

TAPE # TB 06, 1 of 3
TIM BROWN
06.30.02
JIM WHITAKER, DIRECTOR
PROJECT REBIRTH

05.01.00 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.01.07 TIM BROWN: (MID-STATEMENT) That's me and my brother. Chris. After, back when I was (CLEARS THROAT) in the Bronx. (-JW-) After a fire we had. That's, I was his instructor when he became a fireman. So I taught him in Fire Academy. That's what that one is, so.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.02.06 TIM BROWN: One of my pet peeves is that the police department has 6 or 8 helicopters and fire department doesn't have any (-JW-) and uh, I've had been trying to build a case for fire department to get, and World Trade Center was a perfect example, you know. Probably could have helped out a little bit you know.

05.02.28 So I want to come back one day, back here and run things. But you can't show that to anybody, 'cos uh, people'll get jealous and stuff. But Jerry uh, the guy that's gonna be my boss, wanted to be fire commissioner, but he crossed uh, Rudy in the end, and Rudy really controls the city still, so a lot of it, you know, 'cos Bloomberg listens to him.

JW: Is that true?

05.02.55 TIM BROWN: In some ways (-JW-) Uh, Bloomberg's uh, some of the senior staff are Guilanni's people. You know, so Jerry is not welcome here, and the whole, 98% of the fire department wanted him to be commissioner, and they told Bloomberg that. The told him,

he's the guy, he's the guy, and (-JW-) wouldn't do it. Wouldn't do it, you know? So now they made this guy who's just there to collect a pension and uh, and the fire department's in desperate need of help (-JW-) and they're not getting it, so.

05.03.32 I need to go away and be with Jerry and uh, and do this for a while. Do good things. And then maybe come back one day and uh, be able to help is my dream (-JW-) be able to come back and help some.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: Where are you from?

05.04.52 TIM BROWN: I grew up in Newington, Connecticut. Which is up near Hartford. Uh, small town uh, suburbia. Uh, insurance industry mostly. Uh, my dad uh, worked at United Technologies as a research scientist. And uh, my mom raised five kids, and then she worked in the insurance industry. So I have three brothers and one sister. (-JW-)

JW: Did you know that I'm the youngest of five?

05.05.21 TIM BROWN: Oh, no, I didn't know that. (-JW-) I'm second to the youngest, so my older brother, Chris, who I showed you photos of, is uh, the Providence fireman, is uh, he's the youngest. (-JW-) three years younger than me, yeah.

JW: What's the age range?

05.05.35 TIM BROWN: Right now, 36 to 46. So ten years, and I'm 40.

JW: Catholic?

05.05.42 TIM BROWN: Uh, Protestant (-JW-) Yeah, Irish-German, German mostly. Irish-English heritage. As far as I know. That (?) my family, so uh, so yeah. Uh, I enjoyed it up there, but it's you know, small town and I wanted big city, so.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: What you say, it's like suburbia, what was it like for you growing up?

05.06.29 TIM BROWN: Uh, it (-JW-) I guess a lot of fun with my brothers and sisters and uh, my sister, and my friends, and uh, school, you know, I guess just typical small town school. Newington High School, like 5,000 people. And I uh, (-JW-)

JW: How big is the town?

05.06.48 TIM BROWN: The town is, when I was here, was around 35, 000 people and uh, I think now it's more up around 50 or 55. and uh, I went back to visit. My mom and my brother, Mike, live in Newington. Uh, my dad's close by and my sister's in the next town over, so uh, I get up there once in a while to visit. And uh, I was lost in high school. You know, as a lot of kids are I think at that age. And uh, I met this guy, Jay Walsh, who has been a best friend of mine for along, long time back then, and uh, he was a what we call a fire buff.

05.07.30 Where he would uh, he was 16, I was 15, so he had his car and his license, and I didn't. you know, which I thought was cool, and he had a little red Toyota and uh, a fire radio in it so we could listen to the fire, local fire departments, and any time there was something exciting going on, we'd jump in the car and go watch together. And we became uh, junior firemen together uh, in Newington. Uh, and we didn't really go to fires uh, so much but you got to practice with the hose and every week we would get together and that kind of steered me away from trouble and uh, and gave me the idea that, the passion to be a fireman.

JW: How (?) that (?) jumping in the car? How did that develop into, did they find out about you? It sounds like you became sort of a fire buff. Did that mean like you were just showing up at all the fires and eventually they were like we've got to bring this kid into the (?)

05.08.26 TIM BROWN: Well, you know, it's a volunteer fire department up there and they would have a junior fireman program to try and mentor young men into it. Because during the day they didn't have the man power, 'cos the adults were out working. So during the day they didn't have the manpower for the volunteers, which is still a very big problem in this country

right now. Uh, so during the day, as we turned 16, 17 years old, they would bring us in as junior firemen. Maybe let us fight a brush fire with them, and ease us into it. Where, when we turned 18 we become volunteer firemen full time, and they would have some help.

05.09.03 And it really uh, I met a lot of really good guys, and uh, and it was exciting and something to be passionate about, which I didn't really have then.

JW: Did you say you were lost, you didn't like school?

05.09.17 TIM BROWN: No, I didn't like school, you know, didn't like being told what to do. I still don't. you know, but that's forever gonna be my burden to bear (LAUGHS). But uh, uh, but I enjoyed the freedom of being able to uh, go into a fire and then come out victorious and help people. I'm a helper. That's my makeup, so.

JW: Tell me about your actually if you can just go back a little bit. You were talking about your brothers and sister. Your oldest brother (?) when people when I say I'm from a family of 5, they go well, (?) so I sort of (?) my oldest brother (?) he works (?) and when it comes down to how did you get to Hollywood? (LAUGHS)

05.10.02. TIM BROWN: What are you doing here? (LAUGHS) My uh, my brother, Mike, is 46 years old. Uh, he'll be 46. and he is uh, he was a lawyer for United Technologies. Uh, they promoted him. He's senior counsel and they promoted him from that to uh, to senior vice president of the corporation. Uh, so he's done very well uh, for himself. He raised a step daughter in Florida and Detroit.

05.10.30 That's the places they moved to when he got divorced. And he now lives in Newington and works at Hartford. And he has about 7 years left in his career to retire. Uh, uh, and we plan on being together when, I can retire in 2 years and brother Chris can retire in maybe a few years. And then uh, you know, we're all gonna go somewhere and have a little compound. Put up a fence (LAUGHS).

05.10.58 (-JW-) We don't know, you know, it's probably somewhere a little bit south. Maybe, my brother Mike wants to go around North Carolina. He loves boats. So uh, we just want to be near each other wherever it is. (?) be close, close together. Especially after September. Uh,

I think we've all seen that, uh, how precious life is and uh, we see each other every day, the three of us, me, Mike and Chris uh, everybody in my family. I shouldn't say that. Uh, but we're very close the three of us. And Curt is the next uh, brother. He's 44. and he lives in Baltimore.

05.11.31 And he is uh, he's a nurse in a, health care facility. Down there. Uh, he's uh, pretty religious guy. He's very active in his church down there. And he's single, and a great, great brother. Uh, and I get to see him, not as often, but you know, maybe a few times a year I get to see him. But he came up also after the 11th to see me. And be my brother, you know, which was very nice. Uh, my sister, Sharon, is 44, and uh, no, 42. Kurt's 44, Sharon's 42.

(SIMULTANEOUS CONVERSATION)

05.12.17 TIM BROWN: And she has two boys. Uh, Todd and Farley. Todd is uh, finishing up his college. So he's 20, 21, I think. And Farley's about 14. uh, so he's still home with Sharon. And she's married to Rand and they both work up there in Connecticut. And they live in West Hartford. And then there's me. And young brother, Chris, who is a Providence, Rhode Island, fireman. Who I'm extremely close with. And uh, I look forward to working with him and living with him down in Washington. Uh, he has two kids. Mitchell and Taylor, which I would call my kids since I don't have any. And uh, they are uh, 14 and 11.

05.13.06 And uh, I love them to death. Uh, but Chris and I want to be together, very close 2together, day in and day out. And just share each other's lives and I'm looking forward to that a lot.

JW: You're gonna be able to do that (?)

TIM BROWN: I, I think so, yeah. (-JW-) I won't believe it 'til it's actually happening, you know, but that's the way the plan is going. It's going well, so. (-JW-)

JW: What about your parents? (?)

05.13.33 TIM BROWN: Yeah, Dad is retired from United Technologies. Research scientist. He designed and built uh, lasers uh, industrial and probably uh, defense stuff, too, that I didn't know much about. Uh, and he's retired and remarried. And Mom uh, Mom raised uh, the

kids full time uh, and as the kids got older, she went to work uh, for Aetna Insurance uh, up there in uh, and has since retired and lives on her own. And I get to see her uh, maybe once a month or so. Uh, which is real nice.

JW: That's pretty often?

05.14.13 TIM BROWN: Yeah, yeah, and it'll probably be less being in DC, but uh, you know, but we'll stay in touch and uh, we'll probably have a better relationship now than we've had in a long time, so I'm looking forward to the relationship getting better and better over the years. And uh, I'm excited about it. (CLEARS THROAT)

JW: When you say you have a better relationship, what do you mean?

05.14.33 TIM BROWN: Uh, well, you know, it's difficult uh, we all go through difficult times in our lives, and you know, we all struggled. When my parents got divorced, they got divorced when I was 17 years old and from the time I was 12 'til the time I was 17, things uh, family was a struggle. And uh, that's probably why I was going down uh, the wrong road.

05.15.00 In my young, teenage years uh, until I found Jay who gave me a real uh, something really to focus on and get me out of trouble. Uh, and uh, so that, the divorce hurt the whole family and uh, and we all just basically, uh, my brother and I just ran away. I mean, as soon as we could we were out of the house and doing things. My college years were great. I lived in a firehouse in West Haven, Connecticut.

05.15.30 I went to school at the University of New Haven and uh, the chief there, Bill Johnson, who we called Wiggle, who was like my uh, my adopted father uh, really took me under his wing and uh, raised me through my college years. And was a very good friend to me. He's always been a good friend since then. Uh, and that we kind of ran away. My brother went to Rhode Island and I went to West Haven and New York. And uh, now the family's starting to get closer again. Uh, closer than we were. And I would imagine that September had a lot to do with that.

JW: What do you mean?

- 05.15.11 TIM BROWN: Well, we realized uh, our mortality, I think. There were seven people in my family, seven people realized our mortality and what it would mean if we lost any of each other. You know, I just happened to be the person that was uh, almost killed.
- 05.16.30 And uh, and they knew that all my friends were killed, and so they knew that it was uh, would have been the last time they would ever have seen me. And that changes your perspective on life, it focuses on things, it helps you to focus on things that are more important. And uh, and that's why I'm gonna be with my brother. And uh, that's why I want to be closer to my family and that's why I think they want to be closer with me also.
- 05.17.00 And uh, they are my family, and I love them and uh, we get caught up in our day to day lives, all of us, and sometimes we forget, so. Uh, I will never forget them. I will never uh, forget my friends who passed away, their families. Uh, they are my family now, also. Every thing else is secondary there. In my eyes, so. (STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: When you may not be the same way. I'm very close to my brother, who's one above me, Ron. I'm the youngest and I'm very close to (?) He uh, he had some difficulties growing up uh, with uh, he had some mental, he has some issues he had to deal with, cerebral palsy basically. It's very uh, (?) very, very functional. In fact his, right now his, I mean, if you met him right now you'd feel like this is the greatest guy in the world. You know, and you don't even notice it. But a lot of it's where he came from. But during the time when I was growing up we sort of had this kind of unspoken communication (?) yeah. I mean, I would sort of protect him because he couldn't do things like count change. And he would sort of protect me because he could beat other people up (LAUGHS).

TIM BROWN: Symbiotic relationship (LAUGHS)

JW: So I was wondering uh, if how would you may, might describe.

05.21.04 TIM BROWN: That's a great, that's a great question. Uh, I like to, I think I have (CLEARS THROAT) I took on a very difficult life. Uh, coming to New York City, not knowing anyone. I struggled a lot with it. Uh.

JW: When you say that, what do you mean, in what way?

05.21.21 TIM BROWN: Well, it's just personally difficult (-JW-) It's a big city, no friends. Uh, I knew I wanted to be here because uh, I wanted to be a New York City fireman. If you're gonna be a fireman anywhere in the world, New York City is the place to be a fireman, 'cos it's so busy. Uh, and I wanted to be in the busiest firehouse and all that. So I knew that's what I wanted to do and I was going to do it no matter what. I was very driven. Uh, but socially and uh, personally, very difficult.

05.21.58 Uh, very difficult for a kind of sheltered kid who didn't know much about ethnicity or religion. Anything like that. To learn that uh, when you're 22 years old uh, and you grew up in a small town, to come here and see all this diversity, which has been great for me over uh, over my life. Uh, but I think uh, I struggled. I struggled with relationship with uh, girlfriends and with guy friends. Uh, and I didn't uh, have an easy time of it.

05.22.30 And I learned a lot from that. Uh, and (-JW-) Well, I learned, now that I'm 40, I think I've settled, settled down in my life, and I've uh, I've got, regained my confidence, but it took this long to do that. Uh, but I'm uh, let's get back to the question.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: I'm kind of curious about the uh, New York, you know, 'cos I always say as a connective thing, I went to Los Angeles when I was 25 and that wasn't easy because I was (?) you know, I did it because I was actually escaping my family. But I also had a goal that was like I'm gonna make it.

05.23.24 TIM BROWN: And you were driven to do what you're doing. (-JW-) Good for you. Uh, it's a conflicting life, because you're so focused and driven in your career uh, but it's hard,

I think. People get one or the other. And it's hard to get both. It's hard to get the career you love and to do very well at it, and also do very well in your personal life. And I think it's taken me this long to get to a place where, where I said, well, I'm pretty comfortable right now. I feel kind of balance.

- 05.24.01 Uh, I think I have always tried to uh, protect my younger brother. I uh, you know, he's my young brother, and he's a great man. Uh, he raised two children very young. Uh, he got married very young, and he uh, he struggled with that. He was divorced after 12 years of marriage and it was very difficult for him. He didn't want to get divorced.
- 05.24.28 And uh, the situation it was such that he had to. So we went through that together and held each other up. He held me up when I needed it, and I held him up when he needed it. And uh, we got very, very close over that time. And uh, and now I think, see I feel I've come into my own at this age, at 40.
- 05.24.55 I feel that he's coming into his own younger, 36 and I think he's gotten very comfortable with his life uh, now and himself as a person. And uh, I admire him for doing it 4 years earlier than I was able to do it. Uh, and then September 11th, all I can think about was him. And how much I loved him and how hard it would be for me to leave him. And for him to not have me around, you know?
- 05.25.28 Uh, when uh, when the buildings were falling on top of me, uh, all I could think of was two things – I wanted to quit my job because it wasn't worth it. And I wanted to be with my brother, I wanted to hold him one more time. And uh, meanwhile in Rhode Island, he was watching this happen on television, and he knew I was there. And so in his mind, I was dead. And he actually accepted it.
- 05.26.01 Uh, walked to his local church uh, which he hadn't been to in 10 years and uh, and prayed. Prayed for me, prayed for him. And his children. And he came back home at 9:40 he sent me an e-mail knowing in his mind that I was dead, saying uh, saying I love you, my brother.
- 05.26.33 And uh, I can imagine how hard that must have been. So uh, we are the same person.
- 05.26.55 Uh, I'm lucky to have had this time since September with him, and if, fi this is all there is, then I'm happy I had this 8 months. I hope he keeps going, but you value things uh, a lot more after something like that happens. And I never want to be apart from him, so. Uh, tough stuff.

JW: Yeah, I understand.

- 05.27.30 TIM BROWN: Uh, so we want to do things together, we want to live together, we want to learn to play the guitar together. We want to drink tequila and smoke cigars and, and laugh and live life. 'Cos people is what life is about.
- 05.27.59 It's not about work or uh, you know, things. Nothing like that. It's about good people. And it's about fighting for the right thing. He sent me a, an e-mail the other day that said I would rather die standing up than live on my knees. And we intend to go to Washington and work for the government and do the best we can to fight standing and living.
- 05.28.33 And dying if we have to. He said to me that if he has to go fight terrorism and die doing it, so that he could give his kids the freedom that we had, that he'd be honored to do it. And uh, so we go and we help and uh, hope that uh, nobody has to pay with their lives. I mean, we have soldiers that have done it, and firemen and cops and civilians.
- 05.29.03 Americans. Uh, that were murdered by these cowards, you know? And uh, I was talking with my friend, Terry's wife, Beth, and uh, and with Tanya, Sergio's fiancé, and it says uh, manner of death, homicide, on their death certificates.
- 05.29.30 And people forget that. They were murdered by cowards. And uh, and you have to fight. You can't let these people win. We have to go about our daily lives. If we die doing it, we die doing it. But uh, we can't let them win and dictate the way we should live. People uh, sometimes forget how important freedom is.
- 05.30.01 And even now, I mean, people throughout the country are moving on with their lives, which is good. Uh, unfortunately people here that were directly affected are not able to do that. Uh, it's gonna be many years before people here will be able to do that. But the country needs to move on uh, and I think we understand that here. But uh, they also have to understand that it's hard for us to move on just like that.
- 05.30.29 It's hard for me to move on. Uh, and uh, it's hard for New York City Fire Department to move on. My friend, Herb Eiser said, uh, a wise man in the fire department, said to me, it's gonna take 20 years for the fire department to recover. Because we lost 6 probationary firemen that were still in the Fire Academy. And they were killed down there. They were on the job 3 weeks. And uh, and they were asked to go down and help, and they were killed.

- 05.31.01 And so that group of probationary firemen, until they retire from the fire department, will be directly affected. So it's gonna take 20 years for a lot of people uh, to move on. I'm afraid, we had a 27-year old paramedic kill himself a couple of weeks ago. Uh, very unexpected from what I read.
- 05.31.28 Uh, but he had left a suicide note that said it was just too much. He had uh, been driven over the 8 months that it took to uh, recover all the bodies, body parts and stuff. And he had been a part of that for 8 months. And then when it ended, it was the crash. And uh, and he couldn't deal. And his friends didn't even know. His friends had talked to him uh, that day.
- 05.32.01 And he said, he had told one of his friends uh, that he needed to talk. And they arranged a time that Sunday, 2 days later. And that day he killed himself. And I'm afraid that we're gonna see that and I think that a lot more could be done uh, for the fireman and their families. Uh, we lost 343 men uh, 341 firemen, 2 EMT's and actually one more uh, from fire patrol.
- 05.32.40 Uh, and that's, that's a lot of families that are in trouble. Uh, I'm afraid. I wish I could do something to help.

JW: Did uh, have you had a moment where you just sort of decided, I mean, that you might decide as a "crash"?

- 05.33.02 TIM BROWN: Yeah, I'd say it's happening now. Uh, I struggled in my job in the office of emergency management for the last few months. Uh, I have had trouble uh, focusing and trouble multitasking, which is not me. I'm a very hard worker, very dedicated. And uh, I just uh, have had a lot of trouble focusing on things.
- 05.33.32 Uh, my brother's uh, counsel and therapist. Uh, my brother's speaking with her about me and she said that's a classic sign of PTSD, post traumatic stress disorder. And suggested that I start taking uh, something called Stress Tabs, which is a B multi-vitamin uh, because the stress eats up your B-vitamin and then when it's done with that, it starts eating up the uh, melatonin, and that depletes your ability to focus and things like that, so.
- 05.34.05 Uh, I just started taking that a few days ago. I'm gonna move to Washington on Monday and I'm and uh, my boss, I've already spoken with him about this, he's getting me uh, someone

good to talk to down there. Uh, to try and figure this all out. So I'm probably uh, I think I'm at my worst right now. But my brother thinks uh, I'm better than I was.

05.34.30 And I trust him because he was on the outside looking in. Uh, he thinks I'm uh, generally getting better, but right now I'm kind of in a rut a little bit.

JW: He says he feels like he knows you and kind of has been able to be on the outside watching?

05.34.47 TIM BROWN: I would say that if uh, if anyone in the world knows me best and I trust the most, it would be him. Uh, he came down uh, my brothers Mike and Chris came down two days later after the 11th, and spent, Mike spent like 3 days with me, which is very difficult for him to do in his position. And then he left uh, and then my brother Chris stayed for 6 weeks with me. His fire department was good enough to uh, let him stay down here with me. And he was just uh, at my side, 24-7. and so he, I mean, he he knew me before this, but now I think he really knows me very well.

05.35.30 I mean, he went through this whole thing. He came to every funeral with me and, and held me up and uh, uh, so he's been with me, really, ever since. We really haven't been apart much since then. And uh, we talk 2, 3 times a day. So I would think that he has a good idea of where I'm at. And uh, I know that I never could have gotten through it without him, so.

JW: How.

TIM BROWN: Tough stuff.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.36.06 TIM BROWN: It's uh, actually this is the best therapy I could have, right, right here, talking to you, you know? So but I cry. You know, I cry uh, all the time now. It's, I'm always like on the verge. And uh, I don't think I was like this before. 'Cos I was so, I was running like crazy trying to work and I think I just didn't have enough time to settle down.

- 05.36.30 And the guys that I worked with back in OEM uh, I'm sure are now are going through similar uh, things. And all the firemen that were down at the site, you know, digging for months and months. Uh, I think everybody's getting, start getting affected. I was told by several different people that I knew in the fire houses that right now is a very difficult time there. They're uh, struggling, they're arguing. They're fighting, they're angry. And this is all classic uh, stress stuff.
- 05.37.03 Uh, special operations where I came from in the FDNY uh, lost uh, over 90, 90 guys and they only have in that division there's only 350. so we lost nearly 30% uh, of the entire operation. And it's not just like losing some guy. You know, these are you family uh, these are guy you worked with.
- 05.37.30 Uh, I personally knew 93 people that I can remember. I mean, there's always a time when you go, oh, yeah, I knew him, too. But uh, losing 93 of your friends and colleagues uh, is difficult. And I'm not, I mean, there's people that lost more than that, that knew more than that that I uh, did. And I know people lost 4 and 5 of their best friends. Uh, that's tough stuff. We need help with that.
- JW: How do you feel about uh, (CLEARS THROAT) counseling?
- 05.38.09 TIM BROWN: Uh, I'm strongly in counseling. Uh, I tried to promote it. Uh, you can only do the, you can only (STOPS) You can only push it at the level you're at. I would have liked to have pushed it a lot more with the fire department. I think it's exactly what the guys need.
- 05.38.30 I think the uh, police department is doing a better job of it than the fire department. Uh, the police department has made it mandatory that everybody go to get counseling that was involved. Uh, and the fire department has not done that. Uh, I disagree with that. I think uh, that you need to make it mandatory so that people don't feel funny about going. If you make everybody go, uh, there's a better chance of people opening up to it.
- 05.39.00 Because everybody has to do it. Nobody gets a black mark. Everybody has to go and uh, people don't feel like they're not man enough uh, you know, or they're you know, something wrong with them if they go, you know? Uh, I think that uh, the counseling uh, there are

people out there that know a lot about this stuff, that could help us. And uh, I'm afraid that not everything is being done that could be done.

05.39.31 And that's why I am scared of what might happen. Uh, in the fire department over the next few years. And the suicide thing is just one, I mean, it's the biggest one. But there are a lot of other things. There's a, uh, divorces and alcoholism and uh, you know, people that quit their jobs. And you know, all kinds of ways that this PTSD will manifest. And uh, I'm afraid that we're not getting on top of it. And only time will tell. Uh, the truth about that. That I feel I'm right and we'll see over the years what happens.

JW: Did you uh, did you come to the discovery that it would be the best thing to do recently?

05.40.16 TIM BROWN: No, I think, I always (-JW-) personally, no I've always believed in it. I have gone to a few uh, sessions.

05.40.24 Uh, but some people think that I should be able to go to 3 or 4 sessions and go like this and say ok, I'm better and everything's fine and that's not how it works. This, these are things that take years to figure out. Years of counseling. It's not something you can just go to counseling a few times and say, ok, you're better. That's not how it works. Uh, stress reveals itself when it wants to. You can't take a week off from work and say Ok, I'm gonna be better after a week.

05.41.00 It doesn't work like that. It comes out when it wants to come out. Uh, I've been off for 4 or 5 weeks now. Uh, and I just feel now like it's starting to really uh, show itself.

JW: You say you've been off?

05.41.18 TIM BROWN: I've been on vacation, yeah. But that's, that means getting an apartment down in Washington. That means, you know, it's not really, I'm not laying on a beach (LAUGHS) it's unfortunately uh, it's getting ready for the next job. That's a lot of work, moving, you know, it's difficult thing.

JW: Yeah, yeah. When uh, about a year and a half ago, my mom uh, passed away and I distinctly remembering a kind of an ebb and flow of uh, stress and sort of focus. It was in and out and I was able to kind of get a hold of it and not. When do you think you're most focused?

TIM BROWN: When do I think I'm most focused?

JW: Or when do you think you have been most focused?

05.42.17 TIM BROWN: Good question. You have good questions. I would like to say in my, when I play soccer, but I don't know if Coach Joe would agree with that sometimes (LAUGHS).

05.42.31 We played the cops a few uh, few weeks ago for the Sergio (Villanaeva?) Cup. And uh, they kicked our ass, man (LAUGHS). And I didn't play very well, and I was very disappointed, you know. So I think it's just times. I thought yesterday that I played well and uh, and I felt good. Uh, I think after I get this move done and get settled into the job where I'm comfortable with a boss that I trust, uh, is looking out for my best interests uh, I think things may get better.

05.43.12 I'm as much, uh, I don't even want to say that. (-JW-) Well, it'd probably be good for me to get away from this environment for a little while. Good for me personally. Uh, well, because my daily life is 9-11.

05.43.31 And uh, I think going to Washington will maybe distract me to do and focus on some other things. Uh, there are a lot of firemen out there, we are a family and we pride ourselves in the FDNY being a big family. And when a family is hurting, you take care of each other.

05.44.01 Uh, so we've all picked a few families to try and be close with. Uh, my families are Terry's family and Sergio's family. And uh, they are my day to day life. Uh, to try and be there for them, try and do things for them.

05.44.29 Uh, try and support them and try to help them get through the most difficult times of their life. What happened to them was unfair and uh, and they are not only are my friends who died heroes, but their families are heroes. And uh, they should be held in high esteem like that, and they should be loved by this country for that.

- 05.45.04 And they should be loved by Tim. Uh, and that's what I am doing and it's hard for all of us. It's hard for me and Beth to uh, over the, over the months, it's been hard for us to uh, even see each other. Even to just look at each other.
- 05.45.28 Uh. We both know how much each other loved Terry. And uh, I think we uh, I think we both feel uh, well, I shouldn't speak for her, but I know I feel guilty about it. (-JW-)
- 05.46.04 Just uh, 'cos of the career we chose, you know, and uh, and I was the last one to see him. And you know, or the way we think is crazy sometimes, you know, it's just uh, you know, I should have just grabbed him by the collar and taken him out of the building and taken him to Beth and said, here.
- 05.46.31 I mean, it's crazy, but those are, that's the way the mind works sometimes, and. And uh. I feel that as I think every fireman in New York feels, I feel guilty in front of the families. And yes uh, we will forever be trying to make up for that.
- 05.47.03 Uh, it's uh, it's tough stuff. I mean, you see why uh, all these guys that went to Vietnam and came back alive, physically, but uh, but screwed up 'cos they lost all their buddies and all that. Uh, I can sympathizes with them a little bit. I mean, I'm not saying I was in that situation but uh, this stuff will definitely screw you, screw you up.

JW: When you were describing your passion about uh, becoming a fireman and uh, what it mean for you to grow into that, and then get the opportunity to then come to New York. Uh, it's trick 'cos grabbing the collar of that guy seems to me to go against.

- 05.48.02 TIM BROWN: Absolutely. It's uh, I mean, we took an oath (-JW-) No, no, I understand. Uh, we take an oath, when you become a fireman you raise your hand and you pledge your loyalty to the city and the country and to humanity, really. And uh, it's a happy moment, you families are clapping and everybody's proud of you.
- 05.48.32 And uh, it's the same with the police department. I don't mean to leave the police department out uh, at all. (-JW-) It's just what I'm, you know, my life. Uh. (-JW-) People don't, people don't realize the gravity of doing that. Uh, and that means I am going to give up my life if I have to for the good of humanity.

- 05.49.02 Uh, on a broad scale for uh, you know, a family and for other humans on more of a local scale. But all those guys that died put their hands up and said, I am willing to give my life to protect uh, others for the good of humanity.
- 05.49.31 And you know, now, apparently the New York City Fire Department is doing that for the country. And for the country 200 years ago, and for the country they hope 200 years from now, you know. To preserve our freedom and our way of life, and to tell people that would like to uh, tell us how to live our lives, no.
- 05.50.07 You know, we're gonna stand up and we're gonna fight for the right thing. And when Terry went in that stairwell, he knew what he was facing. His men knew what they were facing. They also knew that there were a lot of people in trouble upstairs.
- 05.50.27 And being the rescues, which is you know, just about the most elite fire company in the world, uh, their job was to go as high and as dangerous as they could. And try and get to the people that were burned badly and broken and disabled, but still alive and try and get them down. And that's what they were doing. They knew it was very bad.
- 05.51.00 They knew, they knew there was a very good chance they were gonna die. And those men did it. They carried out what they swore when they became firemen. And uh, they are the biggest heroes I've ever met.
- 05.51.34 Uh, and they are the things that legends are made of. Uh, everyone of them. I mean, there were some great, great firemen that died down there.
- 05.51.51 END OF TAPE # TB 05 1 of 3

TAPE # TB 06, 2 of 3
TIM BROWN
6/30/02
JIM WHITAKER, DIRECTOR
PROJECT REBIRTH

06.01.00 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

06.01.15 TIM BROWN: I was just saying to him before about uh, I feel like I'm , I lost my track, and I don't know, I'm afraid I won't be able to find a track again.

06.01.29 I'm kind of, kind of all over the place, you know? And uh, I used to be very focused on my life and now that's uh, now I just have no idea.

JW: When you say focused on your life, what do you mean "your life"?

06.01.49 TIM BROWN: Well, I guess what I want to do, career, social, the whole thing it's all thrown into turmoil right now. And uh, and it may be a different track that I haven't found yet, or it maybe that I'm just for a few years, I'm gonna be doing that, trying to figure it out thing, you know? If I had my choice right now, I would do what I've been doing the last 4 or 5 weeks. I would not be working.

06.02.26 And I would go live near my friend, Beth, and just be around for her and their baby, Terry, just to uh, just to be together, I think, you know? I feel so close to her. And uh, I feel that we need each other a lot. And moving to Washington is hard for me to do, because I'll be further away from her.

06.02.59 Uh, but you know, we have to work, so. And I'm a little excited about the job, but I don't know that that's what I need right now, you know? I think I need to be near Beth. So we'll see, you know, I'll go down and see if I can focus for a couple of years down there, and I can retire in 2 years, so. Then maybe things will be different, so.

JW: Do you plan on retiring in two years?

06.03.33 TIM BROWN: Right now, I would say yes, I think if I was able to retire a few months ago, I would have done it already. Uh, because my focus is on my friends' families, you know? And that is just being around one family is full time, but being around 2 or 3 families or 10 families is a little overwhelming sometimes.

06.04.00 And it's hard to have a demanding career while also uh, focusing on uh, a family. I mean, their lives are difficult right now. My life is difficult right now, and I feel like we really do

need each other. Uh, Beth's mom uh, had taken a leave of absence, some vacation from her job to be with Beth.

06.04.32 Uh, she actually moved into the house so they could raise the baby who was born on May 15th. Uh, and it's Beth's first baby. Uh, so she's never raised a child before. So her, Beth's mom went to live with her and help her with that. And uh, had intended to go back to work, but she's unable to leave Beth.

06.04.59 So now she's taking an extended leave of absence, and uh, and being a great grandma. Uh, this is difficult stuff to face and to deal with. Uh, I want to be there with her and for her. Uh.

JW: Do you think her grandmother is unable to leave herself or?

06.05.25 TIM BROWN: No, her grandma really wants to leave, uh, Beth's mom. Uh, but it's not something that she can do right now. Uh, Beth's facing difficult times, and uh, and she's really by herself, you know? Uh, I guess I feel like I want to be able to be there and do the things that Terry would have done.

06.05.57 As dad and husband. You know, it's people don't remember that someone has to take the garbage out and cut the lawn and hang the mirror and move the furniture and uh, and give a hug. Uh, all those spouses now and moms and dads and kids don't have that.

06.06.35 Uh, I really uh, I really feel bad.

JW: Do you uh, do you go over and hang mirrors?

TIM BROWN: Sure.

JW: What kind of stuff?

06.06.55 TIM BROWN: All kinds of stuff. The big thing's been uh, uh, moving furniture. Uh, Beth had bought a house out, they lived in Stievesant town in Manhattan in a rented apartment. And then uh, after everything happened uh, Beth found out that she was pregnant on September 13th, two days after Terry died. Uh, which is was certainly a happy miracle. Uh, as the months went on, she realized that she needed uh, some support from her family who lives in Long Island.

- 06.07.34 And uh, she went and uh, bought a house out in Dix Hills, Long Island, to be near her sister and her mom. Uh, so now they have, Beth has the two places. So I've been out there uh, getting, taking deliveries of furniture for her. She bought all new furniture and trying to get the stuff in the door and set up right and uh, and change all the outlets in the house.
- 06.08.06 And uh, some painting and cleaning. Uh, we took delivery of about 8 rooms of furniture over about 3 week period. And then we were in her apartment in Manhattan last week and uh, I realized, we started talking.
- 06.08.28 And I realized that no one had cleaned or painted or fixed up the, the bedroom for the baby, for little Terry. And she told me that you know, she had been waiting for someone to paint it, and it just hadn't gotten done yet, and so I told her to give me the keys and last week I was honored to paint Terry's room pink pansy. (LAUGHS)
- 06.09.00 And super white on the ceiling and clean the floor and all that. I think it was very good for me, and it was certainly good for her to have it done, but I think it was good uh, for me to be able to do that. And uh, get the room ready for when she grows a few more months and has her own room there. That I painted, it makes me feel good.

JW: What do you feel like when you're doing it?

- 06.09.24 TIM BROWN: Uh, feel good. Uh, cried a lot. Uh, it was good uh, a long time for me. Doing the simple things like that, just kind of mindless things I think is pretty healthy for me now. Uh, I can think while I'm doing it and uh, feel like I'm accomplishing something for Beth, as well as for myself.
- 06.09.58 Uh, So you know, it's something Terry would have done, and uh, things like putting the child-proofing the outlets and uh, you know, things that uh, things that mean a lot. I mean, the little things to some people, but to, I think to Beth and to me and it's uh, it's big. It's big stuff. It's things that maybe she won't have time to do or the energy to do.
- 06.10.31 Or whatever. hanging uh, a mirror or setting up the furniture, you know. Cutting up the cardboard boxes after the furniture comes, you know? Things that, the day in and day out things that uh, that these men would have done. Uh, they need someone else to do them, so.

JW: Can you do me a favor and (?) it's not necessarily an easy thing to do. But can you put your mind back and dial back to uh, September 11 and uh, yeah, the day, but when you know so much about life is about touching and feeling and seeing and (?) the experiential parts of breathing, and just the things that you remember that are kind of connected to like how we live our lives. (?) you know, do, when you first woke up that morning, what was the, do you remember anything about that?

06.11.48 TIM BROWN: Uh, well, I remember that it was a normal day at work. I worked at uh, I supposed I should say this. Uh, I was a fireman in Rescue 3 in special operations.

06.12.00 Uh, for about 6 years, and uh, I had the opportunity to go to this new office uh, kind of a tie and suit job 5 days a week, uh, called the Office of Emergency Management. So I was detailed from the fire department into this office to work for uh, Mayor Guilanni. Uh, and Jerry However uh, who was the director uh, then. Uh, back when I first went uh, who is also a friend of mine and Terry's and Patrick, and we were all kind of a group of guys.

06.12.33 And uh, so I was working in OEM in, on September 11th, and I was uh, supervisor of uh, field operations. (STOPS)

JW: What is that job?

06.12.49 TIM BROWN: Uh, we would, we had a very pro-active office, where we would have uh, a group of firemen, police officers uh, EMT's uh, that would work uh, and cover 24 hours, 7 days a week. And they would respond to major, multi-agency uh, emergencies in the city to co-ordinate many different agencies for the Incident Commander. Uh, the Incident Commander could be the ranking fire chief, the ranking police captain or inspector. And we would not be in charge, but we would uh, be at their side to get them the help they needed from anything in the anywhere in the city, anything they needed, any kind of resources.

06.13.34 If they needed cranes or they needed Con-Edison or they needed the people from MTA surface, which is the buses or the subways, anything that might be affected that might help mitigate this emergency quicker and save lives and save time and save money uh, that was our job to do that.

JW: Did you have the authority of the mayor to cut through?

- 06.13.54 TIM BROWN: Cut through red tape, exactly. And I would report to my boss uh, who would generally brief the mayor if it was necessary to go to that level, and to get the mayor's support for the plan that the incident commander put in place. And kind of uh, not generally, but sometimes to get the uh, the big hammer uh, to make sure that the job got done. And it worked uh, very well with Mayor Guilanni. He was very hands-on in emergencies. Uh, and uh, and uh, uh, we did a very good job of, of mitigating these things very quickly.
- 06.14.33 So I was in the uh, in the office, which was 7 World Trade Center. Uh, it was uh, my office was the emergency operations center for the city uh, which some people called The Bunker. Uh, and it was a state of the art uh, communications hub where we could talk to just about anybody in the world on secure lines.
- 06.14.59 We had all kinds of cameras piped into our office from all over the city, from the harbor, from the highways, from the airports. Uh, but my job was, on a day to day basis was in the office, but when emergencies occurred, my job was to be out in the field, at the emergencies, helping to coordinate things. Uh, so the day of, I got into work uh, on September 11, I got into work at about 8 o'clock in the morning. It was a beautiful day. And uh, clear blue, crystal blue sky.
- 06.15.31 And uh, we had wondered if something was up uh, within a few weeks before this occurred because the entrance to the garage complex underneath uh, the garages underneath the World Trade Center complex uh, was at the rear of our building. So all the deliveries and everything, any business that had to be done really in that World Trade complex, had to go through the security checkpoint, which is at the rear of our building.
- 06.16.00 And uh, the security had markedly increased about two weeks before this occurred, to the point where there were, there was a lot more security there. Uh, there were a lot more Port Authority police officers there, and there were dogs running around and checking all the trucks. Which was unusual. And we had asked several people uh, with our connections in the intelligence uh, area if there was something going on, and everybody told us, no.
- 06.16.33 And uh, I mean, that was the answer we got. So we had been a little curious about, uh, I guess our level was up a little bit. And uh.

JW: Do you remember that feeling coming to work, or do you?

- 06.16.51 TIM BROWN: That morning? (-JW-) no, I mean, I didn't, there was no premonition, there was no anxious feeling. Uh, I mean, it was just another day and uh, and I was happy to be there and I enjoyed my job a lot. Uh, so I would say there was you know, just uh, over, it was like in the background, there was just a little heightened sense, but it was not like that day was something unusual or anything like that.
- 06.17.27 Uh, and I wound up uh, in the cafeteria on the third floor uh, eating cereal, reading the paper, which was kind of ritual for me uh, before I got into the day. I was sitting there by myself at the table, and there was another room in this cafeteria with windows that faced the towers. And uh, I was not in that room, but there were other people there. And I remember reading the paper and the lights went out.
- 06.18.01 Uh, which is very unusual down there, because we're on a system that's so redundant, the Con-Ed system was very good down there. Uh, that that was very unusual for lights to go out. And I knew when that happened that something major had happened. Uh, certainly not as big as it was. Uh, but the lights went out for 2 or 3 seconds, and then they kicked back up.
- 06.18.27 As soon as that happened, people came running out of the room that faced the towers, and I can remember people running and screaming. And I said, well, what, you know, I yelled, what is it? What's going on? They said a plane just crashed into the tower. And I was like holy shit. And so I just jumped up and uh, and ran toward the escalator, which had been, there's one escalator it was narrow and it was packed, there were a lot of people trying to get down, and I really physically pushed a lot of people out of my way, and uh, and bounded down the escalator.
- 06.19.05 In the lobby area of my building, I saw my boss, Calvin uh, who was running out, outside, and he asked me to go upstairs to the 23rd floor, to the offices and make sure that all the notifications were being made, that we let everybody know what had just happened, all the proper agencies in the state and the country and in the city. Uh, and that, you know, to take appropriate actions, whether they were gonna respond or support us or whatever.
- 06.19.35 And uh, you know, we knew we were opening emergency operations center. It was gonna activate immediately. And uh, this is something that we had drilled for and drilled for and drilled for, and we knew what had to be done. Uh, and so we were very good at it. Uh, and

we still are. I think New York City is very good at it. Uh, so I got upstairs and I went to my desk, my cubical.

- 06.19.59 And uh, grabbed my three portable radios, one police radio, fire radio, and the OEM radio. Kept the OEM radio in my hand and police and fire in my back pockets. And I ran around the floor to make sure that all the areas that are, divisions within OEM were uh, didn't need our help and that they were getting their operations up and running and staffed quickly.
- 06.20.25 And uh, I went into our communications hub first and Mike Lee, who is a supervisor there, uh, was there and he was taking command and uh, Mike is an expert in what he does. And so I just said to him, you know, you got it, do you need help? He said, got it, Timmy. And I left there and went into the emergency operations center. I saw Mike Berkowitz there. Uh, who's one of the brightest people in the city, I think. Young guy.
- 06.20.56 And uh, I saw Mike there, powering up the, all the computers and uh, television screens and everything that we needed. And he was beginning to make all notifications for the uh, 60 or 80 agencies that we needed to get there as quickly as possible. So I was very confident that that was gonna go well, 'cos Mike was at the helm. And so I went down to ground level. Uh, went to my car. Uh, I ran out into uh, Visi Street, which is the north end of the tower complex uh.
- 06.21.31 And it was already like a war zone. There was stuff crashing to the street. Uh, you know, there were bodies crashing into the street. Parts of the building were falling off. I guess at this point, I didn't realize the gravity of it. Uh, I didn't really look up a lot, 'cos I just wanted to focus and run as fast as I could so I didn't get hit.
- 06.21.55 And uh, we didn't realize, and I didn't realize that it was a jet liner that had hit the tower. I thought it was probably a smaller plane. For some reason, that just was in my mind. So I ran to my car, which was parked on a little bit uh, east on Visi Street. And uh, opened the trunk and took off the shirt and tie and put on a helmet and a mayor's office jacket and my boots. And uh, that was the last time I saw my car.
- 06.22.30 And ran back and firemen are trained from when they're in school in probie school to always try and size up a building, try and get three sides, so you have a much better picture in your mind of what's going on. So I tried to do that. I went up into the uh, courtyard area in between the towers, and I hid underneath the, an overhang of one of the buildings, 'cos stuff was crashing down.

JW: You stay stuff was crashing down. Give me a sense, I mean, not (?)

- 06.23.01 TIM BROWN: There was all the paper from the uh, from all the file cabinets and all that that had been destroyed and pushed out 100 stories up, or 80 stories up. Uh, when I got up into that courtyard area, there were plane parts. Uh, everything was on fire. There was fires all over the place. There were bodies, pieces of bodies. Uh, glass crashing down. Parts of the building crashing down that uh, you know, were breaking off.
- 06.23.30 `The people the some of the people I talked to that were in the building when the plane hit uh, number one World Trade. Said the building actually leaned way over after it got hit, and then snapped back into position. Uh, one guy I talked to said uh, that the people that were in chairs that were on rollers, when it hit, they actually rolled and smashed up against the glass. Uh, they all like rolled one way and smashed into the glass, and then the building snapped back.
- 06.23.59 He remembers being pinned up against the glass on the, I think it was 53rd floor or something, and, and being looking straight down underneath him and it was the ground, 50 floors down, because the building had leaned over that much. He was looking out and looking down at the ground. Then it snapped back. So that screwed up, I mean, it screwed up the structure. And so there was glass that was not in any more, and, and uh, all this, all these things, file cabinets and everything was crashing down.
- 06.24.29 You know, people were jumping and uh, so I went back into the lobby of Tower One, to go to the fire command station, where I knew our operation would be setting up with uh, the fire department and the police department. And uh, you know, it was a war zone. We went in and people were self-evacuating. Uh, orderly.
- 06.24.58 People were helping each other, it was fairly calm. people were moving but they were moving quietly. Uh, New Yorkers are very resilient to things and despite the tragedy that had already occurred and that was going to occur, people were uh, moving out of the building and getting away from danger, and nobody was panicking. There was no pushing or shoving. Nothing like that. People were helping each other. Uh, elderly people or pregnant women or people that were disabled were all being helped by other people.

- 06.25.32 Uh, I have said often that I think the heroes we don't talk about were the guys who went to work that day to an office job with a tie on and became heroes to humanity by helping other people get out of that building. You know, they weren't firemen, they weren't cops. Uh, they were just good people, and they saw that someone needed help and they would put them in a chair and carry the chair down 50 floors or you know, things like that uh, that we never really heard about.
- 06.26.07 And in the words of our leader, Rudy Guilanni, it was the best of humanity meeting the worst of humanity. And it was, that's why I knew we would win. And that we will win. Good will always triumph over evil, because there's a lot more good out there. Uh, so all these people were great.
- 06.26.27 We directed them which way they should exit, and they listened and I continued to make my way to the fire command station. And on my way there, I went by the core of the building, where the stairwell and the elevators were. And there were about 30 or 40 firemen standing near the stairwell waiting orders from the chief to, for their duty upstairs.
- 06.26.53 Uh, my friend, my best friend, Terry Hattan uh, who was the captain of Rescue 1 and the rising star of the New York City fire department, one of the most respected people on the job uh, Terry was uh, 6'4 and when he put on his helmet and his boots, he was 6'7 or 6'8. and so he kind of towered over everybody. And I saw him and he saw me and he just gave me a nod of the head like come over, come over here. So I went over to see him, and he was in his gear awaiting orders from the chief on what to do.
- 06.27.32 And he had his Halligan in his hand and he gave me a hug. He wrapped his big arms around me and kissed me on the cheek and said, might be the last time I see you, brother. I love you, man. And that was the last uh, any of us saw of Terry. And he went in the stairwell and went up as high as he could with his company, Rescue 1.
- 06.27.59 Uh, I would later on watch that tower collapse, knowing that he was uh, in there. Uh, doing his job, you know? So uh, then I moved uh, over to the command station and stayed there for a couple of minutes.
- 06.28.28 We started thinking of uh, what had happened, and we said, well, we'd better get air cover, 'cos we don't know what happened here. We don't know why this plane crashed in, it could have been a mistake, or it could have been terrorism. But no matter which it was, we need to get the military up over our heads to protect us. So we started uh, trying to get those phone

calls made. And uh, as we were in the process of doing that, a fireman came running into our area uh, yelling to us that another plane had crashed into number 2 World Trade Center.

06.29.05 And at that point, we knew that we were under attack. So my boss, Calvin, asked me to go over to Number 2 in the lobby and to help manage that command post. And work with the fire department to get them what they needed. To try and save whatever lives we could save. And uh, so I ran over there.

06.29.28 And I met uh, Chief Donald Burns there, who was a citywide tour commander, who I had known over the years. And it basically was just he and I in the lobby. There was no really police or firemen there, but people were evacuating. And I remember looking at him and saying, you know, what can I do, what do you need help with? You know, uh, what can we do? And he just kind of, he's kind of a dry guy and he just looked at me with this little smile on his face, he said, you know, there's really nothing we can do.

06.30.00 He said, we have to wait for help. And uh, so that's really what we had to do. Uh, we gave people direction and.

JW: You were the only two officials in the lobby at that time?

06.30.14 TIM BROWN: Of, number 2, yeah, yeah. Because you know, we were both over in Number one and uh, the people in number one had their hands full. You know, that was what the fire department calls a 5th alarm assignment, which brings around 350 firemen uh, to that building.

06.30.34 So when this second plane hit Number 2, all the firemen were going to Number One that were local. All the local firemen. All the firemen we were getting were coming from further out in the city. So there's you know, it's a bit of a delay. Uh, ten alarms at one time in one place in the city is unheard of.

06.30.56 Uh, and we were in the first hour or so completely overwhelmed. And you know, we really did have to wait for help. It was just too much for two people to do. We needed to start getting fire companies in and police officers in. and there I mean, there were (STOPS)

JW: I'm stuck on the image of just the two of you there, which is.

- 06.31.23 TIM BROWN: And I you know, there were Port Authority people there, there were people that worked in the building who were great, security uh, folks.
- 06.31.31 Uh, but from the city's perspective uh, all the resources that were coming in at this point were going to Number One. They weren't going to Number Two. I mean, this all happened in a matter of a few minutes.
- 06.32.00 You know. So you know, it just was kind of a moment, I guess, that sticks in my mind that uh, that just us looking at each other, myself and Chief Burns, and you know, me kind of naively saying to him, you know, what should we be doing again? And him just kind of I mean, we were overwhelmed. And we had never seen anything like this before. Uh, and Chief Burns had been on the fire department I think 40 years. You know, certainly he had seen a lot, a lot more than me. And uh, and you know, I think he was a little incredulous that I even asked him the question.
- 06.32.29 You know? Uh, and when he said it, I realized that I should have been able to answer my own question before I asked it, you know? There's nothing we can do right now. Uh, so we wanted uh, we set up, started setting up the command post and uh, waited. And uh, some people came, uh, I think it was Port Authority employees came over to me, and, and uh, told me there were some people trapped in the elevator uh, in the level we were in in the lobby.
- 06.33.07 And uh, and they were, the person telling me was in a panic. So I figured something pretty bad was up. So I ran around the corner with them, and saw that the uh, the hoistway doors were open, revealing the shaft, and uh, the elevator car itself had stopped too high for them to exit the car.
- 06.33.28 And in fact, it was only showing about 2 feet of the car. And you could see about 8 people's legs in there. And the hole was too small for anybody to try and slide out of, and the elevator pit was on fire with jet fuel. And so they were getting cooked in the elevator, and smoked and everything. There was a big, big fire and uh, they were all screaming, and their hands were coming out, they were trying to figure out a way to get out.
- 06.33.58 And these people were probably dying in there, you know. And uh, so I yelled to the Port Authority people to get fire extinguishers, and I told them to get as many fire extinguishers as you can. Just go and start rounding them up, bring them over here, and we'll you know, try and hold the fire, put the fire out and whatever we can do to try and give us some time to get

those people out. And uh, they started bringing over extinguishers, and some of them worked and some of them didn't. and uh, uh.

06.34.33 A fireman or two came over and I was just, I remember just yelling for extinguishers, we call them cans. So I was telling the firemen, get cans, get cans. And I turned around uh, to look to see if anybody else could help to try and get some ideas of what to do. And I came face to face with a fireman named Mike Lynch, who I used to work with. Young young, very competent fireman. I used to work with him in Times Square.

06.35.00 And it was a feeling of complete relief for me to see him, because I knew that Mike, I knew I could leave Mike in charge of the situation. And know that it was gonna get taken care of. I have tremendous respect for him, I had. And uh, so I said, I said, Mike, you got this, right? And he said, Timmy, I got it. And I left that situation with confidence knowing that, that Michael would take care of it uh, with the other firemen that were there, and that they would save these people.

06.35.36 So went back to the command post, which was being set up, a few more chiefs had arrived, some fire companies had arrived. And at this point we heard a uh, a report on my radio that another plane was incoming to attack us. In the end, it turns out that plane is the one that crashed in Pennsylvania.

06.35.58 But because it had turned back north and east, we thought it was coming toward New York. So I went to the Port Authority command station, and tried to find a phone that works. communications were very difficult uh, throughout this whole operation. I finally found a phone that had a dial tone. And I called (LAUGHS) called the operator and asked the operator to connect me to the White House.

06.36.27 Uh, and explained to her what was going on and uh, I don't know who she is, uh, but she was wonderful. And I told her that we were under a terrorist attack and I needed to talk to the White House to make sure that we got uh, air cover. And she did not, I mean, can you imagine getting that phone call? And she was another true American, because she tried so desperately to help me.

06.37.07 She could not get through because of the things that were going on there. Uh, their phones were just overwhelmed. She tried to hard to get me through to someone down there. And could never do it. And I think she felt horrible about it. And so I finally asked her to put me through to the uh, state of New York, SEMO, which is a state emergency management office.

JW: Did she say anything in particular that made you feel that way?

06.37.39 TIM BROWN: Uh, well she told me that she knew Washington was under attack also, which I didn't know. I found that out from her. And apparently they had been getting a volume of phone calls similar to mine of people trying to get through to federal agencies, trying to get help.

06.38.00 Uh, so I was not the first one that uh, for her first exposure to this. But I remember many different ways that she tried. I remember she tried many different ways to get me through, many different offices in the White House or I actually asked her to try and get FEMA and she couldn't get them. And we finally, she finally wound up getting me through to Albany to state's emergency management.

06.38.29 And that conversation was like 3 seconds because I didn't want to tie them up. I just basically said to them, air cover for New York, and they said, we already requested it, and I said that's all I needed to know was that uh, you know, it was in the system and that we had indeed requested it. Uh, and went back to the command post. I told people to be prepared, told everyone to be prepared to be hit again. I mean, what do you do? There's uh, there's not a lot we can do.

06.39.00 We have to continue to try and save lives. And uh, I mean, this attack was so massive that you just have to put your fate in the hands of God, I think and hope, you know, hope you live and if you don't hope you lived your life right, you know? Uh, I don't think I really was afraid at this point. I think I was more afraid for other people than for myself.

JW: Who?

06.39.40 TIM BROWN: Everybody else. You know, everybody uh, mostly I guess civilians, 'cos that's why we're there. You know, our job is to protect them and save them and if we don't do our best at that then we have failed.

06.39.59 If we do our best, then we've done the best we can do, you know? Uh, if we die in the process, I mean, I have seen many, many people die before this, many firemen I worked with. And uh, sometimes you can save people and sometimes you can't, but you want to

walk away knowing that you did everything you could, including giving your life if you have to. Uh, and I think, think there are a lot of firemen and police officers that live their life like that.

- 06.40.30 They're willing to lay down their life to save others, you know, especially children and, you know, innocent people. We've kind of chosen this life, I think, so. Uh, I've always felt, I've always kind of lived on the edge a little bit and I felt that if it's my time, then it's my time.
- 06.40.57 And maybe that's a reason I never got married and maybe that's the reason I don't have kids, because I wouldn't want to expose them what some of these families and children have to go through now. Uh, but I went back to the command post and at this point we heard from firemen coming in that there are firemen had already been killed outside on the street. Uh, someone had jumped out one of the upper floors and landed on him.
- 06.41.29 A guy from 216 Engine. Uh, so now we knew that now things were really starting to get bad, or worse. And uh, and we were just trying to maintain the rescue effort and do the best we could to protect the firemen and the civilians, to get the help we needed.
- 06.42.00 Uh, a lot of people started coming down in the lobby now who were injured. Uh, bloody, with cuts, broken legs or arms, burned. Things like that. So people were starting to come down from the upper 40's and 50's. 'Cos that's where the people would have been injured from the impact of the plane. And uh, they, the injured people were starting to fill up the lobby and we didn't have any EMS folks with us.
- 06.42.35 And the firemen were busy uh, going upstairs. Doing their job. Some of the cops were going upstairs and uh, to help. But we didn't have any EMS. So I said to Chief Burns and Chief Fanning uh, that I would go find the EMS and bring them into the lobby to help start cleaning the lobby out. So that the fire department could operate uh, without the interference of that, and get the people somewhere where they were safer.
- 06.43.04 And uh, things in the lobby were crashing down. It was also the structure of Number 2 had already been compromised. So uh, you know, things were falling off the wall and crashing down. All signs that the building was in trouble uh, structurally. And.

JW: Is anybody saying that at that point?

- 06.43.28 TIM BROWN: Well, I think, I don't remember anyone saying that uh. I was not monitoring the fire department as closely. That was in my back pocket uh, 'cos I had to listen to the OEM radio. Nobody was really saying it on the OEM radio at this point. I think the fire department was aware that that was a possibility. Uh, we certainly knew enough and know enough about building collapses to recognize that as signs that that this could be trouble.
- 06.44.01 Uh, but even so, uh, it's a very difficult decision for anyone to make to leave victims on their own and to walk away from it, and that's never been the tradition of the New York City fire department. We've always put ourselves in harm's way, and sometimes that's what you need to do. You need to take a calculated risk, and just hope that things work out.
- 06.44.28 Unfortunately, this time uh, things did not work out well at all. Uh, so I told Chief Burns and Chief Fanning that I'd be uh, running outside trying to find an EMS. And I exited out onto Liberty Street. Uh, knowing that stuff was crashing to the ground and saying, I'm pretty fast on my feet, and I am just gonna run as fast as I can uh, to another area of refuge and see if I can find an EMS.
- 06.45.09 So I went onto Liberty Street and things were crashing down and it was a war zone. It was fires all over the place. Other buildings were on fire. And uh, when I came out I looked to my left, and I saw Ladder 4, which is the ladder truck who Mike Lynch, who I told you about before, was driving.
- 06.45.32 And I used to be in that company and Mike was at the rig and he was trying to get the hurst tool off the rig, and the motor's very heavy. It's hard for one person to handle. And he saw me, and he yelled to me, Timmy, he said, give me a hand. So I started running toward Mike. And before I got to him, uh, another fireman had run over to him to help him. And so I yelled to Mike you got it? And he said, I got it, I'm OK.
- 06.46.00 And so I continued on my uh, mission and that was the last time I saw Mike. He died down there. And fortunately I was able to tell his family uh, what he was doing and uh, the last minutes of his life. And that he was saving people. That I had actually seen him doing that. I feel in my heart that he had enough time to bring that elevator car down low enough to get those people out.
- 06.46.36 And I am confident that Mike died heroically. And in the best traditions of the New York City fire department. Uh, saving people's lives, which is what we do.

- 06.47.00 It's a hard thing to tell a family. It's a good thing, but it's hard to do. I was glad I was able to do it, but whew. Uh, so I continued on my mission, running over the debris and stuff. And I got underneath the south walkway that went across West Street, and I found a group of EMS people there that were staging their uh, their like command post.
- 06.47.31 And I saw my friend uh, saw my friend, Charlie there. Charlie Wells, a captain and a EMS, who I had gone to Oklahoma City with uh, years ago when they bombed that building. We were friends and I said to Charlie, I said, Charlie we need help inside. There's injured people laying all over the lobby. We need you guys to help evacuate them. And I guess I didn't realize at the time what I was asking them to do.
- 06.48.03 They realized it, and uh, you know, I was really asking them to go to their death. And uh, he said, sure, Tim. Let me get a couple of paramedics to put their helmets on and we'll follow you over there. So I waited a minute, they got all together, so myself and Charlie and two paramedics with their stretcher and their box.
- 06.48.33 Then back to the corner of West and Liberty, and on that corner, that was the uh, southwest corner of the uh, hotel. Marriott Hotel. (STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

06.49.00 END OF TAPE # TB 06, 2 of 3

TAPE # TB 07, 3 of 3

06.30.02

TIM BROWN

JIM WHITAKER, DIRECTOR

PROJECT REBIRTH

07.01.02 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: You were in transition?

- 07.02.31 TIM BROWN: Right, we were going yeah, this is where it really starts uh, getting hairy, if not that it wasn't hairy already. We ran from the walkway to the corner West and Liberty. And that was the southwest corner of the hotel, the uh, Marriott Hotel.
- 07.03.03 And in that corner on the lobby level was the restaurant, Tall Ships. I remember we, firemen are taught when you're in a collapse situation you either run very close to the building or you get as far away as you can. And you run, you stay, try and stay at the corners of the building never on the face. Because it usually collapses towards one of its faces.
- 07.03.29 So I figure we'll stay as tight to the building as we can and run alongside of the building and things that are falling and collapsing will fall and collapse out away from us. Uh, and it gives us a better chance of survival and not being hit by something. So as we ran by uh, along the sidewalk of Liberty street, we stayed very close to the side of the hotel. And we ran by the entrance to the Tall Ships restaurant, and I remember very vividly the doors were open and there were people inside.
- 07.04.00 There was, you go in and there's some stairs that go up and the restaurant is there. And that, it was very clear in my mind uh, for some reason. We ran alongside of the building, and as you get to the rear side of the Marriott the sidewalk opens up and the Tower 2 is right there behind the Marriott, along Liberty Street side. Just as we started rounding the corner to run toward the lobby of 2 World Trade Center, we heard it.
- 07.04.34 And there has been, there has never been anything more clear to me in my life than what that was. I knew instantly that the building was collapsing. The sound was deafening, and it was progressive. You could actually hear each floor collapse.
- 07.05.02 I spun on my heel so fast, and as I ran by Charlie and the other guys, I yelled to them to follow me. And we ran back, I knew exactly where I was going, and we ran back to the lobby of that hotel of the entrance to the Tall Ships restaurant, and dove in there.
- 07.05.28 Charlie and one of the paramedics, or EMT's followed me, and the other guy went back uh, to where we came from. And all four of us lived. Uh, as I ran into the lobby of the Tall Ships restaurant, it was crystal clear again, just as fast as I ran in, it went pitch black in an instant. The noise just kept getting louder and louder.
- 07.06.03 I knew what was happening. I was at this point pretty scared. It went pitch black, the wind picked up in my face about 35 miles an hour, I'm guessing. And everything that wasn't

nailed down was flying at me. You couldn't see anything, you couldn't hear anything. And everything was in your face, all this dust.

- 07.06.32 And so I turned around because I was getting hit in the face with stuff, and I turned around and dropped to my knees, and started going, trying to go back the way I came in. trying to escape and I realized I can't go out here because all this steel is crashing in the street, I'll be killed out there. But I can't go forward any more 'cos apparently it's collapsing in front of me. And I said, well, the best thing for me to do is just to try and grab a, find a steel column and try and grab it and just hold on and stay in as close to it as I can.
- 07.07.06 And I guess at this point, I thought that uh, my chances of survival were pretty slim. I found a column and wrapped my arms around it, and uh, I had my helmet on and I had my radio in my hand. There wasn't really time to do anything. There wasn't time to scream for help on the radio, there're wasn't time for you know, uh, anything, really, other than just to hold on and hope.
- 07.07.37 And this wind just picked up to 70 miles an hour, 100 miles an hour, I don't know. Tremendous wind. And uh, the noise was just unbearable. And uh, the helmet blew off my head, and I said, well, great, now I can't even, even if a brick falls I'm in trouble.
- 07.08.05 So I was just uh, waiting to get crushed. And uh, kind of had given up 'cos there was nothing else I can do. And I thought those two thoughts. I thought if I get out of this, I'm gonna quit my job, and I just was very sad that I couldn't hold my brother one more time.
- 07.08.27 And I thought this took like 40 seconds, but people told me, tell me it took 8 seconds for the building to collapse. And when Two collapsed, it leaned over and crushed the hotel I was in. Uh, pretty extensively. And uh, the section that I was in uh, didn't get crushed. One small part. Uh, the collapse stopped.
- 07.08.59 The wind stopped, the noise stopped, and uh, you couldn't see anything. Uh, and it was just an eerie silence for a minute or two. Nobody was stirring, nobody was moving. I think everybody was just in shock. And you know, I think everybody was trying to move their parts to see if they still worked, everybody that could.
- 07.09.29 And uh, I started crawling toward what I thought was the entrance where I had come in. And I came across a truck with its headlights on, to this day I don't know what that truck was. Uh, I thought it was like uh, a box truck. Uh, I think if it was a fire truck I would have recognized it. But I did not recognize it as a fire truck.

- 07.09.58 But it was sitting there with, without the engine running, but the headlights were on. And I actually touched it. Uh, you had to be that close to know what it was 'cos of the dust in the air. And uh, first thought in my mind was that it was a truck bomb. Uh, and I turned around and just started yelling to people to run the other way. Uh, because I was afraid it was gonna blow up. And uh, I guess it was a vivid imagination, I don't know.
- 07.10.30 Uh, we all went back another way, and a girl said uh, that she knew another way out, so we followed her and we kind of started joining hands. And I followed her. And she took us to a roll-down gate that was down, a steel gate. And uh, we all reached underneath it, and I said, all right let's all lift. One, two three, and we lifted it a little bit, a few inches, and it was really eerie.
- 07.10.57 All these fingers came from the other side, 'cos there were people trapped on the other side. And they helped lift, and we helped lift and it came up uh, I don't know, a couple of feet. And someone behind me uh, yells that they found a way out. And so we all started going toward that voice. We joined hands again and we start all going towards that voice. And uh, as we got closer to uh, the outside uh, it was hard to tell what was inside, what was outside now, because everything was collapsed.
- 07.11.30 Uh, I could see a fireman across the rubble who had come in from the outside and was telling people to come his way. And so people started forming a chain over the rubble and the rubble was like 3 or 4 stories tall, so it wasn't like you were going over a little bit of rubble, you were really going over mounds of steel and glass and all kinds of stuff. And uh, and so I was in that flight mode, I think, and I just wanted to get as far away as I could.
- 07.12.03 And so I just ran across the rubble and got to the uh, around the Winter Garden Theater, went inside the buildings there uh, World Financial Center, and tried to get through some glass doors, which were locked. And it was thick glass. I tried to throw a chair and it didn't break, it wouldn't break. And the thing that got me out of that zone I was in was uh, my boss, Calvin uh, calling for help on the radio, 'cos he was trapped.
- 07.12.35 And that kind of brought me back to reality. And so I went back down to the street, to West Street to try and uh, I was talking with him on the radio trying to find out where he was. And uh, he was a very weak voice. I really thought that uh, thought he was dying. And uh, I uh, moved north toward where I thought he was, and eventually got up to, back to Visi Street on West side and I saw uh, my friend, John's dad, Commissioner Fian.

- 07.13.09 And he shook my hand and told me be careful. And uh, he wound up dying in the second collapse. And uh, I got up, I found Calvin, and a fireman had rescued him. And uh, he was completely covered in dust.
- 07.13.30 And so I just gave him a hug, I was happy that he was a live, and EMS was with him, they had oxygen in his mouth, on his face. And then his boss, John Odomatt, came right after me, and we made sure Calvin was in good hands, which he was. And then John said to me, Timmy, come on, we have to reestablish city government. Which in that situation is a pretty focused thing to be able to say that.
- 07.13.58 And to be able to realize that that is what we need to do. And that's really our job to do that. So we started moving north, and uh, and things were just crazy at this point. We knew we had lost a lot of people.

JW: What were you seeing?

- 07.14.16 TIM BROWN: Well, there actually, as I remember it now, there were, it was (LAUGHS) a lot quieter than we would have liked it to be at this point.
- 07.14.29 Because we had uh, lost a lot of firemen, a lot of cops. And I think, I know, that everybody was in pure shock at what had just happened. And everybody knew that so many people had been killed. Some people were still running.
- 07.15.01 People were walking around in dazes. Uh, I guess people were in different stages of shock, but pretty much people were trying to help each other, and everybody was trying to move north 'cos, you know, I think everybody on the outside of the building knew if that went down, the next one's gonna come down.

JW: Do you think that?

- 07.15.26 TIM BROWN: I guess, uh, yeah, I guess I did. I guess uh, I don't know if I actually actively thought about it, but I knew that that possibility was there, and uh, I think we just didn't know what was gonna happen. We didn't know if they were gonna start setting off bombs, we don't know we didn't, I mean, we didn't know if another bomb went off or not. I

mean, we just, we didn't know what was happening, you know? Uh, we didn't know if another plane had come in, we didn't know if, we were under attack, it was a war.

07.16.02 And we really had nothing to fight back with, and we had no one to fight, you know. We didn't know there was just no enemy to go up against. Uh, we're fighting a losing battle. And uh, so we moved north. Uh, the dust was starting to lighten up a little bit I guess. We were trying to figure out if all our people from OEM were still alive.

07.16.33 Uh, I remember getting on my cell phone, trying to call my brother, to let him know I was alive. And uh, and because the tower had been attacked, it had all the antennas on it, uh, none of the cell phones worked. So we kept moving north.

JW: What were you thinking at that point, regarding your brother?

07.17.53 TIM BROWN: (CLEARS THROAT) I was, I knew that he knew that I was there. I knew that he was uh, in a very bad position emotionally. Not knowing if I was alive or dead. A position which I would never want to be in myself, nor would I want uh, anyone to be in that position.

07.17.37 To not know whether someone you love so much was still with you or not. And that was a position that a lot of people found themselves in, in the days after the 11th. Hoping that their people were still alive.

07.18.58 Not knowing uh, you know, still having some hope. You know, what a horrible thing to have to do. And uh, I just knew I just had to get word out to someone in my family, which was him. He is the one, so that he could let other people know. All I had to do is make one phone call and let him know.

07.18.32 So I was running north and I heard people behind me start screaming, and I just looked over my shoulder and saw the top of Number One lean over and then disappear with the antenna and everything. And I knew Terry was in there. And I knew a lot of people were in there.

07.18.59 And all I could do was continue running to try and live, again. You know. Not knowing how far the building would fall, 'cos it was 110 stories tall. Uh, and as I was running, trying to stay out of the next cloud of dust and debris, I looked down a side street and saw some people running to, into uh, a building.

07.19.31 And I said, well, maybe they have a phone, and so I ran down and got in there to an office, and I was covered. And uh, I told the people there that, that I needed to let my brother know that I was alive. And one of the girls hung up the phone and gave it to me. And I was able to get him. And we still have that phone call on his, on my brother's Sprint bill. Uh, And I was, uh, 9:41 exactly when I called. So it was like an hour into it.

JW: And you reached him?

07.20.14 TIM BROWN: I reached him and told him, and said I was alive and that I loved him and uh, that I was gonna, that I had to keep working, and that I would call him again when I could.

07.20.30 And so he reached out to the rest of my family, and uh, and to my friends. Uh, we kept moving north and we got word from the mayor that we were going to meet him up at the fire house at 6th Avenue and Hausen street, and that would be where we would meet in secret, in case they were trying to attack him, or my bosses.

07.21.04 And I got up there and I walked in the door. And the first face I saw was Beth. And she was crying. And she looked at me through her tears and said to me, tell me he's alive.

07.21.33 And uh, I couldn't, 'cos I knew. And I hugged her, and held her and uh, that was all I could do. And we both knew.

07.21.57 And uh, that's, that's it. I can't, can't keep going now. So, I mean, that was like the collapse thing, so.

JW: I understand.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

07.23.10 TIM BROWN: People react uh, differently to days like this. It's uh, Tanya's anniversary today with Sergio. And uh, it's Beth's birthday. Tanya's uh, Tanya's birthday was last week.

07.23.30 And, you know, we had planned to do some good things, you know, that day. And uh, and she just couldn't uh, couldn't get out of the house. I was gonna take her to somewhere nice

for lunch and then go take her to Avon so she could get a massage. And, and uh, try and pamper her a little bit, you know? And uh, she just couldn't get going.

07.23.59 So I had to get on the train and go out to her house, and drag her out. And she just would have stayed home all day, you know? But it's hard. We have uh, Sergio's birthday July 4 coming up and uh, then we have the September 11th is coming up, anniversary, one year, so. It's not going well for some people.

07.24.31 And uh, Beth said to me the other day, and we're gonna go out alone tonight 'cos we need to be alone, sometimes, to talk about this stuff. And we haven't been able to talk about things, really, since it happened. Uh, so the other day she said to me when we were alone. Uh, I told her I thought that she was doing uh, a little bit better.

07.25.03 Uh, on a day to day, functioning thing. And she said, uh, she said, no, Tim, I'm not. I'm not doing better. She said, people keep telling me that things will get better with time, and it's not getting better. It's still as hard as it was that day.

07.25.30 And uh, I don't know how to fix it for her. I want to. Uh, I guess I can just be her friend, you know? And love her. And be able to talk to her, you know?

JW: For her or for Terry?

TIM BROWN: For Terry dad.

JW: For Terry dad.

07.26.13 TIM BROWN: Uh, for both, I guess, you know? Uh, certainly I know that any one of these 93 guys I knew would have done the same thing for me.

07.26.33 My brother would have had 93 more brothers. His kid would have had 93 uncles. Uh, and they never would have uh, never would have left him for the rest of his life. Never would have left my brother's kids, never would have left my family.

07.27.01 Uh, and I will never leave Beth. I will never leave Tanya or Steven or Marisol. Or Delia. Or Terry's dad, Terry's mom, his sister. Uh, it's life is different now.

- 07.27.40 I uh, have uh, new families. And maybe that's why I didn't die down there, you know? To be able to help them and try and look out the best I can and help them figure it out, you know?
- 07.28.06 And they're just as good for me as I am for them. I mean, they really have been my life since then. They're my main focus.
- JW: Do you believe in Fate?
- 07.28.23 TIM BROWN: Sure. Uh, Tanya said to me a little while back that she uh, goes to channelers and things like that, believes that she's been able to communicate with Sergio. And she said to me that she thinks, I don't necessarily disagree with it, that all of these heroes had agreed, all their souls had agreed when they were born to live the lives they lived.
- 07.29.00 And they had agreed to give up their lives and leave their physical bodies to protect our way of life and to protect those that they loved. And to protect our freedom. And uh, then they had agreed that that's how they would do it and that's when they did it. Uh, I don't know.
- 07.29.30 That's a big debate. But I don't necessarily disagree with that. I think that people like Sergio and Terry and Patrick and Mike and Donny and Ray and Chris, and it goes on and on, Jerry. Uh, they all did something for us that maybe bigger than we even realize now.
- 07.30.04 And we may not realize it for the rest of our lives, but I think over history we will see uh, what they did for us just as raising the flag in Iwo Jima, what a symbol that is of our freedom and our democracy in the way we live.
- 07.30.30 The firemen that raised that flag down there uh, were a symbol of something very similar and it was a symbol of uh, these American heroes that have given their lives to protect us. And these guys were just as much soldiers to protect our way of life as anyone has ever been.
- 07.31.07 Uh, it's hard when it's your friends that did that. I'm very proud of them. Uh, I don't know that a lot of people realize the gravity of what happened. I think it's something that will be told over time, historically. Uh, by our children's children.
- 07.31.29 Uh, that's why I think the documentary work is very important right now. There have been some other documentaries that I think were excellent, very difficult to watch for us now. But over time, I think uh, we'll portray what really happened. And uh, how important things that happened that day are to this country. Uh.

JW: Do you think uh, Fate is involved (?)

- 07.32.17 TIM BROWN: I think, yeah, I think Fate uh, my whole life has been Fate. Uh, I firmly believe that. I believe that although I think I control my plan for my life, I really don't. you know?
- 07.32.34 You can fight it or go with it. Uh, my life, my nap for my life was a map that was made a long time ago. And uh, my life has been good. I feel uh, fulfilled in my life, I feel I've done good things here.
- 07.32.57 Uh, and a quote I heard uh, or read somewhere was it's not important what you do with your life. It's important how your life affects others, and how you uh, leave the things that you leave after you leave, that affect other people's lives and you know, the uh, community you're in.
- 07.33.29 Uh, that's what's important and that's that is what lasts. So my fate, although I didn't realize it, was, is to go to Washington and work on maybe uh, uh, different scale, something uh, hopefully I can help the country. Uh, we can uh, share experiences with uh, the whole country instead of just New York City.
- 07.34.05 We can make things better or we can enable the Federal government as well as local governments all over the country to benefit from what we've learned. Uh, we can prepare for uh, a future attack uh, the best way that we can. I mean, nobody has the experience New York City has, and that was true before September 11th, and it's certainly true after September 11th.
- 07.34.35 Uh, and I hope to be able to share that uh, in I think it is Fate that I wind up with my brother. Uh, he always wanted to be uh, a, he always wanted to work for the federal government. And uh, I always had an interest, probably not as strong as him, but uh, I think it's the right thing to do for both of us.
- 07.35.02 And I think we can be helpful. Uh, I would like to be able to affect uh, people's lives in a positive way.

JW: Do you ever wonder uh, fatalistic, why you weren't part of that?

- 07.35.26 TIM BROWN: Uh, sure. Every day. I mean, it's something I guess, I don't think I have the answer to. Uh, and maybe one day if I make it that far, I'll be an old man, sitting on the porch with my brother, smoking a pipe. And talking about things like this and looking back over our lives. Uh, and maybe I will understand it a little better and maybe I won't.
- 07.35.58 It seems that later on in life we seem to get clarity. Uh, and we get wiser, I hope (LAUGHS). Uh, and I look forward to that day of having clarity and trying to understand why things happened the way they did. Uh, I hope that I am here, still, to do great things for the city and for the country.
- 07.36.29 And for my family and for all the families of all my friends died. Uh, and to help put down evil. Uh, you know, they murdered my friends. They attacked our way of life. They attacked our Constitution. Uh, they attacked everything that this country is about, and it's not just capitalism.
- 07.37.02 I mean, they killed a lot of people that were completely innocent. That were hard working people, that weren't rich that weren't greedy. Just regular people. They killed Arabs. They killed Israelis. They killed blacks and whites and Jews and Christians and everything. I mean, uh, they try and justify this uh, to promote their way of life or something.
- 07.37.33 Uh, I don't understand, but uh, we're supposed to love each other, that's what God says. And I don't know what religion they're uh, fighting for, or they claim to be fighting for. Uh, but they're, they killed the biggest melting pot in the world of people, of good people. And uh, (STOPS)

JW: Are you angry?

- 07.38.05 TIM BROWN: I'm very angry. I have, I have a uh, photograph that Tanya gave me, of a bunker buster bomb that was dropped on uh, the Taliban and al Qaida in one of the caves. And before the soldiers dropped it, they wrote, this one's for Sergio.
- 07.38.31 And uh, I'm honored to have a photo of that before it was dropped. Although we sometimes hurt innocent people I think that our president and our military try very hard to attack uh, with precision and go after the enemy directly. And they try not to hurt innocent people.
- 07.39.04 Uh, if we don't do this, then we might as well just uh, live in a dictatorship. We need to reach out, we need to find where they hide, the cowards they are. And we need to kill them.

And we cannot stop doing it until we get them, because they will be here, they will be blowing us up, they will be spreading disease.

07.39.33 They'll be attacking us with dirty bombs, nuclear bombs. Uh, then we have let it go much too long, and we cannot stop with al-Qaida and the Taliban, we have to go over, we have to go after other terrorists. And we have to go after Iraq. Maybe we have to go after Saudi Arabia. Maybe we have to go after Iran.

07.39.57 You know, I don't know all the inside details, but uh, the line is drawn. And they picked on the wrong person, the wrong country. And I am proud of our president and our government. I think maybe we should have done this a little sooner and maybe this uh, wouldn't have happened. Uh, I think we need to do a better job uh, with intelligence.

07.40.27 Uh, we're very good at intercepting uh, electronic messages, but we're not very good at interpreting them quickly. If we uh, can get on top of that and start interpreting the language a little quicker, we'll be able to prevent these things from happening, 'cos we generally know about them before they happen, and unfortunately we don't translate until a few days after it happens, and that is not helpful to us, so I hope we do a better job of that. And I want to try and help do that. I want to help fix things.

JW: In DC?

TIM BROWN: In D.C.

JW: Do you think we'll be attacked again?

07.41.12 TIM BROWN: Uh, I do. I don't know when. Uh, I know that we're, the people that I know that are in the government uh, they know more than we do uh, are very concerned for this uh, this week coming up, July 4th.

07.41.29 Apparently there is some intelligence out there that they would like to attack us on our country's birthday. Very symbolic. Uh, I know that uh, many agencies will be on high alert. Uh, I don't know that it'll happen this soon. I know in my mind the bombing, the first bombing of the World Trade Center and the September 11th attack were many years apart, so it might be many years before this, something like this happens again.

- 07.42.05 Uh, I think that we have successfully disrupted their network uh, the terrorist network. Uh, both financially and uh, physically. And uh, I think that we have sent them into turmoil. So maybe something won't happen this soon.
- 07.42.30 Uh, but it may. I mean, there, I'm sure there are these sleeper cells all over the country, and what's ironic, we're sitting in uh, 210 East 42nd Street in Manhattan. Which is 42nd St. between 1st and 2nd Avenue. And the people that planned the attack on the World Trade Center, al-Qaida, planned it in a hotel 3 blocks over. In the Grand Hyatt, in the bar.
- 07.43.02 They were planning this right under our noses, in the city that they were going to attack. And uh, you know, we didn't figure that out until afterwards. So they're around us, make no mistake. They're here and uh, in an open society, an open free society, it's very hard to accuse people because of their religion or their race.
- 07.43.28 Uh, we need to do a better job of focusing and we need to maybe loosen up the reins on the FBI, so that they can uh, go after them on their turf, you know? Which may mean mosques and things like that. I know that civil libertarians are uh, have a difficult time with that. Uh, we have to trust that our government will not overstep their bounds.
- 07.43.58 And we'll be focusing on the task at hand. And if they get out of hand, they need to be punished for it. But we need, we need to do this, we need to find out before more good Americans die. Uh, more civilians, more firemen. And more soldiers. Uh.

JW: Are you nervous about going to DC?

- 07.44.28 TIM BROWN: Uh, (LAUGHS) someone said to me, you're going from the frying pan into the fire. And you could say that either way. People moving from DC to here, or here to DC. Uh, it could go you know, I think both places are very dangerous uh, for someone in my line of work. I don't think they're dangerous to live so much. I think the attacks, I hope the attacks will be very local. Uh, and confined to an area. Uh, sure, I'm nervous, but I've never uh, been one to shy away from danger.
- 07.45.04 Uh, sometimes I think I seek it out a little bit. Uh, and if I'm gonna die, I'm gonna die standing. Uh, just like my brother said to me, I'm not gonna live on my knees for anybody. I am defiant of it, and if I have the chance to punch somebody in the nose before they kill me, I'll punch them in the nose. Uh, this country means too much.

JW: And your brother will be there?

- 07.45.42 TIM BROWN: My brother's gonna come down also, I hope. We're gonna finish up uh, he's gonna finish up some interviews this week and uh, looks like things are on track. And uh, he'll be doing the things somewhat similar to what I'm doing. Uh, he has more of a hazardous materials background than I do, so his expertise falls a little more in that area.
- 07.46.05 Uh, I'm more of an agency coordinator. Uh, uh, and a communication among agency guy. Uh, I think he'll be more focused in the hazardous materials stuff. The uh, chemical attack and bio attack stuff, and uh, and it's a great opportunity for him.
- 07.46.30 It's something he always wanted to do was work for the federal government. And uh, we'll live together. And uh, it's uh, it'll be two good, young patriotic men who uh, who want to do the right thing for the country for the right reasons. And uh, and I'm excited about that.
- 07.46.57 And if it means uh, losing him or him losing me in the process, or both of us uh, then I think that uh, we're both willing to do that. But this is war, you know? When a soldier gets in a plane or the helicopter and goes in behind enemy lines, these guys uh, these special operations guys that are over in Afghanistan and Pakistan you know, they're getting in a helicopter knowing that their facing their mortality and, and uh, I'm not on the front line like they are.
- 07.47.34 In a sense, I am uh, and I will be going into harm's way when we figure it out. I'll be on a plane, I think, pretty often. Uh, trying to help coordinate agencies at the scene of an attack, and bring in experts from all over the country to help. Uh, I choose to do that standing than uh, hiding in my apartment, on my knees, waiting for someone to tell me what to do.

JW: One final question. Think you'll get married/

- 07.48.13 TIM BROWN: Do I think I'll get married? Uh, I don't know. I would love to be married, but uh, I don't know if that's in the cards for me. Uh, and the marriage thing is not as important to me.
- 07.48.30 That's symbolic more than having a very good uh, female friend that I can share my life with. That's more important. You know, the marriage thing is, is just a symbol to me. And

if I can be near someone that loves me as much as I love them and we get along and we're committed to each other, that's fine by me. To have kids, uh, I don't think that's in my cards right now.

07.48.58 You know, I love my brother's kids and uh, and that's my focus. Uh, children uh, little Terry will always be my focus. And uh, I would like to spend some time fighting for the country, too, so. Uh, we'll see. I'll let you know in a few years (LAUGHS).

JW: Thank you.

TIM BROWN: Thank you. We could uh, we could talk for a long time.

JW: You can talk some more if you want.

TIM BROWN: I need to go see Beth, so. I do want to talk more, but.

JW: Well, we will.

07.49.49 TIM BROWN: Yeah, but I need to go see Beth and uh, spend some of her birthday with her. Take her flowers, give her a hug. Have dinner with her and her family.

07.50.08 I'm gonna miss New York. A lot. This is home, you know? And uh, I'll miss my friends here. But uh, I made Washington promise that I can come back up once a month, so.

07.50.27 I get on the train or plane and come back up and spend a few days with those I love and uh, we'll see. It's uh, next few years will be as much a surprise for me as it will be for you, so, you know. You guys are great. Everybody. And uh, I believe in what you're doing, I believe it's a great thing. And everybody's been uh, very nice to me.

07.51.00 And uh, I wish you luck. I think you're doing a great thing. (-JW-) This is very historical and uh, I really believe uh, in a project like this, to tell the story in 50 years or a hundred years, about what happened here, so. Thank you for putting it together.

JW: Yeah, thank you for participating, it was wonderful to uh, you know, hear about (?)

07.51.29 TIM BROWN: It's uh, it's been a life, that's for sure. It hasn't been dull (LAUGHS). I actually asked a girl to marry me and she said no, so. That was, that was the end of that. I don't know if I'll ever do that again, you know? So that, that was a tough one to swallow. Uh, so. But you never know.

07.51.52 END OF TAPE # TB-07, 3 of 3

