we weren't people again. We were police officers. And, uh, we knew what was going to happen. We knew it. We could just, we all knew. And, uh, (PAUSE) we watched the plane go across the river and we watched it turn, and it just actually went in one side and out the other side of the building.
- 04.34.30 There was absolutely no question, it didn't, didn't hit and explode. It just went in one side and, uh, out the other side of the building and we were, you know, eye witnesses. Well, we were eye witnesses. There was no question. You almost felt, we were so close we almost felt we could reach out and touch it. You ask about what you feel, what you hear. Well, we, we, we saw the hit. We heard the explosion and then we felt the whoosh of the heat and, and the explosion come our way.
- 04.35.00 And, uh, uh, Lisa said to me, uh, three or four weeks later, she says, you remember what you said to me when that happened. And I said, no. No, what did I say. And she said, you said, oh my God, we're at war. And, uh, that's the truth. We were. So, uh, it's not, uh, it's, it's not an, an embarrassment to say to we didn't know what we were going to do because we didn't know what we were going to do. It was, uh, you know, uh, although we're police offices, you know, (?) we're people too and, uh, we were as confused as everybody else was.
- 04.35.35 Uh, takes a couple of minutes to regroup, what are we going to do now. Everybody from the building's running up. And, uh, uh, the people who work in my building, uh, are, majority investigative people. So we're not actually out in the street. We have cases, you know, they go out in the street and, uh, uh, so now we're sort of talking to each other. Alright. What are we going to do. We got to, we got to decide what we're doing. Uh, there was pretty much no communications, uh, communications had gone down.
- 04.36.05 Uh, the radios weren't working. Uh, phone communication, who are you gonna call, you know (LAUGHS). Everybody, in headquarters, had left and was running to the scene and,

uh, we were trying to decide what we were going to do. We didn't know what we were going to do. And as we're doing that, and, uh, we're regrouping. We said, alright, now let's, uh, everybody go downstairs and get in uniform. Because we work in shirt and ties. So everybody went downstairs and got in uniform, come on, everybody go downstairs, get in uniform, come back here and we'll decide what to do.

04.36.30 So, five minutes later, ten minutes later, everybody back up. Now, uh, now we're starting to form into our little groups, alright. We have (~JW~)

JW: Now you went, you went downstairs (?) you put on (?)

04.36.40 JOSEPH KEENAN: Yeah, we put on our uniforms (~JW~)

JW: What were you thinking?

04.36.47 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, we knew we were gonna have to go into Manhattan. We just didn't know what we were going to do. Uh, the two buildings were burning. Uh, we came back up, now we're starting to form in our little group, there are, uh, mostly detectives in our building. Some police officers, uh, an appropriate amount of sergeants and a couple of lieutenants, you know, a rank structure.

04.37.01 So now we're starting to fall into a rank structure and, uh, we're making our own little army (LAUGHS). Our own little (?). We didn't know what we were supposed to do, but we knew what the procedure was. We know how we're supposed to form into groups and how we're supposed to, uh, maintain order in our own group and start to get ready. And that's what we were doing. And as we were doing that, the building fell down. And, uh, again, uh, as the building came down and the, and the dust rose and, and all the dirt came down, uh, the building fell, the dust rose, and then we heard it.

04.37.37 Uh, that was the type of situation. And then the, uh, the debris started to come. And, uh, and the dust clouds started to float and it, it was all coming towards us. The wind was, I live probably, uh, I live complete on the opposite side of Brooklyn from where we were that day.

04.37.38 Uh, I probably live eight or ten miles from the World, World Trade Center. The next morning, my back yard was littered. Uh, I have a little swimming pool in my back yard. The

whole top of my swimming pool was covered in ash. There were burnt papers, (?) it was litter in the, on our whole street. Uh, so that was a good distance away and that happened all, all around, uh, I don't know what the, what the area was that was covered, but, uh, it wasn't just my house.

- 04.38.27 It, it was everybody 'cos the wind was blowing that way. Now, when we watched the building come down, it was very, uh, it, it was very unusual because your, your mind plays tricks on you. We knew that building came down. We saw it get hit. We saw it come down. But when we looked at it, we could still see it there. Your mind is so used to (?), for 25 years, I looked in that direction and I saw those two buildings standing there. So now, as I was looking at them, there was only one of them. But sort of the other one was there.
- 04.38.57 And, I guess the reason it was there was because we couldn't believe it fell. It just can't fall. Uh, that building can't fall down. And then the other one fell down. Well, uh, now we, we, we kicked back into police officer. We knew we had a problem. We knew we had a serious problem. We knew that the people above those planes, uh, we couldn't help. Uh, when, when, we saw, when we saw those buildings burning, uh, we knew that, uh, I don't know what floors they were on, 92 and 80 something, well we don't have the ladders, 80 stories high.
- 04.39.36 And even if we did, uh, they'd have to be six blocks away to, to reach that far. Elevators don't work. Uh, we can't grapple ropes. There was, there was, uh, some talk afterwards, uh, people were complaining. Well, how come you didn't bring helicopters down and save the people on the roofs. Those flames were so high, they completely engulfed the building and the smoke columns coming up, there was no way they could bring anything in.
- 04.40.00 Uh, everybody realizes that now, but in the beginning, the initial reaction, well, why didn't you get a, we don't have a fleet of helicopters. We're a police department. We're not an air force. Uh, we had, uh, uh, that was not an option. That was not a possibility. Speaking of air force, uh, right after, uh, right after the, uh, the second plane hit, uh, very short time, I don't know how long, all of a sudden jet fighters came. Jet fighters don't fly in New York City. And we knew we were in trouble. We didn't know what was happening.
- 04.40.29 We didn't know if this was happening all across the country. Uh, we didn't know if it was just us, uh, we knew it was, uh, we knew they weren't good people who did it. We didn't know who did it. We knew it was some sort of terrorist attack because it's not, that's not a, a

normal war. Maybe if it was a jet fighter that came in and shot those buildings, you would say well, okay, it's a war, but when, when, when airliners come in, you know it's some sort of terrorist attack.

- 04.40.55 So, we go downstairs and go into Manhattan, and, uh, when we got into Manhattan, and when we, uh, when we went downstairs, the people streaming across the bridge, uh, it was, uh, you know those old pictures you saw, you saw from, from World War II of, uh, Hiroshima where the, the people running, uh, and maybe the pictures from Vietnam from the, the Napalm with the people, well that's what it was. The people were running. Uh, uh, uh, completely filthy. You couldn't tell, you couldn't tell anybody's race by looking at them.
- 04.41.30 They were uh, ashened. Uh, uh, all in, you know, you see, you see silly things. You would see a, a, a guy coming across the street, uh, across the bridge, completely covered in ash holding his briefcase (LAUGHS). He didn't need that briefcase, but he was in shock and these poor people were in shock. And now, here we were, and the firefighters, uh, going the other way. We were, they were running this way, all, all normal people were running to the left and, and we were running to the right. Uh, we went into Manhattan and, uh, broke everybody down into groups.
- 04.42.03 It was, it was a pretty chaotic situation, uh, first day. Uh, uh, the big thing was that communication broke down. And it, and it, it's hard to run, the New York City Police Department is as big as some small country's armies, but if you don't have communications, it's, uh, you can't, you can't control yourself. But fortunately, through our training, everybody knew what they had to do.
- 04.42.29 And they broke down into little groups and the little groups started to work. Started to work, uh, the, uh, the scene was, uh, it was eerie because it was, it was, uh, complete devastation. (?) nothing like (?) anything anybody had ever seen before. Yet it was quiet. It was a, it was a sort of eerie quietness about it. Uh, a, amidst everybody yelling and sirens and the screaming and the (?) and the people trying to, uh, form work parties.
- 04.42.59 We were, uh, we were put on reserve in the beginning, and then we were, uh, they sent us to the hospitals. Because they had expected there to be a large, uh, influx of injured and, uh, while we were at the hospitals, uh, all the hospital crews were ready, completely, uh, on, on alert, all the doctors and the (?) and the nurses were standing in the street, waiting for the ambulances to come to the emergency rooms, and nobody came.

- 04.43.29 Uh, there was nobody. Uh, injured people were, uh, a lot of injured people were being evacuated to New Jersey, which we didn't know, of course, at that time. Small, uh, uh, boats were taking the people across the river and taking them to New Jersey hospitals. But even that, in the whole scope of everything, I don't know the numbers, but it wasn't a large number. There weren't, uh, there weren't that many injured people. Uh, we knew, uh, as cops that, uh, that a lot of people had died.
- 04.43.59 We didn't know how many. We knew from that first plane that everybody from the flames up I think, there was no way we could save them. When the second plane hit, we had hoped that that building was empty. As we know now, it wasn't. So that was a, uh, the talk at that time was, gee, how many people do you think were in the second building. How many people do you think were there. Then you started to think about, well, as those buildings came down, who was, who was downstairs. Who was, uh, who, who was at the bottom of those buildings.
- 04.44.29 Uh, one of the things that we do when we set up a disaster scene or, or, or crime scene or a temporary headquarters, whatever you want to call it, is we have a proximity to where we are. So we set up, we did something which didn't help us at that time, but we set up our own command centers and, and the fire department and EMS and the doctors, right there. In the plazas. Right, uh, at the site itself, a triage was there. And then the buildings fell down right on everybody who was working.
- 04.44.59 Uh, uh, should (?) triage had been three blocks away, yeah, maybe. But, uh, who, whoever would have imagined that it, it was going to go that far. Uh, I don't think the people who did it thought the buildings were gonna fall down. Uh, uh, so that again, created, uh, more confusion. Then the rumors started. Uh, all the rumors were starting about who was dead and, uh, this chief was caught and nobody's seen the mayor, and, uh, uh, you know, nobody knows where the commissioner is, and, uh, uh, the whole fire headquarters was lost and, uh, who's in charge, you know.
- 04.45.36 And you would look around and you would see a few of the highest ranking person you were in charge. If there was somebody else higher ranking than you, you went to him and he was almost looking at you like, what are you coming to me (LAUGHS), I don't want to be in charge. Uh, but, uh, uh, the police department, I, I think under the, uh, under the circumstances, I think it responded very well.

- 04.45.48 Uh, I don't think, uh, yeah, do we know more now, how to respond to a situation like that. Probably. But, uh, that wasn't in the text book. There was no way to study that before it happened. It was, it was not a situation that we had ever encountered or anticipated. Sure there had been plane crashes before. There was a plane crash in Brooklyn and, and Park Slope and it fell on a row of houses, plane crashes in Rockaway. But in those situations, uh, the plane crash that was out on Long Island, it was always a contained area and there were fires and you, you cordon off the area and you're, uh, try to get people out, you know, fight it from the outside.
- 04.46.34 Bring it back in the, the, put out the fires, uh, get the people out of the dangerous areas. Uh, start to, uh, form your, your command centers. Usually, in a situation like that, the initial hit was also the end. So you could start your work. In this situation, the initial hit was just the beginning. Uh, there was another hit, then there was a building collapse, then there was another building collapse.
- 04.46.58 When the first building collapsed, it, it, uh, it took secure area on the ground away. Then when the second building collapsed, it took a larger portion of, of that away. You didn't know what buildings were occupied. What buildings weren't occupied. Uh, you saw, uh, fire trucks and police trucks and cars that looked like pancakes. Uh, completely squashed and wondered if anybody was in them. Uh, was anybody, uh, where were those guys. Yeah. With fire trucks, uh, and I, I'm not a fireman, I don't know exactly how they work, but I know there's a fireman with the truck.
- 04.47.35 So he has to control the hoses and watch the gauges as the other guys go, as the rest of the team goes away. So for every truck, there was always a guy with it. Uh, police cars, we usually leave them. You know, sometimes you'll see them with the doors open and, and the guy's running away, so usually if you saw a police car, there was nobody with it. But with the fire and, uh, with the EMS trucks, people are usually with those. Uh, so that was a concern.
- 04.48.00 So you had to think about what you had to do and at the same time, you were worried about what was going on. Uh, you know, you couldn't, you couldn't not think as a person, gee, how could this possibly be happening. This looks like a Godzilla movie. This is can't be New York City. It can't be me today. 'Cos it's, it was just, I left my house this morning, it was 70 degrees. It was beautiful. This just can't be happening.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.48.30 END OF TAPE # J.K -04, 2 of 4

05.00.40 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Uh, you talked about (?) versus (?) how do you, how, (?) I imagine it was very difficult as you were going towards all of this and seeing all of this (?)

05.01.04 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, uh, (?) just to back up a little bit maybe, when I mentioned I went downstairs to change into my, into my uniform, I had my, uh, I had the luxury of having my own office so I have my locker right in my office and I had my uniforms there. And, uh, as I was changing I realized I better start regrouping where everybody is. So the first thing I did, is I called my wife's school (?) teachers in a small private high school in Park Slope.

05.01.28 All girls school. So, uh, basically, you know, it's a , it's a , it's a all girls and, and some nuns and basically female teachers there, one or two men in the school. Uh, so I called there right away and I got, uh, I spoke to the assistant principal, who, who, who I know and I said, look, uh, I know Jane's in class, I said, just let her know, uh, that I'm not there, uh, because I had told her, I was supposed to go into Manhattan for that meeting, uh, but it wasn't time yet for the meeting.

05.02.00 Another, uh, another half hour or so we probably would have already left where we were, we, finishing up, actually the reason I went into the office in the beginning was we had just finished the report and I was making photocopies of it. And that's when my detective told me plane hit. Uh, so, uh, she said, well, what's happening. I said, I don't know what's happened. I said, but just keep all the girls in the school. Don't let anybody out. Don't, don't say, alright, something's up, everybody go home, you know. Do, do just the opposite. Keep everybody there, uh, don't let them out til we know what's happening.

05.02.31 I'll call you back. And, uh, (~JW~)

JW: You said that to her?

- 05.02.38 JOSEPH KEENAN: I said that to the assistant principal, my wife was in class at the time. Uh, Joseph had left for class, he was on his way to school. Uh, I think Karen was at work but at that time she was working in Brooklyn. And my oldest, Jeanine, she was at work on a, 51<sup>st</sup> and, and 6<sup>th</sup>. Uh, she was either on her way, or I think I called her office and left a message. She has an answering machine or a, or a, or I spoke with her, I don't really remember.
- 05.03.01 Uh, short time later I called the school back and I said, look, keep all the (?) keep all the kids there, something's wrong. Uh, we can't let the kids be roaming in the street. We don't if they're going to be, there's going to be action in the street, (?) people are going to be, you don't know what's gonna happen. Everybody reacted the right way, uh, New Yorkers, uh, everybody makes fun of us. But, uh, they did the right thing. New York regrouped. And everybody did the right thing. But you didn't know that.
- 05.03.29 You didn't know if there were going to be riots in the street. If there was going to be panic, if, uh, these poor kids would be trying to go home and getting on the subways and the people would be running all over the place. So I told him, keep them in the school. I'll call you back later. Uh, they did, they listened to me. But if they had really listened to me, the kids would still be there, 'cos I never called back (LAUGHS). I got involved. I went elsewhere. But, uh, you know, then the newscasts came out and they realized what was going on and they kept the children in the school until everybody could be accounted for and, and a lot of the kids had, you know, my mother's working now, my father's working there, so you had to control them.
- 05.04.06 You had to, so that was done. Uh, I knew where the others were. Uh, but you had to do that. As a police officer, I was taking time away from getting dressed as I was making these phone calls. So I was getting half dressed, and half on the phone at the same time. Uh, then we went into Manhattan, and, uh, uh, at that particular time, we were sort of put on reserve. We didn't, uh, it didn't go down to Ground Zero that day.
- 05.04.28 Uh, it, we went the next day, and the day after that. (?) As I said, we went to the hospitals, waiting for the wounded to come. And the wounded never came. Uh, drips and drabs of people came in. Mostly people who came in had minor injuries. Uh, little cuts on their arms

or, uh, they needed their eyes washed out, and, uh, after two or three hours of that, you knew. As a police officer, as a doctor in a hospital, as the nurse, they knew, we knew. That there weren't going to be survivors.

- 05.04.59 Uh, just going to be victims. And then it was a matter of how many. What do we do now? There was, uh, there was, uh, the fear that something else was going to happen that day. We didn't know. I know it sounds, uh, it might sound theatrical. It might sound dramatic. But were, were people going to come out of the subways with guns? Was there gonna be a, I don't know, terrorists are crazy people. Uh, terrorists don't mind dying. Uh, and if you don't mind dying, you can do anything. Uh, you can, you can kill anybody if you don't mind whether you live or not.
- 05.05.31 Were there going to be groups of people killing victims running away? Uh, were there going to be attacks in subways? Nobody knew. So you had to, uh, the police department had to get ready for those things while at the same time, responding to downtown. It, it was just an almost unmanageable task that somehow got done. Uh, because everybody worked together. The cooperation in the city was, was (?), absolutely tremendous.
- 05.06.00 Uh, had a lot to do with the people. Had a lot to do with the mayor at the time. Uh, Mayor Guilianni, uh, took control and, uh, he, uh, he got the people (?) to, to work together, I think they, they, somehow drew strength through him even though everybody was, was absolutely in fear. Uh, uh, a good friend of mine, uh, uh, uh, a very good friend of mine, a sergeant in, in emergency service, somebody, uh, who we socialize with, he, uh, was one of the first, one of the first responders there, uh, on that day.
- 05.06.34 And, as his men were getting ready to run in, he realized, wait a second, there might be more to this. And he called all his men back and his men got angry with him. Because they wanted to go, they wanted to go help. They wanted to go in there and help. And he made them all go back to their trucks, put on their, uh, swat gear, put on their ceramic (?) vests, their helmets, uh, take out their weapons, uh, secure subway stations, secure, he was doing the right thing.
- 05.07.03 But his men were angry with him because they wanted to, to run in and help. And then the building fell down, right where they were going. And now they all come back to him and, and tell him he saved their life. Uh, by doing what he was supposed to do. Was, was he wrong? Well, he, he made the right decision. Fortunately it didn't happen, but he made, he'd

absolutely made the right decision at the time. He was trained to be prepared for the second event.

05.07.29 For the second thing to happen. And he positioned his people, uh, accordingly. And, in doing what he was supposed to do, he wound up saving their lives. Uh, things like that happened all over the city. Uh, you know? A hero was somebody who does what he is supposed to do when he is supposed to do it. It doesn't matter who he is, where he came from, and, uh, were a lot of heroes that day. Uh, just regular people. Uh, people who helped others out of those buildings.

05.08.02 There are so many stories of office workers going back in to get somebody else, and never came out again. And, uh, those poor Port Authority cops who were all inside, trying to get everybody out. Trying to, uh, I mean, technically, it was their jurisdiction, uh, uh, of course, we worked so well together that, uh, our people were there also uh, in the fire department. But those guys were right inside. Right, (?) never got the chance to come out. Uh, just couldn't have been worse.

05.08.34 Couldn't have been worse. (PAUSE)

JW: Uh, uh, man, (?) I, I, I understand that your, uh, daughter who is about to marry, you gave her a phone call.

05.08.59 JOSEPH KEENAN: I gave her a phone call and, uh, it was fine. I did speak with her. I don't know if it was the second time I called or the first time I called, I don't, I don't remember. Uh, but I did speak with her. And she understood. She said what are we supposed to do? Stay where you are. Whatever is going on, is going on downtown, you're, you're two miles away. You're up on 49<sup>th</sup> Street, 51<sup>st</sup> Street, wherever she works, you know, the, okay, just stay where you are. And the, uh, uh, her fiancé worked on Pine Street. So, uh, a short time later, she calls me, I think, I think she called me, I don't know if it was on the cell phone or on the office phone, I don't remember.

05.09.38 And, uh, she's completely lost it. She's, she's gone. Uh, she's crying. She said, I can't find Andy. I'm leaving. I'm going down there. And I said, don't go down. Stay in your office and, and the phone hangs up. And now she's gone. So now I don't know where she is. And,

uh, I don't remember if that was, uh, after the buildings came down or after the first one came down.

- 05.10.02 Uh, uh, probably after the first one came down, but before the second one came down. So now, you know, how do you separate yourself? Do I, I thought of running into Manhattan and now going to look for her. But I couldn't do that. Because I had my men with me, and that's not what I was supposed to do. I had, I had other things I had to do. Uh, so now she's gone. I don't know where she is. So I, I don't tell anybody at home that I don't know where she is. That's now my secret with my men. We didn't know, you know, my, my people knew that I didn't know where she was, but, uh, I wasn't gonna now call.
- 05.10.34 I wasn't going to call the school back and tell my wife, uh, I don't know where Jeanine is, you know. That would have been the wrong thing to do. So that was my little secret at the time. Really, strangely, very, uh, uh, one in a million, she's going downtown, she's running down the streets as everybody is running up, and she runs right into him. She meets him in the street. Uh, a one in a million shot. He's coming uptown. She's going downtown.
- 05.11.00 And, and they find each other. They've no way to tell us. Cell phones weren't working. Uh, we didn't know where they were. So they were, in my mind, safe, but lost. I knew she wasn't hurt from, uh, the attacks. I knew she had spoken with him, but then the phones went out and weren't working, so I knew he wasn't hurt from the attack. But we didn't know where they were.
- 05.11.24 Uh, I have a brother-in-law, my, my, uh, wife's youngest brother works in Manhattan, and he has an apartment in Manhattan, so fortunately, uh, not quite sure how it, came to be, but they, they realized that and they went there. So they were safe. We just didn't know where they were. And now you're working all day long and, uh, you're trying to do what you're supposed to do, but yet you're distracted at the same time. And then my second daughter, Karen, she somehow got her on the cell phone.
- 05.11.58 And, uh, hours later, when I spoke to her, she said she knew where Jeanine was. She was at, uh, Uncle Jerome's house, uh, and I'm pretty sure she came, pretty sure, you know, those, those hours and those days sort of are all one. I'm not, uh, quite sure where one ended and where the other started. But I think she came home the next day. I think, uh, I'm pretty sure they came home the next day. Uh, and, uh, I probably found out about two or three in the morning when I saw Karen.

- 05.12.33 Uh, where she was. Where, where, where my oldest girl was. But, uh, uh, I, I mentioned before so many times about separating yourself from, from your work but, uh, you can't. In that, in that particular situation, uh, everybody was a person. Uh, yeah, we were police officers, and the fire fighters were fire fighters and the EMT people, EMS people were doing what they were supposed to do, everybody was doing what they were supposed to do.
- 05.12.58 I didn't see, I didn't see one person, uh, not doing what he was supposed to do. All the, all the, what, what, what the city called the rescue workers. All the, all the rescue workers were working. We might not have been, uh, working to, uh, uh, optimum effectiveness, but, uh, everybody was doing something. (?) everybody was working. So, in that situation, that was one time when you really had to put everything else aside.
- 05.13.31 You couldn't let what you were seeing stop you from doing what you had to do. Uh, we wound up, my group, my detectives, uh, the next day, we were, uh, yeah the next day, we, we started to work with, uh, with what's become known as, as (?) the victim's families. Uh, at that time, we didn't know what it was. You know, we didn't know what to call them. But they, were, they had, uh, started, they had realized that they have to make a central location so we can start to get a grip on who's missing.
- 05.14.02 Who's hurt. There was still some hope, I think, in the, uh, general population that, uh, you know, you always see pictures of people being pulled out of rubble, three, four days later. Uh, I think as police officers and, and the fire men too, we knew that wasn't going to happen. Uh, there was some, isolated things, I think, five people, maybe the next day. Uh, I, I, think some, some people were found. But, and that's great. But, uh, we knew, that everybody who wasn't already out, well, wasn't coming out.
- 05.14.34 Just the intense heat and the, uh, uh, and the uh, and the, and the destruction, uh, there were girders, we saw, we saw steel girders, maybe five feet, five feet around completely twisted. Completely, they can't do, that can't happen. Completely twisted in half. They didn't snap and break. They, they were twisted like pretzels. And that was from the heat.
- 05.14.59 And if the heat could do that to the steel girders, and, and the heat could melt concrete and, and pulverize the concrete, uh, from the, concrete I guess was pulverized from the buildings falling in on each other. Who, whoever was in there wasn't coming out. Uh, so now you got to start to deal with that. And, uh, those poor people. Uh, thousands. Thousands of them lining up, (?) I guess the city must have given an address over the radio of where to go. We

started on a, in an area in New York Hospital on First Avenue, I think, in, in a public health building.

- 05.15.31 First Avenue, but about 30<sup>th</sup> Street, or 31<sup>st</sup> Street. We started there, and immediately were, were overwhelmed. Couldn't, couldn't handle the crowds. And we went from there. We worked through the night. And the next morning we opened up the armory. The 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment on, on, uh, 25<sup>th</sup> Street between, uh, I guess that's between Lexington and Third. And we opened that up and used that as the victim center for a couple of weeks until then they moved it uptown and the people started coming in, uh.
- 05.16.02 We worked through the night and, uh, the next morning, uh, people started to line up outside the armory. And these poor people, they all had, uh, pictures and, they all knew that their person was going to be okay. That the, the, you know, everybody else's wasn't. Uh, but their particular one was going to be found. Whether it was their son or their daughter or husband, wife, mother, father. Whatever it was. And, uh, and we knew differently.
- 05.16.30 And, uh, we, we, we had a deal with these people and my, my detectives who are, who are trained to do this, trained to, uh, trained to talk to people, trained to, trained to help people, we would bring them in, one family at a time, maybe five or six people in a group. We had hundreds, hundreds of detectives there, and we would be bringing people in all day long. And try to interview the people. Get as much information as we could from them in the beginning.
- 05.16.58 Then it, it became very sophisticated. We, we did a good job of information gathering and DNA gathering and uh, a lot of people have been identified through that effort, but in the beginning, uh, these poor people who had come in, and they'd sit down, they talked to the detective and, uh, invariably one of them would hold the detective's hand as they were talking (PAUSE) and we'd talked with them for however long it took, knowing, knowing there was nothing we could do to help these poor people.
- 05.17.31 And, uh, when we finished, they would get up and kiss you and thank you and leave. And then you would have to do it again. And I wouldn't let my people, I wouldn't let the guys who were working with me, interview more than two at once. Uh, I'd say, no, you have to leave. You have to go. Until we had a little, an armory's, on, on the floors, they, everything's curtains. We'd pull the curtains and the cops would take a break behind there and if you ever dealt with police officers and you ever dealt with them in the past, if you put

two or three of them together, there's always somehow, some joking, uh, some fooling around, uh, going on.

- 05.18.06 And when you go behind that curtain, it was, it was absolute silence. These guys were sitting with their heads down. Uh, uh, not, not sleeping, but just sitting with their heads down, uh, devastated by what they were doing. And, uh, as I walked behind the curtain, they would all jump all. Okay, were going, I said, no, you, you stay there. Alright, you come out and this guy's, and these poor guys were, uh, you know, as affected as everybody else.
- 05.18.33 Uh, but yet, we had a job to do. Uh, there were people downtown digging. There were people a few blocks away in, uh, organization centers, there were people a few blocks away, uh, interviewing families. It, uh, it was, uh, very, very difficult for everybody involved. And, uh, I don't think anybody involved ever wants to do it again.
- 05.18.57 I, uh, I don't ever want to, I don't ever want to interview a victim's family again. Uh, I had my fill.

JW: And you got a phone call?

- 05.19.10 JOSEPH KEENAN: From, uh, uh, to move assignments. Uh, fortunately somebody, uh, somebody was thinking (LAUGHS) and they realized that we had to start moving the debris out of, uh, out of Ground Zero because you can't just, you just can't look at, at, in debris and move it around. And not, not remove it, bring it someplace else. But yet all of that had value. All of that had forensic value.
- 05.19.38 There might, there might be, uh, uh, people in that debris. There were. So somebody had decided that they were going to move that, uh, debris to, uh, a closed landfill in Staten Island, uh, uh, uh, Freshkills land fill. Out in Staten Island. Large, large area. That was vacant at the time. It was uh, they uh, they were growing, starting to grow grass on it. They were, it was, uh, closed for a year or so, I'm not sure how long it was closed.
- 05.20.06 And somebody who I knew from the past, who I had worked with a number of times, twice in the past, was put in charge of that task. And, uh, he asked, uh, whoever police commissioner, chief of, probably chief of detectives, uh, he said, I need a staff. Can I pick us, and they told him, take whoever you want. So he sent out word to people who had

worked with him in the past, and I had worked with him in the past and he asked me to go up there to Freshkills, uh, to work with him.

- 05.20.34 We didn't know what we were doing up there yet. Uh, but he wanted me to go up and, and work with him. At that time, I had a, a detective with me, uh, uh, my right hand guy and, uh, I said I'll come, I'll bring him with me. He said, sure. He knew him also. He said, bring him up. Uh, when can you get here. (?) we'll be there in a couple of hours. And that's what we did.
- 05.20.56 We, we, we went up there. Uh, he needed people who he didn't have to direct. He needed people who he, he could uh, in police work you need somebody you can trust. You have to know that if, you have to be confident that if you ask me to do something, you can walk away and it will get done. And the best way to have that situation is to have people you know. Uh, because you know how, I know how you work, you know how I work, uh, and, and you feel confident when you ask me to do something, it'll get done. If I'm a stranger, you're just not sure. So you have to worry about that.
- 05.21.31 Uh, in that type of situation, he needed as few worries as he could possibly have, uh, so he brought up people who uh, whom he had worked with in the past. So we went up there. Uh, there was nothing there. It was, they were just bringing in debris by truckloads and dumping them in empty fields. And detectives were walking through them and turning them over and we were, uh, uh, we were in our own way while working as hard as we could as the same time.
- 05.22.00 Uh, the National Guard, New Jersey National Guard, came up to help us. Uh, outside agencies, outside police departments, were just arriving unannounced in cars and buses. The, uh, the cooperation from other police departments, uh, was something that was unprecedented. Uh, New York, as I mentioned before, has a very large police department. Uh, and, uh, with that goes a little pride that you don't need help.
- 05.22.28 Uh, because you know there's nothing that can happen that you can't handle. Well, that changed. That changed on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We needed all the help we could get. And we got it. It was absolutely amazing. Uh, police departments from New Jersey just came over the bridge and went into, uh, went into, uh, precincts up town and started to patrol. Because the cops weren't there. Uh, you can't leave the city unprotected. And, uh, they would take

our radios and they were going out and they were going on patrol and the State Troopers came down.

- 05.22.58 The New York, New York State Troopers. And the Jersey State Troopers. From everywhere. As far as, as close as people were, however long it would take them to get there, uh, other police officers just started to arrive. And as soon as they arrived and you knew they were a police officer, didn't matter. They just, what do you need? I need you over here. And they would go over and, uh, and they would help. When I went home the first night, I don't exactly know why I did it, but, uh, I went over to the computer and I, and I checked my email (LAUGHS). I'm involved in a National organization in the police department through one of the fraternal organizations.
- 05.23.32 I'm involved in a national organization and I've met a lot of policemen from all across the country from their, my email was just full of the other police departments. What can we do? How can we, like in San Francisco for instance, uh, uh, Arizona, Ohio, we can be there in four hours. We can be there in five hours. Tell us what to do. We're waiting for your call. It was, uh, it, it was, uh, welcomed. But overwhelming at the same time.
- 05.24.00 I didn't know what to tell them. I, I passed the information on to our department because, uh, San Francisco in particular, uh, so far away from us. Yet so much, at, at the same time, our best friend. Uh, they really couldn't come to help us, uh, and it was killing them that they, that they couldn't get there, uh, to help us. They wanted to send dogs. They wanted to send people. But it just, logistically, it just wasn't possible. The, the country was shut down. Nobody, nobody was flying. Uh, I don't, I don't know how long it was shut down.
- 05.24.32 A few days, if I remember correctly. Uh, uh, I guess the only way to get there would be to drive, or, or, or, or train. And, that's what the local departments were doing. They were coming in with their buses. Uh, what San Francisco did do, though, and, uh, so they, they realized they couldn't, uh, they couldn't physically get into help, which I think to this day, still hurts them. Eventually they came in. In November, uh, maybe earlier than that. Maybe, maybe late October. I don't remember. They did get a crew here.
- 05.25.00 And a, the crew came in to downtown and I had them up in Freshkills, uh, but what they did is they decided to, uh, if they couldn't help us physically, they would try to help us financially. And they started funds and drives and as, as many people did all across the country. Now San Francisco's a, a major city but it's a very small, it's a small police

department compared to us. And they raised a tremendous amount of money. And, uh, and brought it in to give it to the relief funds.

05.25.28 And, uh, so they were working as hard over there. As (?) we were here. Uh, even though they couldn't touch, it was a great need to touch. Everybody needed to touch, to, to show, uh, some association with the reality of what was actually (?) happening. And, uh, and that's how, that's how, that's how they did it. You know, when they came in and, and, in, uh, November when they, when they did come in. They actually had the time to help us and they went up to Freshkills, police departments from countless, I don't know who.

05.26.00 Countless police departments. Uh, uh, came up, up to Freshkills, right up to the last week. Right up until the closing. Uh, in fact, we became friends with some of them because they were steadies. Uh, Raleigh-Salem in the Carolinas sent people all the time. Boston. Guys were just, they worked their five days up there, or whatever their shift was, and get in the car and they'd drive here. And, uh, and they work with us for two or three days and then they get back in their cars and drive back home and go to work again.

05.26.29 And they just kept doing that. And there was, uh, there's a local, uh, a local retreat house on Staten Island run by Jesuits, and, uh, those guys were great. And, uh, Father Ryan who runs the place, and, he just put up all these people. Everybody who came in. We just told them, go to Father Ryan's. He'll give you a room to sleep in, he'll give you food and showers, and the guys would go there and sleep at night and Father Ryan would feed them and, next morning they, they would come back and work with us (~JW~) No, it made me feel great because, uh, you knew that you had friends everywhere. Friends you never knew about. And, uh, I mentioned before that you have to, you have to trust your partner.

05.27.06 And a guy comes in like that, you know you can trust him. Uh, uh, I don't know how we would have responded in, in the reverse. Uh, I don't know what would have happened, you know, we're, we're such a, we're such a big place I don't know if we would have, uh, well I guess we, we sent to crews to Oklahoma to help those people when it, when they had their problems. Uh, but these guys were just actually coming in on their own. Uh, on their own time.

05.27.30 However they could get here. Car. Train. Whatever. And, uh, it is a good feeling. And, we would thank them. And they would say, no, thank you. And it was almost like a little cartoon situation. Thank you. No, thank you. No, thank you. And we were thanking them

for coming and helping us and they were in the same time were saying, you don't understand, we, we thank you for letting us help. Uh, because it was, uh, it was something that people just had to become involved in. They had, they had to, uh, I don't know, (?) complete themselves.

05.28.02 Uh, they had to, as police officers, they had to, this was a defining moment. Uh, I mentioned earlier that, uh, when you start off in the police department, you work hard, you work in the field, you work, uh, you work in the streets, and then usually as you move on, you, you get into a, a different position. Uh, maybe an investigative position. Or, or you get promoted. Or, or you move into a specialty unit and it takes you away from the actual work.

05.28.30 And sometimes that's not good. Uh, because it separates you from what you really supposed to be. What you're really supposed to do. Well, that didn't happen for us. We, uh, we came full circle. Uh, I had been in the detective bureau six years and I had been detective before that and investigator and, uh, now with the end of my career, I (?), I won't have any regrets 'cos I know that at the end, I was right there. I was, uh, in the field again, sort of speak, working, working with my hands.

05.29.03 Doing what had to be done. And, that, that's important to police officers, fire fighters, you know, police officers, that's what we do. So that's, uh, it was very important. And we didn't realize it, but I guess it's as important to them, outsiders, to come in and help. And, uh, we very much, uh, I don't know if we've ever expressed our thanks. I hope we did. Uh, we tried to. Uh, but, uh, it's something we'll never forget. You know, when we, we had a problem.

05.29.32 We had a problem. We needed help. And, uh, not only New Yorkers, you know, not only the people in the street who helped. Uh, but, but, you know, our outside brothers sort to speak came and helped us too. And the fire fighters for, for them, uh, unsung heroes in this whole situation. Those construction workers. Gee whiz. Those guys. They worked like dogs. And, uh, construction workers are the reason why a lot of fire fighters and police officers didn't get hurt afterwards.

05.30.01 Because they knew what they, our guys were willing to work, but we don't understand about construction. We don't understand about cave-ins, and, uh, air pockets and where to go and where not to go. And these construction workers, they knew that. And, uh, they knew what areas were dangerous, along with the engineers when they came in. And while our guys

were working in those holes, looking for people, they were keeping them safe. Uh, the construction workers and the iron, I don't know who was done there. The iron workers, the carpenters, carpenters union, the iron workers union, unsung heroes.

05.30.33 Nobody knows about them, but, uh, I think it would be touch for a police officer to give a summons now to (LAUGHS) a guy comes and says I'm an iron worker. (LAUGHS) You gonna have to think about it (LAUGHS) because, uh, we know that they were right there with us. They, those guys didn't go home. They, they worked as many hours as we worked. They were right next to us. Whether it was at Ground Zero or at Freshkills, uh, people, those construction workers were up there working too. Uh, so much so that we became a little family.

05.31.01 They no longer were the construction workers. They were, uh, you know, Matt, and Pete, and Jeff and Joe, and everybody else. Just like, uh, uh, just like (?) you know, the police officers. They, we all became one group. And the same thing happened, uh, at a downtown, at Ground Zero. So those guys, those guys deserve a lot of credit too.

JW: Uh, Freshkills was a defining moment did you say, for you?. On a, on a career level, would you say?

05.31.33 JOSEPH KEENAN: I think so because, you know, what's, what's our job ultimately as police officers. Well, you know, we keep the peace. We preserve, we protect, uh, but ultimately our job is to help people. And when this was over, when, when the attack had happened and the buildings came down, and the next day, it was here and the sun came out again, what, what had to be done. What, what help could be provided.

05.31.59 Well the only help that could be provided at that time was try to find the remains of people who were lost in that attack. People who were killed. And, uh, a lot of that was done downtown. When, when the debris was being excavated. Uh, but a lot of that was done in Freshkills. Ever single piece of debris that left the World Trade Center was visually and, uh, manually inspected at, uh, Freshkills.

05.32.30 There's not, I feel confident that there is not a piece of debris that we didn't check. And everything was checked more than once. Just from the process. The way we worked there. The, the, uh, uh, the process that was developed from the time we got there. When we first

got there, everybody was working in rubber boots and, and hand rakes and bunking into each other and, uh, hundreds of guys there, and, crawling over piles. Uh, but then a system was developed. Each day, we realized what we needed from the day before, and we got it. And we put it there.

- 05.33.01 Whether it be, uh, construction equipment, uh, roads. We built roads up there. We had, uh, we built, uh, uh, we brought in trailers for, uh, a mess tent, you know. We had to feed these guys. We had 800 people working up there every day. Uh, we had to bring in bathrooms. We had to bring in electricity. The place was open 24 hours. Uh, we were running off gas generators and they were running out and the rain was coming down, and it was, we had to watch out for the plugs because we were having puddles and we had to get rid of the puddles so we had to put down roads and, little by little, we built a city up there.
- 05.33.32 Uh, and, uh, all of that was done, uh, for one reason and for one reason only. So that we could search that debris more effectively. Uh, there's never been a crime scene that large before in the history of the world. Hopefully there'll never be again. But, uh, I feel confident that we handled that crime scene as best as it could possibly be handled.
- 05.33.58 I would, I wouldn't hesitate to, talk to any victim's family and tell them we did our best. We looked. Maybe we didn't find, uh, your son or your, or, or, or your daughter, but it wasn't from a lack of trying. Uh, if there were, I think there were about two million tons of debris. Well every single, it, it, got so, to the point, that when the dump trucks were dumping, uh, bringing up the, the debris and dumping it in the piles, we had everything set up in little piles so that we knew which building was which and we knew from the way the buildings fell down, each day you developed more information.
- 05.34.33 You gathered more intelligence. And, uh, we knew some buildings had people in them. Some buildings didn't have people in them. There were, higher concentration of people at this location than another location. So as we dropped, uh, the debris and we lined it up, we knew where to search. Uh, uh, so we could feel confident that we can, we can tell the people that we searched every single piece.
- 05.34.59 Every single, uh, uh, rock or, or piece of metal that come up there, we looked. We might not have found your family member, but it wasn't from lack of trying. Everything that could humanly be done (?) was done up there. I don't think it could have been done better. Uh, now that it's over and you look back, uh, maybe you would have done what you did Tuesday

on Monday, you know. That type of thing. You would have, but there was nothing that we didn't do.

05.35.30 Everything was, uh, the task was completed. Uh, maybe not to, uh, uh, complete success, but that's something that was out of our hands. That was something that was out of anybody (?) anybody's hands. You know, we didn't find one filing cabinet. One desk. One chair, uh, light fixtures. The force that those buildings created when they came down upon themselves, the amount of the, the, the weight and the, I'm not a physicist so I don't know how to explain it properly, but those buildings imploding upon themselves and falling down, and, and the tremendous weight, just reduced everything to small pieces of dust and debris.

05.36.16 Uh, a lot of people I guess didn't realize that. We, we ourselves didn't, we expected to find crumbled desks and chairs and, uh, things like that. Nothing. Everything was gray. Some of it was gray metal. Some of it was gray debris. But everything was just this ashen color.

05.36.35 It all, it all was pulverized. It all burnt and it all fell in upon itself. Now, up there, within that, we still found, uh, uh, over 4000 pieces of forensic evidence, you know. Human remains, uh, and then those pieces were sent to the morgue and, and DNA testing was done on them and hopefully from that, uh, we'll be able to identify some of the families. It's still, it's an on going process. DNA, you can't do it, I can't bring you something today and have, uh, the chemist tell me tomorrow what it is. It doesn't work that way.

05.37.10 It takes, uh, 10, 12 weeks for things to develop. So as we would find something, uh, that we knew, absolutely, was a human remain, it would still take three months before we knew who that was. Uh, now we didn't, uh, we didn't find a piece for everybody that was lost, but, uh, probably more than half the people will be identified and the remainder, there just wasn't anything left.

05.37.36 Uh, the heat that, the, 4000 degrees of burning jet fuel. It, just nothing can survive.

JW: As a police officer you talk about the kind of goal you set in the very beginning was to help. What you seem to be saying is, is this is the, this is the best (?)

05.38.03 JOSEPH KEENAN: There wasn't, there wasn't a police department, there wasn't an army, there wasn't anything in the world, I think, that could have done a better job. And it wasn't just us, it was the cooperation, you know. Anything we needed, we got. Uh, no matter what

it was. If we needed construction equipment. We picked up the phone and it appeared. We needed more people. We picked up the phone and they appeared. Uh, every, every thing was given to us that we though would help.

- 05.38.28 Uh, and at the end, I don't think, you know, you, you, after you have, uh, a situation in a police department, you always have a meeting later on, when you discuss what you did and how it would, how you did it and what you could do better next time. Well now we have a blue print for this, but what could we have done better? Uh, maybe a little more quickly, if, if we had, uh, known in the beginning what we knew a month after, uh, what machines we needed.
- 05.38.59 Uh, how we would set up our, our little work camp, but, uh, better? No, we, there's, there's nothing up there we didn't check. Every, so much so, that when we were finished and we were, and we finished and we knew we were finished and there was nothing left, we ripped up the roads that we put there, and we searched those. We ripped up into the debris that was there the first day we arrived and we checked that just by the off chance that the weight of this stuff might have pushed it down.
- 05.39.31 Pushed it down into the, uh, into the, uh, ground. Every single truck that was ever used was, detectives were in them. Uh, when they were finished, and, they picked through everything that was left. Every truck was steam cleaned. Everything was checked. All the barges. Detectives were (?) never realized how big a barge is. Those things are tremendous. We needed, uh, 40 foot ladders to drop guys in. Or you needed, uh, uh, uh, rigs to drop in little Bob Cats, the construction workers would pile everything.
- 05.40.04 Because when a barge was empty, there's always a little debris that sticks in the corner. A little that sticks on the side. And as they used them everyday, and the rain came and the cold weather, little caking happened on the bottom. Well, when those things were finished, they were spotless. Uh, there was nothing left. Nothing left for us to check. Uh, if we didn't find something, uh, it just wasn't human (?), humanly possible to find. Uh, we, we looked. We looked.
- 05.40.28 The guys up there, they did a, they did a, a, an Olympian job, uh, there, there, the workers, the detectives who came up there and the police officers who came up there and just worked every day under absolutely terrible conditions and cold and, uh, we, we're lucky. We didn't

have a really cold winter. But it was just colder there. We were out in the open. We were up on a hill. We were by the water. Uh, the wind, when we had to build wind tents.

05.40.58 Uh, so that the guys could work in the wind tents 'cos the wind was so hard (?) at times, it was picking up the debris and moving it. We had to, couple of times, I think twice, we had to actually close and huddle everybody together in a safe area, because the winds were moving the debris on the field and it was dangerous and then the Army Corps of Engineers were there with us and they would have the weather. And the Coast Guard was with us every day. Coast Guard was there all the time. Army Corps of Engineers. EPA. Uh, Department of Sanitation. Uh, I'm leaving people out, but, (?) the Port Authority, uh, FBI, everybody was there.

05.41.33 Uh, all the construction workers and a couple of times we had to move them on the side because, uh, lightning, and, uh, the guy, the conditions the guys worked under up there. And nobody complained. Yeah. (?) And surprisingly, nobody got hurt, you know. The safety, the safety up there was, was, uh, paramount, we made sure we (?), there were, uh, there was always an ambulance on call, uh, there was always an ambulance there, not on call, there was always an ambulance with EMTs.

05.41.58 Then we realized, maybe we need more than the MTs and, uh, Staten Island, uh, University Hospital sent, uh, uh, physician's assistants. So we set up a trailer for them and while we were open, while people were working the field, there was always medical care there, uh, in case somebody got hurt. Yeah, we had, uh, we broke an arm, a twisted ankle, uh, a guy fell and got cut. But you, if you think about the, maybe we put (LAUGHS) I don't know, I'm just gonna guess, maybe we put, 30, 40,000 workers out there if you count it on a daily basis.

05.42.30 And, uh, we had one guy stay overnight in the hospital. Uh, uh, from a, from a broken, a broken bone. Another fellow with, with chest pains and one guy had a heart attack. But those are, if you think about the, that percentage with the amount of people we had working from, from September 'til July, every day, around the clock, in the beginning we had 800 people a day, and then we adjusted it. It, it, it closed uh, down toward the end where 100 people a day were working.

05.43.04 But just those amount of man hours and nobody getting hurt. Tremendous task. (~JW~)

JW: What was the emotional reaction when people found, uh, remains?

- 05.43.16 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, we had, now we had, uh, seasoned detectives, grown people. Mature, uh, educated in their work. Knowing exactly what they were doing and exactly what they were looking for and acting like kids when they found something.
- 05.43.32 They were so happy, that we had to stop and we had to control them. They work in teams. Teams of one and eight. One supervisor and eight detectives and police officers. Uh, and we'd throw out maybe, uh, 20 teams a shift or whatever, whatever the condition was. How many machines we had working at the time. And they'd go out and they would be working, uh, for instance in a field. They would actually, (?) we had to stop (LAUGHS) them from doing it, but they were so excited, so happy that they found something, that they would literally pick it up and run off the field.
- 05.44.00 And run to us, and, and find somebody who was on staff. Look what I found. And, and we had a (LAUGHS) procedure. You know, you have to, you find something, you call a supervisor. Supervisor comes over, confirms your find. If they confirm your find, we close that field. Where we, we stop work right there. Uh, somebody from your team leaves and gets a staff member. Staff member goes over with crime scene, uh, crime scene will again confirm what you have and then they bag it and they would catalog it and we had a, uh, refrigerated trailer that we kept, and all our finds from the day were placed in a refrigerated trailer.
- 05.44.32 And then, every morning, between 6:00 and 7:00 o'clock, people from the medical examiners office would come up with a truck and remove what we found and bring it to the morgue and the morgue would do DNA testing. But here we are, now, you know, grown men and women, uh, who do this for a living. Who know what they're supposed to do, were so excited when they found something, that we had to control them. They'd get, they got so happy, 'cos they thought they did something good.
- 05.45.00 And, uh, and we would, we would have to (LAUGHS) calm them down. Yeah, and, uh, and, uh, sentimental finds. I remember one day one team found the flag. A completely battered and, the whole place had a smell about it. And the whole place, I mentioned before, was gray. Everything was gray and ashen. And that got on everything. And, and the smell was there, too. It wasn't a, it wasn't a landfill smell, it was a, uh, unique to the World Trade Center debris itself, and everything smelled the same.

05.45.29 You would have it on your hands. You had it on your shoes. Your car. And that, I remember these guys found that flag, they, now this was a flag, this wasn't a person. But it just meant so much to them, uh, that they wanted us to take pictures of them. And, and then they held up the flag and here they are, all in their white suits with their goggles and their masks. You couldn't tell who was who. But they didn't care. They were just so proud that they found something. And that's the way it happened when, uh, whenever there was, uh, and the guys, uh, uh, guys would get upset if they worked, they might work on a, on a, on a load for the day that wasn't, uh, wasn't a hot load. It wasn't, it was, it, it, was a truck of debris that was from an area where there was nobody.

05.46.13 And they would be disappointed. They'd say oh, I don't want to work there tomorrow. And come back tomorrow and I want to work on the, on that, sift the one. I didn't find anything there yesterday. Put me on a field. I want a rake. 'Cos they figured if I'm going to be here, I want to find something. And it was great. Uh, they were all, they were all real proud of themselves.

05.46.31 And, uh, and us of them. Because they wanted to be there. They wanted to work. Wanted to, they knew that, again, they were touching. They, they knew that they were doing what they have, what they're supposed to do and they were, they were cops. You know, doing what cops do.

JW: Uh, and, and families came.

05.46.52 JOSEPH KEENAN: Families came. In, in, in the beginning, I guess up until around Christmas time, we were sort of anonymous. And it was good, in a way. Because we were able to get our work done. We were able to work with out any (?) outside interference at all. Because all the focus was on Ground Zero. Then when, when the press and the public started to realize that, uh, we were there, now wait a second. Where (?) are all those trucks going? Uh, who's, who's, who's following that. And then we became of course a celeb a little bit and, uh, and, and the press discovered us and, uh, then the families wanted to come up there.

05.47.31 But, in actuality, uh, it was dangerous for them. I mean we had a, we had a crime scene, first of all. Nobody's allowed in a crime scene. Uh, they, you just it's not allowed. That's the law and uh, that's our law. And uh, that's our law. That's uh, any police department you

can't walk into their crime scene. And in addition to that it was dangerous up there. With heavy, heavy construction equipment. Uh, everybody had to be suited up, you had to wear protective clothing to go out onto the field to work. And we couldn't have uh, we couldn't have outsiders, no matter who they were, uh, coming up there unprotected.

05.48.03 So they worked out, they had some meetings, which uh, away from us, you know, the powers to be decided. And they, and they're, the victims' family had an organization uh, had a group. Uh, they used to meet with the mayor. And what they did is they arranged a time, and on Wednesday's families used to come up and uh, we didn't decide who. That, the mayor's office decided who was going to come up that way. Maybe, maybe 10 people came, maybe 12 people.

05.48.31 A lot of them came up, I think at first uh, ready to show us what we were doing wrong. Uh, because it just not possible that we haven't found everybody yet. But uh, when the families left uh, they uh, they realized that the guys were doing what they had to do. They were thanking everybody. Uh, many families uh, afterwards sent things up to the.

05.49.01 You know, we had to, we had a lot of people up there every day and they had the Red Cross and the Salvation Army cooking you know, three meals a day. Because once you came up, we called it The Hill, once you came up on The Hill in Freshkills, you didn't leave for the day. You left your car downstairs, we bused you up, you got dressed in the protective equipment, and you didn't leave until your 12 hour shift was over. So we had to feed these guys. We had to, we had to provide sanitary places for them and, and we had showers in case anybody got you know, contaminated.

05.49.29 We had decontamination showers. We had the doctors. And uh, we had mess halls, too, 'cos we had to feed these guys. And uh, families would send stuff up, and they are thank you's and uh, we got flowers and uh, and cookies and uh, you know, whatever. Uh, a little thank you, and we always put them out for the guys, and everybody appreciated it. They would take uh, they would rather eat the, the homemade cookie in the little baggie than the, what the Red Cross brought out for the day, because that came up from the families.

05.49.59 I think the families uh, realized that we were working with them. Uh, hopefully, I think. We did, we did work with them, we tried, we tried to help them as best we could. And I think now they know that. At first we were, we were a mystery. We were those people on Staten Island. What are they doing over there? Well, when they realized what we were doing uh, I

think they agreed that we were trying our best. We never really had a, we never really had a problem with them.

05.50.29 Uh, families were on our side once they realized what we were doing.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.50.44 END OF TAPE # J.K-05, 3 of 4

06.01.24 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What does the future hold?

06.01.38 JOSEPH KEENAN: I'm not sure. Uh, I'm probably, uh, probably coming to the end of my career now. I'll probably, uh, it's my, more than likely it will be last year. Uh, uh, this experience, although something that nobody ever wanted to do, was good. I'll never have to worry again about whether I did my job.

06.02.03 Uh, if this, if I were never to go back to work again, if I were to leave here now and never go back to work again, I wouldn't be embarrassed about what I did. I know I ended my career being a police officer. I was right back out there, uh, doing what had to be done. And that's, that's important to us. That's important to guys like us, because we, uh, it's what we, uh, intended to do in the beginning. Uh, everybody always aspires to get a better job and, and you work hard to move up.

06.02.34 But then each time you move up a little, you move away from what you originally were doing. Uh, and now I've come full circle. I've gone back and I know, I, I, know, in myself, that, uh, I've helped people. Uh, I don't know who. I don't know whom, uh, I don't, I don't know their names, uh, I don't even at times know their faces.

06.02.58 Uh, some of them, I remember, but I know I helped people in, in the last year that I worked. Uh so that's fulfilling for me. Uh, that's good. What does the future hold? I don't know. I'm probably going to, uh, uh, I'm probably going to retire at the end of the year. And, uh, I'll move on to something else. I'm not quite sure what right now, because I wasn't

anticipating retiring. Uh, but, uh, the situation now probably looks like I will. And, I'll, uh, I'll move on to something else.

06.03.28 But no matter what else I move on to, it will never be as, uh, as fulfilling as, uh, as working here was. Uh, and I know, I, I, know myself. If, uh, and you, and you only have to know for yourself what you've done. You know when you're hiding. You know when you're cheating. You know when you're not doing what you're supposed to do. Just as you know, when you're doing what you're supposed to do. And I know at the end that we did, uh, we did what we were supposed to do. The guys who worked there.

06.03.57 And the guys who worked at Ground Zero and all, all the fellows who worked, you know, uh, just because you, your hands weren't in it, uh, we were all touched because we were all picking up the slack some place else. Uh, and, the guys and the girls who work in the police department, they worked this past year. They, uh, they were right to be proud of themselves.

JW: What about your family?

06.04.19 JOSEPH KEENAN: My family? Well, my family's changing now. Uh, my family's getting older. My, my daughter will, my oldest daughter will be married next, uh, next month. And, so she'll move on. Uh, my second daughter now, now that she's in the police department, uh, I'm sure in a year or so, uh, she, she'll probably be moving out on her own. Uh, so now we're, we're starting to approach, I guess, that empty nest syndrome. We'll see what that really means. I don't know (LAUGHS). I, I don't know what's going to happen. I know it will be new. It will be different. But, uh, we'll just have to see.

06.04.59 I, I'm, I'm not quite sure what's going to happen next.

JW: How does your wife look at these things (?)

06.05.07 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, she's, uh, uh, she would like to see me retire. And, uh, I guess it's not easy when you're the one who stays at home. Not that she stayed at home. She's a, she's a teacher. But what I mean is, when you're the, the spouse or the mother or the father of a police officer who goes to work everyday. I guess it's not easy. I, I guess you're always

thinking about where are they, what are they doing, or (?) you'll see something that will trigger that thought.

06.05.30 We being at work, we don't think that way, because we're at work. We, we're doing what we do. Uh, so, the pressure of not worrying about that, I, I guess she looks forward to. And now my daughter messed the whole thing up and now she'll have to worry about daughter (LAUGHS). But, uh, uh, at least I'll be home or I'll, I'll be out of, uh, out of, out of the police work, you know, and, uh, I know my Mom, my Mom grew up, my Mom's lived her whole life, I guess, uh, in that situation with my Dad being on the police force, and then myself, and now her granddaughter.

06.06.06 So she's not going to get a break about thinking about that. But, uh, it, it, it should make things easier at home, I guess, if I, uh, if I (?) switch occupations (LAUGHS) and spend a little more time at home. It will definitely be more time at home. Because, uh, police work is, uh, demanding schedule-wise. So whatever I do after this, uh, I can't, I can't even imagine the schedule approaching the same, same magnitude.

06.06.33

JW: You were a teacher before?

06.06.37 JOSEPH KEENAN: Well, uh, yeah. I worked for City University. I, I, was in the, the, in the counseling department of, of City University, yeah, in the tutorial program. Uh, so I did, uh, I did, uh, work in, in teaching. I, I, I might do that again. I, I, I might try that again. If, uh, have to go out and sell myself to some school, but, uh, uh, that's something that's inviting. It's something I like.

06.06.59 I did it some time, I did it a couple of times in the police department. I taught recruits and then I taught detectives for a while, uh, so, uh, uh, that's something I think I could like. I'll try that, maybe. Maybe I'll try to stay home for a little while too and, and do nothing for a short period and see what that's like before I move on to, to the next step.

(UNINTELLIGIBLE CONVERSATION)

JW: Uh, you proud of Karen?

06.07.27 JOSEPH KEENAN: Oh sure. Sure. I'm a, I'm proud she's made the, uh, uh, the decision she did. I know, I know she'll try her best. Uh, I, I know she'll do what she thinks is right. She's already, couple of time, correcting the, in her three weeks of experience, corrected me on a couple of things I said. Which is good. It shows she's thinking. Uh, uh, I'm sure she'll do her best. Uh, uh, as the others too, you know, they, they, they do my, they do the best, uh, at what they're doing too. My, my other daughter works hard. My son's still in school. Hopefully he'll work hard (LAUGHS). I have to talk to him about it. (LAUGHS)

06.08.01 I'm kind, I'm, I'm, uh, I'm happy that Karen's chosen to do what I do. Because, uh, uh, I, I guess that'll show that I didn't jade her against it. I didn't, I didn't turn her away from it. I must have brought home a, a favorable feeling about what I did. It's hard to know. 'Cos, uh, I wasn't looking at it from outside. But I guess I did. And, uh, if she feels comfortable. If she wants to try the same thing, good. I'm, I'm happy with that.

JW: As an officer, uh, and a, and a person who's line of duty is to protect, uh, and help people. If you step back away, and look at our country and where we are right now, do you worry about the future?

06.08.52 JOSEPH KEENAN: Sure. You always worry about the future. Because in a, a large situation such as ours and, and, in our country, uh, we have to worry about outside, what happens to us from outside. Aside from the financial considerations or the markets and, uh, and the, and the political situation of, of, other countries. I, I think we're strong enough. I think we proved that. I think we're proof, I, we proved we're strong enough. We proved it more than once. Uh, and, uh, we're, uh, a, as Americans, we're snobs, you know. Uh, let the rest of the world worry about us. Uh, because we know we can, uh, we can take (?) whatever's handed to us.

06.09.31 We've proven that a couple times. And, uh, as a New Yorker, uh, I've lived here my whole life. I was born in Brooklyn. I still live in Brooklyn. Probably live about five miles from where I as born. I haven't gone too far. Uh, (?) uh, you know, I, I'm proud of what the city has done. I'm proud to say I'm part of this. Uh, I hope my grandchildren and their children will say, gee, my grandpa did that. Uh, he was proud of, I'm, I'm proud of the way we acted. We reacted, uh, and, uh, as a New Yorker, I was always proud of being a New Yorker now.

- 06.10.03 But now, you know, the, the rest of the country knows who we are. The rest of the country knows what we can do. And the, and those people who attacked us, (?) they picked on the (LAUGHS) wrong city. Uh, you know, America's strong and I'm sure, no matter where this had happened, uh, we could have, we could have handled it. But New York stepped up, there is not question they picked on the, the done the wrong city. If they tried to, they tried to break our spirit, uh, just the opposite happened.
- 06.10.32 They made us stronger. You had to see it. You had to see it the first, the first month. The first few days, uh, when it was happening. Uh, strangers helping each other. Uh, now people who had walked by each other on the street (?) starting to get back a little bit to, to normal situation. But there was no question, everybody stepped up. People helped. Uh, uh, just people in the street who couldn't do anything else.
- 06.10.58 There was nothing for them to do that, that could help the situation, they stood in the street and they yelled at, yelled to you as you walked by. Or as you drove by and they waived and they, they waived flags and had signs. Uh, it's good. It was a good situation in that sense. Uh, uh, uh, New York has proven, I think, that we can survive. Sure, we're hurt. There's no question we got hurt, you know. It's hurt us financially, uh, it, it, a lot of people, a lot of innocent people were killed.
- 06.11.31 People who did nothing wrong. All they did was get up in the morning, buy a cup of coffee and go to work. It's all they did. They just went, went to work to support their families. And, and they were all good people because the were out there doing (LAUGHS) what they were supposed to do. They were, it was 8:30, 9:00 o'clock in the morning and they were going to work. Those poor people who uh, couldn't have been more innocent in this situation. Uh, were all killed for no reason. And everybody else regrouped around it and then, and they're trying to fix it.
- 06.11.59 They hurt us. Sure. Sure we were hurt. Country was hurt on a whole. New York City was thrown in, into, uh, a terrible situation. We were hurt financially. But, uh, uh, ten years from now we'll probably be stronger. We'll come back from this. And I'm, and I'm glad that I was, you know, wish it never happened, you know. Nobody ever wishes that it had happened, you know. But if it had to happen, I'm glad I was here. I'm glad I was here rather than someplace else. Because I had my chance to touch.

06.12.28 And my chance to help. I'm just, just one of, you know, 40,000 guys in my job. Guys and girls. In, in, in my job and I, and I had my chance to touch and help, I'm very proud of that.

(OFF THE RECORD REMARKS)

06.16.54 END OF TAPE # J.K-06, 4 OF 4