01.01.09  PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.01.34  TIM BROWN :  Welcome to Rhode Island.

01.07.08  TIM BROWN :  (MID-STATEMENT) We do snowboard, the four of us, myself, Chris and, and Mitchell and Taylor. And next spring is the uh, is the surfing uh, trial. So we’ll see how that goes. They surf here in Rhode Island, believe it or not. (~JW~) Yeah, yeah, most, a lot of people wear uh, you know, the, the wetsuits and all that, but they’re out there.

01.07.31  Quite, quite a lot of them.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW :  How are your brothers?

01.08.06  TIM BROWN :  My, my brother’s kids are, are great. Uh, (?) Mitch is 16. He’s uh, a lifeguard here in Rhode Island at the beaches, and uh, it’s just amazing to watch him. He’s a young man now, and uh, it was amazing to see his transition from his real adolescence into being a responsible young man.

01.08.30  And you know, you still see glimmers of uh, irresponsibility and, and we get on it, you know, with him and he is uh, he’s embarrassed about it, you know, when, when you call him on things. And he corrects it right away. He’s a great, great young man. He’s, we, we could put him right out into the world right now and he could do it on his own. And uh, we’re both very proud of him. He’s uh, gonna go out to the Air Force Academy next month and take a look at the campus.
01.09.02 He wants to fly jets, so. He uh, (~JW~) I think it’s great. You know, he’s uh, he’s a smart, smart guy and uh, you know, it’s dangerous but, but look what we do. It’s what we did, what I did and what my brother still does is dangerous, so, and we understand his, his want to do that. And his uh, his love for it. His dad is very proud of him.

01.09.30 Uh, Taylor uh, is 13, going on 18 or 20. and uh, the, the boys are uh, very noticeable of her uh, uh, noticing her a lot now. Uh, she’s a beautiful young woman. Uh, has a bit of a wild streak in her that Mitch did not have. Uh, so we’re trying to uh, keep her close now. Uh, (~JW~)

01.10.00 Yeah, it’s a little rough. You know, we’re trying to teach her with uh, responsibility comes freedom, and when you’re not responsible uh, the freedom gets taken away from you. And so, you know, we’re trying to on a, be consistent with that in teaching her that uh, if she’s a good girl, she gets to do the things she likes to do. If she’s not a good girl, then she does not get to do that. Uh, we, we (LAUGHS) you know, uh, she was spending four days with mom and four days with dad, and you know, there, they are separated, so.

01.10.34 Uh, uh, Mom couldn’t control her. You know, she was climbing out her window at night and uh, you know, she’s 13. And uh, so her mom (~ovlp~)

JW : (?)

01.10.47 TIM BROWN : (~JW~) Exactly. You know, I see my brother out there with a screw gun screwing the windows closed (LAUGHS). No, but uh, she wound up coming to just stay with my brother full time for about 6 weeks, so that we could uh, you know, tighten the leash up a little bit and uh, uh, it’s, it’s what she needed.

01.11.04 She got happier uh, you know, she, she needed an adult parent in her life that was going to pay attention to her. And uh, and give her discipline. And, and we did that, and (STUMBLE) it was difficult 'cos my brother works uh, nights, so. You know, we, we rearranged our lives a bit uh, so that we could make sure that either myself or Chris was with her 24 hours a day.

01.11.30 And uh, and she uh, responded very well to that. And so now I think, and, and I’m sure you know, there are things that we don't know that she’s up to, but I think pretty much we got a handle on things, and uh, she’s back in school, so things are a little more structured for her. She had too much freedom, too much time. Uh, so we canceled (?) our trip to England and
we cancelled our trip to uh, New Orleans. I mean, it all happened at once and you know, you just have to uh, you know, she’s most important, so.

JW : It’s hard to because you value your time with your brother (~ovlp~)

(SIMULTANEOUS CONVERSATION)

JW : Did that affect your retirement plans? It must have been hard to turn it down?

01.12.26 TIM BROWN : Right, the uh, the England trip was a hard one to say no to. That was uh, the fire department soccer team, which I’d been traveling with for 20 years. And, and it’s one, it’s maybe the my most favorite thing about being a fireman for 28 years in New York was playing soccer with (STUMBLE) a group of New York City firemen that, that were great guys. Uh, you know, traveling all over the world with them uh, you know, Sergio, of course, and uh, they, they’re just a wonderful group and my brother never uh, got that camaraderie uh, that I had, that I was lucky to have.

01.13.03 And so I wanted to include him in the uh, England trip with, with the boys. And uh, we wound up having to back out. But you know, uh, this year, I mean, we can never predict what happens, but this year was uh, had to be about Taylor. And if uh, if you know, we have to give that up this year, then that’s just the way it is, and uh, it’s funny how things work out. I just spoke with the coach of the team yesterday. My good friend, Joe. And uh, they’re going back to England next year.

01.13.34 And so you know, maybe next year we’ll be able to go uh, and hang with it, you know, the team if (?) my brother would love it and he, he deserves it. He never had that. Uh, that male bonding thing, I think. So you know, it’ll be fun to have him along and, and to do it with him. So you know, maybe we’ll do it next year. You know, it’s ok.

JW : How did yesterday, September 11, go for you?

01.14.01 TIM BROWN : I, I think uh, I think I avoided it a little bit. Uh, uh, Friday I, I was in New York for the last five or six days and uh, on Friday uh, we got awards uh, from OEM uh,
Emergency Management from the mayor’s office. Uh, they’re called them Service Recognition Awards. And they were uh, for the people who worked September 11th and the, and the aftermath.

The OEM employees who worked that. Uh, and when I had arrived in New York this past Monday uh, there was an invitation in my mailbox in New York. So I didn't know the ceremony was going on until I got there. Uh, and so I went through quite a lot of emotion uh, about whether I was gonna go back to OEM or not. I haven’t been back since I left uh, in like about 2 ½ years. And (STOPS)

JW : You haven’t gone back physically to the office space?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : And you didn't get the letter?

TIM BROWN : (MID-STATEMENT) you know, they didn't have my forwarding address. Uh, first of all, I’m even surprised they even sent me a letter. Uh, uh, and I’m happy they did. They, they did the right, the right thing, and I wasn’t sure that they would with me. Uh, the, there are some very hard feelings there for me, you know? Uh, but I got the letter and I, I went back and forth. Uh, I’d been waffling on everything in the last couple of weeks. And it (?) it’s not helpful to other people that count on me uh, and count on my (?) schedule, especially my brother uh, and I had gone back and forth.

And uh, I, I finally figured uh, my brother had mentioned to me that when he returned to Providence uh, they gave awards, the Providence Fire Department gave awards to people that had worked uh, after 9/11 down at the World Trade Center, and they did not give him anything. And he, he was there the longest. He worked, as far as I’m concerned, he worked the hardest out of anyone by far. Most of the other people who were down there for 2, 3 days he was down there for 4 months.

And because of the politics in Rhode Island, uh, in the Providence Fire Department, they didn't give him anything. And so you know, that’s (STUTTER) a big slap in the face for him, you know? And so I, I thought about it and I called my friend, Mike Berkowitz at
OEM, and I said I will come to this awards presentation, but uh, you know, only if you guys give something to my brother. And uh, you know, Mike is a little bit down the food chain, so he had to run it up to Calvin, who’s the person that I uh, battled with a little bit at the end.

01.17.04 And uh, you know, I had to swallow my pride. Uh, I had to be uh, the bigger man and uh, you know, put my anger in a place that you know, it didn't, it didn't belong there. Three, it’s three years later and you know, I, I know, I’ve learned what I’ve learned about people. And uh, you know, about, about Calvin.

01.17.31 And you know what, even, even though I don't agree and I’m angry with him about some things that happened, he’s still basically a pretty good person. Uh, and so I (?) put that away and uh, the deal was that I had to call Calvin and talk to him about it, and uh, I did. We played phone tag, I called him. And uh, he, he was very happy to hear from me. At least on the surface. I mean, you never know what’s going on underneath.

01.18.01 But uh, he uh, explained to me that he would be honored to give my brother uh, the same awards that he was giving everyone. Uh, but he couldn’t do it in public because then everybody that wore an OEM hat during that time, which was probably a thousand people, would say where’s my award? And so you know, that’s understandable. And so we, we went, Chris came down at the last minute, this was Thursday that we decided that he was gonna come and that we were gonna go to it.

01.18.28 And on, on Friday we showed up at OEM and (?) uh, I think sometimes the anger or the hurt that you experience far overshadows all the good things. Uh, we kind of forget about the good things, and I saw on Friday that there were so, there are so many people there that, that love me, and that I love, besides the, the difficult uh, relationships. There are so many more people that are there, that we, that I went through some very hard times with.

01.19.03 And for that uh, my relationship with Calvin aside, just to see my good friends there that I, I you know, we were buried by the collapse together. And, and you know, I thought they were dead and they thought I was dead, and, and uh, to reconnect with them was pretty powerful. And things with uh, Calvin went fine. We went through the awards ceremony.

01.19.29 And uh, uh, as soon as it was over, Calvin went up to his office, got certificate and a pen and came back down and, and personally gave it to my brother, and shook his hand and said thank you. So, for me, that moment was a moment of reconciliation. Uh, and, and of, of
moving on. I mean, it really was an example of uh, I don't know, of bonding and, and uh, the, the.

01.20.08 I saw a lot about what’s important. And uh, being angry with people is, is not important. I mean, when, these, these are good people, you know, and I think they think the same of me. We, we may disagree and things didn't work, but uh, you know, there, there’s a lot to be said for forgiving people.

01.20.31 And what an empowering thing it was for me to be able to uh, forgive Calvin. And, and they said forgive, don't forget, you know? Uh, but it, it was extremely powerful for me and it’s a lesson for me now with other bosses that I’ve struggled with. Uh, you know, I can be angry for a while but then I have to let that go. And, and be uh, you know, be the bigger person and step up and, and uh, and love people.

01.21.05 I mean, we, we went through no matter what happens with me and Calvin, we went through some tremendous stuff together. And uh, you know, he didn't like the way (STUMBLE) I operated, I didn't like the way he operated, doesn’t matter, we still went through that together. And uh, and you know, I still love him. My brother would kill me if he heard me say that, but. You know, I do. And uh, the same with Jerry and the governor and all, all those folks, you know, uh, it’s.

01.21.33 At some point I have to reach out to these people. 'Cos it just, it’s, it’s destructive emotion. And uh, it’s uh, I mean, this is all stuff that I just learned in the last two days uh, about myself, so. Uh. (~I~)

JW :  Tell me about that.

01.21.56 TIM BROWN :  Uh, (?) it’s uh, it just takes way too much energy to uh, harbor anger. Uh, and I mean, sadness is sadness, that’s kind of different, I think. And that won’t go away. That’s always gonna be there.

JW :  Are they connected?

01.22.19 TIM BROWN :  Yeah, I think they are. I mean, they’re separate emotions, but I think they go along with uh, for, for, for me a lot of it is the rejection that’s hard for me to take.
01.22.29  Uh, and I would imagine that you know, that goes back to my childhood and all that uh, being one of five kids, you know, you get lost in the shuffle sometimes. So (LAUGHS) So, so (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.22.54  TIM BROWN : The dog’s got a seat, but you’re in the glove compartment yeah (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.23.09  TIM BROWN : Yeah, well, the, the, the rejection thing. And I, I’m still trying to learn about myself. I, I seek uh, approval from my bosses. It’s a pattern I have, and when, when I don’t get that approval, uh, I, I get very hurt. And (?) I get sad and I get angry.

01.23.29  I, I think, you know, in this uh, situation with my bosses, sadness and anger come together. Uh, they’re linked. Uh, uh. (~JW~) And I’m just uh, you know, I’m certainly uh, the sadness isn’t gonna go away ever, I don't think. Uh, it’s, it’s always gonna be there. And it’s just uh, a heavy heart.

01.24.00  The anger is something that we need uh, that I need to deal with better. And I think doing this, handling it the way I handled it this week, which was kind of by mistake uh, you know, I didn't consciously handle it this way. But I learned a valuable lesson, that I, I’ve freed myself of that bad emotion. Uh, and it’s, it’s empowering to do that, you know?

01.24.32  And so that’s a little, little model that I have, and I’m (?) going to use it again, you know? Uh.

JW : It’s interesting how it worked out getting the note so late. You might have thought about it a lot more, but you also made choices with Calvin to talk to him and get what you needed from him. What is the history?

01.25.18  TIM BROWN : (MID-STATEMENT) I mean, the, the, when, when the, the collapse occurred, there, there are a few things that stick in my mind. When, when the first building collapsed, and I was uh, trapped in the (?) lobby of the hotel.
01.25.35 You know, my, my first emotion was to save my ass, you know, and that’s you know, that’s just a natural human instinct. The thing that snapped me out of it and brought me back to Earth, kind of, knowing that I was still alive was Calvin screaming for help on the radio. Uh, which I heard, (?) I got focused on trying to find him and get him out of the rubble. But by the time I got to him, so, the firemen had already uh, uh, gotten him out, and uh.

01.26.08 You know, my big boss, John, and I got to Calvin at the same time and saw that he was Ok, and John grabbed me. Uh, a short time after that the second building came down, and a little bit after that uh, I saw Calvin, and after the second building came down I told him that Terry hadn’t, my, my friend, who Calvin also knew through me uh, that I knew he was dead.

01.26.30 I mean, I knew he was in that tower. I had seen him. And uh, and when I told Calvin that, now this is my best friend. And I’m, I told Calvin and as soon as I said it to him, his (?) legs went out from under him and he collapsed. And so I, I picked him up and, and held him and, and tried to get him through. It’s (?) a hard thing. I mean, you know, I, I did 20 years in the fire department, and you see some bad shit and maybe, maybe you get used to it, you know? Uh, or you’re (?) better able to deal with it, and I, I think that Calvin never saw that kind of tragedy before. Uh, and, and so it was very hard for him. And he, he just uh, fell apart, emotionally.

JW : Was he working in more of a desk position?

01.27.24 TIM BROWN : (MID-STATEMENT) he was my boss and he was the director of operations, so he was out in the uh, out in the field. You know, and I, I was really his supporter, because I was the experienced guy and, and he counted on me for a lot of advice uh, out in the field and relationships that I had. You know, like Terry, you know. Uh, Terry was a very respected guy in New York City in both police and fire departments. And Calvin latched onto that and would always count on Terry for advice and things. So you know, Calvin was trying to learn, and I appreciate that.

01.27.58 Uh, but a little while later uh, up at uh, uh, up at the fire house up on 6th Avenue that day, he collapsed again. And this time we put him in an ambulance and sent him to the hospital because we thought he was having a heart attack. And uh, excuse me (?) then about a week
later or, or no, I don’t even think it was a week. It was 3 or 4 days, uh, it was, it was like the 13\textsuperscript{th} or 14\textsuperscript{th}.

01.28.33 And uh, we were running the forward command post. And it was madness, madness. We were, we were doing 18, 20-hour days each, you know, he, he wasn’t going home. I wasn’t going home. We’d go grab cat naps here and there. And uh, and one day he just came in and uh, he had, he had sunglasses on and he was uh, just a zombie.

01.29.00 And so I looked at him, I, I made him take his sunglasses off, and he had that 20-mile stare. And I, I just said, you know what, this guy is not even on this planet. He, he is completely gone. And so we, we took him out. We uh, we sent him home and he went home for a few days. And, and I tried to carry the ball. Through, through all that. And uh, you know, we’re just, I’m just making it up as I go because it was me and him and that was it. Everybody else was uh, slammed with their own work and we, we had tremendous responsibilities.

01.29.32 So fast-forward now 'til April, the following April. And Calvin uh, got, got promoted from Car 3 to Car 2 in the agency. And that left his spot open. And I was the natural pick, I was the supervisor and that was my (?) next logical step and he would not, he would not put me there. And uh, you know, you could make up a hundred reasons why. I don't know why, but uh, in my mind uh, I, I pulled his ass out of it around September 11\textsuperscript{th}.

01.30.04 I supported him, I kept him, I kept him in his job. I kept him able to do his job, but then he would not return that to me in the end. And uh, you know, that (?) was tremendously hurtful. Uh, and made me very angry and, and I saw it coming so I had set up, actually my brother had set up a, the job in Washington for me with Jerry.

01.30.28 And uh, so in the end, you know, my opinion is, Calvin fucked me. And uh, you know, that’s (?) a very hard thing, especially at that time, uh, in all those emotions and uh, you know, so it (?) was time for me to get out. I, I was supporting him and the agency, but they weren’t supporting me and uh, it was just time for me to go away.

01.30.57 So that, that left me very, very angry and, and I had not spoken with Calvin in the two years (~I~) since then.

JW : Was it ever acknowledged by him?
TIM BROWN: (MID-STATEMENT) I, I grabbed him and said, you know, let’s go, we got to talk. And uh, you know, I, I had all my ducks in a row. I, I had the other job lined up and I, I had, that was my safety net. Uh, because I was gonna confront him with it. And uh, and, and so I did.

We went into uh, (?) a little conference room and we sat down and we had it out. And uh, I told him, you know, I told him what I thought, he told me what he thought, and I said, you know what? I’ll see you later. And, and I walked out the door. And, and that was it, you know? Uh, it’s not, I’m not uh, uh, I wasn’t gonna play his game. And uh, let him hold that power over me uh, and in the end uh, he wound up trying to do both jobs.

He didn't want to let go of the operational side of things. And so he did both jobs for like uh, six months. And of course ran himself into the ground uh, instead of letting go of it and letting, letting someone else do it. And you know, letting them make their mistakes and grow into the job and things like that. He tried to do it all himself. And uh, you know, you know, I hear what other people say about how that went uh, but uh, and, and they’d been through a couple of people in that position now. So my, (?) thought is that uh, I mean, at least in my little fantasy, he probably regrets uh, not putting me there.

Uh, they’ve been through a few people and it hasn’t worked out uh, you know for them and uh.

JW : What was his reason at the time?

TIM BROWN: His reason was, I, I had said to him once uh, that I needed more help uh, because he kept, he kept loading the work on, loading the work on and loading the work on. I didn’t have a secretary, didn't have, I (?) although I was supervising 12 or 14 people uh, they really reported, we all reported to him. It was all about Calvin, and so when I tried to give work to people and all that stuff, I would always have to approve it through him.

And you know, it was a big control thing. And uh, and so I was overwhelmed with, with some of the work and uh, sometimes I think he set me up for it. You know, I don't know how smart he is, but you know, maybe he set me up uh, to, to take that fall.

But I had said to him once, that I needed help, like I needed a secretary, I just needed someone who could write letters for me and type and, and organize things. And uh, he, he
would never gave me that. And uh, in the end he, that’s exactly what he said back to me, he said, well, you can’t handle the workload. And so he turned my being honest with him and uh, looking for him to teach me, and to help me, and uh, which he didn't do either and, and then he turned it around and, and used that my words against me, so.

01.34.05 Uh, so that was his excuse. I, I think there’s more to it uh, underneath uh, the, the his boss, that, the commissioner of the agency uh, was a police officer, and I don't think he wanted a fireman uh, in that powerful of a position. Uh, it’s still a battle over there between police and fire.

01.34.28 Over control and uh, uh, so you know, I, I think politically I just was never gonna get that job and Calvin had to make something up. And uh.

JW : How much do you think that day and the emotions contributes to the anger of that situation?

01.34.07 TIM BROWN : Yeah, well, I mean, uh, when (?) you lose so many people uh, that, that are uh, they’re my friends, but to me it’s more than that. They’re public safety people and, and I’m, I’m from the uh, fire department, but I have no less love and respect for the Port Authority police officers, the NYPD officers.

01.35.32 Uh, and, and the other public safety folks that, that died there. Uh, you know, we, we get, the public safety in general gets a short end of the stick. And uh, I, I think that society uh, takes advantage of the good nature a little bit. Maybe not takes, that might be too strong.

01.35.58 Uh, they, I, I think society takes them for granted sometimes uh, especially political society. The, you know, the people that hold the purse strings. Uh, I mean, Mayor Blumberg closed 7 or 8 firehouses after 9-11. I mean, what, what is that? Uh, I, I just, I, I cannot believe it. I cannot believe he would, he would do it, and I, I can’t believe that the city let him get away with it.

01.36.29 Uh, you know.

JW : What for you?
TIM BROWN: I, I feel very strongly about how I feel. Uh, I, I’ve been in the trenches, I’ve, I’ve lost people in 9-11, I’ve lost people before 9-11. Uh, firemen are out there every day and I, I guess I feel that I want to protect them.

Uh, and, and the way to protect them is uh, is political. Uh, I mean, there are many ways to do it, but the, the people that make the decisions are the political people. The uh, you know, Congress, president, the mayor of the city and, and those are all, those are all political positions that have tremendous power over the public safety folks.

And, and we need to do a better job of, of uh, of supporting them. We need to do a better job of uh, leading them. And uh, it’s, it’s a goal of mine uh, I don't know if it’ll work out, but it’s a goal of mine to be able to do that, to, to lead them with uh, some experience and lead them with uh, compassion.

And give them the tools they need. Uh, uh, so for me, getting into this political world, it’s difficult because I have a big mouth and uh, and I’m very honest, brutally honest. And people don't want to hear it. You know? Uh, and, and I get myself in trouble. Because I, I say, I’ll call a spade a spade, and when you do that with politically powerful people, they tend to want to bury you and make you go away because you’re upsetting their, their applecart.

Uh, so now, now is my time to step back a little bit and uh, learn, reflect uh, have control of my own business. Uh, make enough money where I don't need to uh, uh, be beholden to these folks. And uh, one day, live to fight again, I guess is where I’m at right now.

And uh, doing productive things, but you know, I, I would think that at some point I’m gonna want to get back in it and, and uh, fight again, fight for the right thing, you know? Fight for the, for the good people and uh, uh, and support them and (?) help them be able to do their job.

JW: Are you idealistic? Is it hard?

TIM BROWN: Yeah, that’s, it’s, it’s not, sometimes I wonder if it’s realistic, but I, I’m not gonna let go of it, you know? Uh, you know, I, I guess back, I get knocked back to uh, reality sometimes, and uh, that’s hard, but. I am, I am motivated from deep within and uh, I, I like to think I have good character. And that’s something that you don't uh, that’s
something that doesn’t go away, either you are or you aren’t mature, or it’s just the way you’re, you’re bred.

01.40.10 And uh, you know, I’ll (?) lay back for a few years here, and watch how things work out in, in the country uh, and in the city. And I’ll spend time with my brother, certain, my family. But uh, at some point, I think we’re gonna want to get back in it and uh, fight for the right thing.

01.40.32 And fight for the ideal. You know, you may never, maybe I’m setting myself up for failure uh, for the rest of my life. I don't know. But uh, if, if I’m not out there fighting for the ideal, we’re never even gonna get close to it, so. Yeah, (?) I mean, I’m, I’m learning. I’m learning a lot.

JW : What emotion is behind what you are learning? What was the power of getting the award?

01.41.24 TIM BROWN : The (?) getting the award for me was tremendously uh, redeeming. Uh, it was someone that actually said thank you to me. That I mean, they, they should have said thank you to all of us uh, a while ago. Uh. And I don't feel they did. I feel it was actually kind of the opposite, you know, they kind of booted me out the door. And that, that’s how I feel. It didn't actually happen that way, but that’s how I feel.

01.41.59 Or maybe it did happen that way, I don't know. Uh. It’s hard, I mean, the (?) defeats kept coming for me after September 11th, you know, it, it was uh, (?) losing all my friends. Uh, losing a lot of my, my stuff. Personally, I mean, my helmet. My, my helmet that I wore for 15 years in, in the South Bronx. You know, that’s, that’s my badge of honor, kind of, and, and that, I lost that in the collapse.

01.42.31 So I, I lost a lot of things. I lost my Bosha CD’s. I mean, you don't realize this stuff until just now. Just like a few weeks ago I realized what happened to all my CD’s? And they were in the trunk of my car, which got buried and burned. And so you know, you don't, all, all these little things that as, as time goes by you say oh, I. What happened to that? And (?) I guess it must have you know, I guess I must have lost it in the collapse or in the building or in the car or somewhere.

01.42.59 So trying to reconnect with some of those things uh.
JW: Do those things come up often?

01.43.06 TIM BROWN: I think they’re starting to come up a little more now. That, some, something’s changing in my life. I’m starting to remember things. I’m starting to uh, be able to uh, connect to things and, and really start thinking about that for the first time. You know, really start thinking about my office and starting to deal with those emotions. (?) they’ve always been kind of closed up, I think.

01.43.32 And, and now uh, it’s starting to bubble up. And I, I think that’s a sign of, of healing. Uh, for me. I think my, my retirement on July 12th this year uh, gave me uh, I feel like it gave me permission to start dealing with a lot of stuff.

01.44.00 And to start doing things on my own terms. I always felt like that uh, 20-year date and my, getting my pension was held over my head. And that there were still people that had the power over me, you might get your pension, you might not get your pension. You might still live in Rhode Island near your brother, you might not. Uh, and so I felt like I had to be a good boy. Uh, and after July 12th, now I really feel like I have the freedom to say and do and be who I want.

01.44.34 Uh, I’m not (?) sure I’m gonna ever want to give that up again. You know, I don't want people to have that power over, over me in my life. Uh, and hence, our own business uh, where it’s our, our baby. And it’s our rules, and I don't ask, have to ask permission from anyone to do things the way that I or my brother, and my brother think we should be doing things.

01.45.00 Uh, and so that kind of flies in the face of getting into politics, because you know, you always have a boss there. Uh, (LAUGHS). So uh, I don’t know, it’s a lot of emotions. I, I, I’m, I've been running for three years. My soul’s been in turmoil and uh, I’ve turned down several very good job offers uh, where I would make quite, quite a bit of money, more money than I’ve ever made in my life.

01.45.29 And uh, I would have to move. Connecticut, Washington, New York, and I’m, I’m just not doing it. I’m staying here. I’m planting my feet. I want to be here near my brother, and, and my nephew and niece, and my family in Connecticut’s only an hour and uh, that, this, this is, I’m going to plant myself for six years. And, and we’ll see. I mean, that’s the plan. Uh, and
if I can do things from here, I’ll do them from here, you know, with government, but I’m not, I’m doing it on my terms.

01.46.01 (?) I have my pension and no, now nobody can take that from me. And uh, yeah.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.46.14 END OF TAPE # 1 of 4

TAPE # TB-IV 9.12.04, 2 of 4
Tim Brown
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

02.01.05 PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : You said your soul has been in turmoil?

02.01.29 TIM BROWN : I, I, I mean, I have moved (LAUGHS) physically moved uh, one, two, three times in three years. Uh, and the, the moves have not been uh, successful. Uh, in a lot of ways. I mean, anytime you move you need to build another life. You need to find your favorite restaurant, you need to find your favorite place to get your tea in the morning. You need, you know, you need to make new friends, and uh, when all of that is unsuccessful in your moves uh, it, it just, it rocks your world. And I (?) I just want people to stop rocking my world. You know, I’m uh, it, I kind of feel like I want to wear a hat that says leave me alone for, for awhile and uh, you know, stop, stop trying to meddle in my life, just leave me alone and let me be Tim for awhile.

02.01.59

02.02.33 Uh, and so now I am, my goal was to be near my brother, and, and that’s where I am now. And uh, I’m (?) I feel like I’m a little defiant, standing there with my arms crossed, looking

02.02.59 Uh, you know, I’m just, I’m here and (?) if you want me that badly, then either I can work from here, or it’s not happening. And uh, so that’s, that’s where I’m at right now and I’m, I’m just saying no to a lot people. Uh, and I'm saying yes to my brother and yes to our business, and uh, to my family. And you know, that’s, that’s really what we have, you know, unless people have experienced that uh, life and death moment and lived through it.

02.03.36 Uh, I’m not sure if you, if people in general appreciate your very basic needs as, as a person. And I, I’m very clear that my very basic need is to be near my brother. And, and my family. Uh, and I had that clarity you know, when, when I was trapped in the building.

02.03.58 And I don't take that lightly I take that very seriously. And I am determined to stay here and get out of turmoil and build my life, and, and get back to my roots. Uh.

JW : How is your soul?

02.04.23 TIM BROWN : It’s, it’s (LAUGHS). It’s getting better. I, I think uh, I mean, some big things have happened. You know, I retired uh, which was huge to me uh, I moved to Newport, which is a beautiful place to live. And uh, uh, (STOPS)

02.04.49 I, I moved to Newport, near my brother. Uh, I’m collecting my pension and we, we’re starting up our business. And, and that’s you know, I, I’m thinking that it’s starting to heal. I, I almost feel like I’m (?) jinxing myself by saying that. I've only been here since uh, since July, so you know, just a couple of months. So I think it needs more time uh, and I’m cautious that I (?) don't know what’s around the corner. Uh, so I, I think I’m setting myself up for my soul to settle down.

02.05.36 And I don't know what my future was. I mean, (?) every time I made a move, I thought I knew what my future was gonna be like. And it turned out not being that. So now, I’m scratching my head, saying I, I don’t know what my future is. Uh, I, I’m trying to plan it, but inevitably something comes around the corner and uh, and knocks that off track, so.

02.06.07 I mean, I just don't know. I, I’ve kind of uh, thrown my hands up in the air a little bit, and I’m just taking it as it comes. I’m uh, I’m sleeping a lot, and I, I don't understand that. I think it’s
just the emotions coming out. And, and the recovery. Uh, I have time now during the day uh, where I don't really have anything that I need to be doing.

02.06.38 So I think it forces you to kind of look at yourself and, and deal with things. So you know, if that’s what this year is, too, then, then I’m gonna go with it, and uh.

JW : How is that feeling right now, though?

02.06.55 TIM BROWN : Uh. It’s, it’s a little hard for me. I’m a hard charger, you know? And I, I feel uh, guilty about it a little bit. Uh, feel like I should be out there doing things. And uh, you know, people are telling me, especially my brother that you know, just forget that emotion because you need to just take a year off. And uh, and try and relax and enjoy yourself and recover and deal with things, you know?

02.07.28 Uh, and then one day we will fight again, but now is not the time. So I’ve, I’ve leaned on him an awful lot for uh, uh, giving me good advice uh, for, for Tim. He uh, I trust him more than anyone in the world uh, to, to tell me who I am and uh, that’s not right. To, to give me the very best advice that he could give Tim, to take care of Tim.

02.08.03 And uh, and I, I count oh him for it. Uh, (?) every day I do. And you know, he counts on me, too, but it’s, it’s, I’m, I’m very lucky to have that close of a relationship with someone. And I think a lot of people never have the opportunity to have that, and uh, every day that I’m alive I’m gonna cherish that relationship.

02.08.31 And, and that love that we have for each other, you know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : Some people associate sleeping a lot with depression?

02.08.48 TIM BROWN : Yeah, and, and I’m, I’m sure that’s you know, that’s it. Uh, and I, I’m not gonna be able to avoid it anymore. You know, it’s, it’s there, it’s always been there. Uh, you know, and I don't think it’s just 9-11. I think it’s more than that.

02.09.03 Certainly that’s the biggest uh, player in it. Uh, but there’s, there’s a lot of uh, a lot of grieving going on for me, you know. Besides my friends and, and watching Terry grow up
without a dad and watching my friends, Beth and Tania and, and Denise Lynch and all them
not having their, their partners and their loves.

02.09.29 Uh, from all that, to grieving the loss of the, of their careers, too. And the loss of moving.
Moving out of New York, moving out of Washington, moving out of Providence. The, the
people that know a lot more about it than I do say that every time, you move you have to go
through a grieving process of losing that home that you (?) were building. And, and so all,
all these things piling up, piling up, piling up, piling up. Uh, and I think now it’s just, I just
need to stop and deal with it.

02.10.04 Uh, for the next year, you know? And maybe that’s it, maybe the sleeping is a part of
dealing with all that, all of that loss uh, you know, that I’ve been going through.

JW : Is it like you’ve been searching for something?

02.10.22 TIM BROWN : Well, yeah, I’m sure, I mean, that’s, that’s kind of what our lives are, right?
Uh. Yeah. I, I don't know if I had to say what (?) you know, if you asked me the question
what are you searching for, I, I don't know if I could really specify it. I, I’m certainly
searching for you know, my relationship with, with my brother. Uh, (?) maybe I’m searching
for Tim, you know, and, and I’m not sure who Tim was.

02.10.58 Uh, that’s (?) good. Uh, I always knew who Tim was uh, through, through my career in the,
in the fire service. Uh, that (?) was easy, that’s what I wanted to do, that’s who I was, wanted
to be a fireman. And then after OEM and the mayor’s office uh, I think I got a little lost for a
while, 'cos the fire uh, (?) it wasn’t the fire, it wasn’t being a fireman anymore. It’s still the
fire service, but it wasn’t being a fireman anymore, it was trying to figure out how to help the
fire service and, and the good people, the, the first responders.

02.11.36 Uh, and I’m not sure how I’m going to be doing that now. I’m not you know, right now uh, I
think it’s got to be about uh, helping Tim. Uh, as much as that’s not really my uh,
personality. It’s time for me to do that for a short time, and (~JW~)

JW : What do you mean it’s not your personality? I can see from the outside looking in that
you’re a fireman, but also you’re a service person, a helper. What about your need for
approval – are people falling short for you?
02.12.36 TIM BROWN: Yeah, people, people are falling short. I mean, that’s uh, been, I’ve been uh, constantly disappointed and, you know, we, we can go back to these patterns. You, you should get paid to be a therapist because this is (LAUGHS) this is pretty good for me. No 'cos when I think back and, and my father disappointed me in, in his uh, in his parenting and in his uh, uh, (?) you know, he didn't deal with his shit.

02.13.09 And that is passed on into the next generation. And so now uh, being disappointed by my bosses, they’re (?) powerful male figures, so they’re kind of like father figures to me. And so now my father disappointed me, and Calvin disappointed me and Jerry disappointed me and now the governor disappointed me.

02.13.32 And, and so it’s, it’s this pattern that I’ve gotten myself into where I’m seeking approval from these male figures and they are constantly disappointing me. And Terry was that male figure to me that (?) never disappointed me. That, that always did the right thing uh, very smart guy, and a good man. And, and uh, you know, I lost that.

02.13.59 Patrick Brown was the same thing uh, another guy who was you know, although they were closer to my age, they, they were people I looked up to and (?) they were real good people and I, I lost that, you know? So you know, maybe, maybe I, I seek that a bit. You know? Uh, in a sick kind of way, I don't know. Uh. But yeah, I mean, they (STUTTER) I’ve been constantly disappointed. I, I don’t want to be disappointed anymore.

02.14.30 Uh, I don't uh, and now, you know, you think about it and I, one (?) day I want to go to work for some other people when they get in the positions that I think they’ll be in, but then uh, you know, now I’ve talked to my brother about this, are we setting ourselves up again to be disappointed again? You know, we put people up on a pedestal uh, and, and we have this ideal thing in our head where, wow, they’re gonna do great things and they’re gonna you know, it’s, it’s great, we finally have this person that’s the mayor or the governor or the president or a senator or you know, whatever.

02.15.07 And then they get into the position and, and two years later you’re scratching your head saying wait a second, I thought that we were gonna do this and this and this? And, and it doesn’t get done. And you get disappointed, so, you know, I, I don't know. We, we’ve talked about it, and we’ve talked about just completely staying out of the whole political world and doing our thing.
JW: Is that possible?

02.15.35 TIM BROWN: I, I suppose it’s possible, Jim. I, I uh, (~JW~)

JW: Can you imagine it?

02.15.41 TIM BROWN: I’m trying. It’s hard to do that. It’s, it’s hard to stay out of it. I mean, (?) even now with, with the hurricanes uh, bearing down on Florida. I talked with my friends in Washington, and, and they are uh, completely stretched thin uh, because uh, you know, this’ll be the third hurricane, Ivan coming in.

02.16.03 And, and they have shelters up all over the place, they have you know, HHS, they’re down there trying to help and, and they need, they need, HHS needs help. And I am so drawn to get back into that, and to get on a plane tomorrow and go (STUMBLE) down to Florida uh, and try and help the folks down there. I (?) know, I know how to do it. I mean, I know what to do. And I’m sitting here in Newport, and there are people that need help down there.

02.16.32 So that, that’s a hard thing for me to do, to stay here uh, and, and do the party today and then uh, fly to Milwaukee for the, for the business on Wednesday. Uh, you know, there’s a part of me that wants to just ditch all that and go get on a plane and go to Florida and, and help.

JW: What if you did that, would you be jumping back into that pattern? There’s a lot of emotion associated with it?

02.17.19 TIM BROWN: With getting back into it, or not getting back into it. It’s (?) both, it’s both ways. I mean, uh, I (?) think my position for right now, and this could change at any moment (LAUGHS) uh, my position right now is that I need to focus on the business.

02.17.33 I promised my brother, we’re investing a lot of our own money in it. Uh, and, and I believe in it, I believe we can make a very successful business out of it. And people are always going to need help. You know, there’s (STUTTER) always gonna be hurricanes, there’s always gonna be disasters, unfortunately, and there’ll probably even be more uh, terrorist
attacks here. Uh, so whether I help today and go get on a plane to Florida today, or I do it in a year, that is still going to be there.

Humankind is still gonna need help, so I need to put that desire away, I think, a little bit now, and uh, you know, do the business for now, and take of us. And I, I think if we can take care of us right now, helping people will, down the road will be easier, and getting back into that business I won’t be counting on people as much.

I’ll have my own safety net with, with the business.

JW : Is it hard for you to take care of yourself?

TIM BROWN : Uh. I, I mean, I do, I’m a survivor is yeah, it’s probably hard. You know, it’s probably uh, I’m (?) a pain in the ass to myself, man (LAUGHS). And you know, I’m (?). I mean, (?) my life is about helping others, even (?) in this life, even in the life where I draw back into my family and friends, it, it’s still about taking care of them. It’s about taking care of my nephew and my niece. And my brother and my family and you know, you know, my friends and uh, (?) even the business is, is about taking care of my brother. It’s (?) something that's very important to him and I mean, it’s important to me, too, but (?) I don't think on the scale that it’s important to him, so.

When, when he came down to uh, New York on September 13, 2001 and stayed for 4 months to take care of me and support me both personally and professionally, I mean, doesn’t that say something about, about him, you know? He gave up his life in Rhode Island, he gave up his, his kids, you know, his every day with his kids to come take care of me.

And I mean, wow. What, what, what a guy, you know? And now you know, now I have some freedom now that I’m retired, and, and you know what? It’s time to take care of him a little bit. He’s, he’s (?) a fireman, you know, he uh, he doesn’t complain. Puts his hands in his pockets, struggles.

Uh, and doesn’t ask for help. Ever. Uh, but you know, he needs help like the rest of us do, like I did. And it’s uh, it’s time for me to help him for a while, you know? And uh, everything else will need to be put on the backburner for now and uh, we’re gonna do it, we bought a hot tub a couple of weeks ago.
02.21.00 It’s (?) like uh, it’s a dream but you know, we, we sit in the hot tub on these beautiful cool nights here just Chris and I and we just talk for hours. And it’s so valuable for us to be able to have that time together. Uh, so, so you know, for, for right now uh, I’m still taking care of others.

02.21.32 And it’ll probably, I mean, that’ll probably be the way my life goes. It’s always been like that. And I enjoy it, you know? It’s uh, gives me satisfaction and, and uh, you know, if (STUTTER) I’m gonna pick anybody in the world to take care of (LAUGHS) my, my brother is, is number one, you know, and his kids. And my family. Uh.

JW : It’s a lot of responsibility, too, to look back at the folks you are taking care of today that were affected by 9-11?

02.22.15 TIM BROWN : Yeah. I mean, yesterday you know, was the 3-year anniversary and uh, Beth and Tania both called me. You know, they, they are the ones that lost uh, you know, their, their loved ones.

02.22.33 But you know, they, they call me up to see how I’m doing. You know, so that, to me, that’s uh, uh, it made me feel wonderful. Uh. And (STUTTER) you know, there are other folks that I’m trying to start to get back in touch with.

02.22.59 Uh, my friend, Mike Lynch’s wife, Denise, and her kids uh, Mike who I saw in Tower 2 before uh, before he was killed. And uh, so uh, you know, three years, I think I’m starting to be able to, I, I guess I have the time and the emotion to be able to reach out a little bit more now than I was before. Before (STUMBLE) I was really more focused on Beth and Tania, and uh, and, you know, I’m trying to bring in other people.

02.23.33 Chris Blackwell’s mom, who I had gotten in touch with over the last year. Uh, and trying to reach out to her and you know, just, just people that I can try and touch base with and say how you doing? Uh, and, and let them know how I’m doing, because I think that that’s uh, helpful to them to, to know that I, that I survived it and I’m doing Ok. You know, I think that’s helpful for them.

02.23.59 Uh, uh, yeah, I mean, that, that’s my life, Jim. I’m that, that’s gonna be my life forever. I mean, that’s, it’s, it’s uh, uh. I, I, I think as time goes on I’ll get in touch with more and more people. Uh, it’s just, it’s just my nature, I think that I, that I will do that. And uh, it’s, it’s
something I always wanted to do but I just, I’m running around like a knucklehead for, for these political people that could really care.

02.24.36 And uh, you know, it’s time to stop doing that running thing and start doing it Tim’s way more. And, and Tim’s way is to be around those people and talk with them, and to love them, you know?

JW : Is there any guilt here?

02.25.04 TIM BROWN : Oh, I’m sure. You know, I, I mean, I don't know, I haven’t, I don’t feel like I’ve identified that. In myself, but you know, that’s just the natural part of, of the process. And uh, that, I mean, there’s nothing I can do, I, I can’t bring them back. Uh.

02.25.28 I mean, I wish I could, but I can’t, what, what can I do? I can, I can try and love the people that, that are here and, and try and have some good memories and, and you know, try to remember some of the good times with them, and uh, you know, I, I uh. I don't know. It, it’s uh, I can do my best. I feel horribly guilty, you know? I wish, just like everybody else, I wish I could have stood there and held the towers up.

02.26.03 Uh. I’m, I’m here, they’re not, survivor’s guilt. I mean, it it’s uh, it’s, it’s the whole thing, you know? I don't, I don't understand it, I won’t understand it until, you know, maybe one day when, when I’m gone and some (STUMBLE) somehow it gets explained to me somewhere, I don’t know, I don't get it.

02.26.31 But I, I mean, my.

JW : Get it the guilt?

02.26.36 TIM BROWN : I don't get it, the whole thing. I don't get it why it happened. You know?

JW : Do you think about that a lot?

02.26.46 TIM BROWN : I, I think It's, I don't know if I think about it a lot. I think about it in, I think it’s always in the back of my mind. Uh, you know, that’s, that’s one of the things that Tania says, is, is why? You know, why did, why? You know, why did this happen?
02.27.05 And you know, that’s, that’s a question of the ages, why, why do we have war? Why do we have, you know, all these things, why do we have famine and, and all of that. I mean, there uh, there are, they’re questions we will never get the answer to, uh, you know, why? I don’t know why. And, and why, why our friends and why, why these good people, you know? But it, but it’s not just the World Trade Center, it was you know, why the good people in Oklahoma City?

02.27.34 Why the good people in you know, everywhere. I mean, terrorism is new to this country but it’s not, it’s not new to a lot of other countries. And, and they, they deal with it on a day-to-day basis. Why, why? Why are, I don't get it? You know? Uh. Uh, I mean, politically I’m, I’m you know, we, we haven’t been attacked since that happened.

02.28.01 And I, I must give that to uh, you know, the administration and, and Congress. You know, they, they passed the PATRIOT Act and uh, you know, although there’s a lot of (STUMBLE) controversy about it, they also uh, you know, they knocked down that wall between intelligence and law enforcement, and they allowed them to start talking to each other. And I, I really do think that we prevented uh, a lot of bad stuff from happening in our country by doing that.

02.28.32 Uh, you know, we’ve put a lot of people in jail. We’ve busted up the cells and, and we’ve gone after people uh, throughout the world. And unless we want to fight this war here, in Rhode Island and in New York and in LA and uh, in Boston, uh, we, we need to be out there uh, kicking ass.

02.28.58 And uh, and we, we’ve lost a lot of good men uh, we just, and women. We just passed the uh, the thousand uh, casualty mark in Iraq. And whether you (LAUGHS) are in support of what we did, of what the president did there or not, we still lost a thousand soldiers. Uh, a, a lot of soldiers that were wearing New York City Fire Department patches.

02.29.27 And you know, that, they are out there trying to do the right thing, trying to protect our country. From terrorism. Just like uh, in Afghanistan. Uh, and just like our law enforcement people here. And our, our firemen and hospitals and medics. I mean, everybody’s out there fighting for our way of life, for our freedom. Uh, and you know, I, I, people need to appreciate that, more than they do.

02.30.02 I think it’s, I think it’s better now than it was when I was a little younger, but I still think that you know, we’ve gone back to our lives. The flags have come down, you know? You know,
before it was every car had an American flag on it. Now it’s not the same, you know? You know, people don't have flags flying on their houses anymore. Uh, and I, I just don't want people to forget, and I don't want people to not appreciate the sacrifice that a lot of people are making every day.

02.30.36 Uh, I, I want to shout that from the mountaintops, you know?

JW : What about your retirement?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What about the day you retired and how you decided not to make a big thing. Was there anger involved, was there sadness?

02.33.00 TIM BROWN : Yeah, I think, I mean, I, I’m I was uh, that whole thing, I mean, I knew I was retiring. I, I had been looking forward to my 20-year anniversary uh, and, and just cutting that tie uh, for, for a while. I mean, certainly uh, right after 9-11. My (?) I wasn’t sure before then, and then after 9-11 I was sure that I wanted to uh, to move on, you know, that really uh, you know, my, my, my world ended that day.

02.33.33 Uh, my professional New York Fire Department world ended that day ’cos I lost so many people. So many friends, that I had wanted to do it with, and now that whole thing was, was gone. Uh.

JW : What about the disappointment of your friends dying and is that fair?

TIM BROWN : Yeah, I mean, I, I, that’s who (~JW~)

JW : You would have been retiring with that group?

02.34.12 TIM BROWN : Yeah, I mean, that, that, those were the people that, I mean, specifically, Terry. I mean, it was a group, but it was, Terry really was the leader of the group for, in
(STUTTER) my world he was the leader of the group. And we, we had great things planned, you know?

02.34.28 We uh, we were gonna do this stuff together and uh, although we were different people, our hearts were the same. And uh, and, and Terry didn't have anyone like me, and I didn't have anyone like him in, in our lives. Uh, professionally. And uh, you know, we, we were gonna do it, we were gonna do it together. We were on track, and uh, you know, he, you know, I, I lost him.

02.34.59 And, and then you know, there was a big emptiness there for me uh, that, that I didn't, I did not recover from. Uh, I didn't then and I don't know that I have now, even. You know, I feel a little bit like I’m out there on my own now. Uh, uh, it’s, it’s harder to do on your own. Uh, a lot harder to do on your own.

02.35.32 And you know, uh, you know, maybe this is something that may not be really put in perspective, that I can’t put into perspective right now. Maybe you know, a few years uh, I’ll be able to look back on it and understand it better, but I’m uh, you know I’m not (?) there was just nothing else for, for me there. Uh, anymore.

02.36.00 And I, I think for, for a lot of people in our group uh, you know, it just, it just ended. And uh, you know, it’s, it’s time to do, make a different life and to hang on to different things, I guess. Uh.

02.36.28 I mean, when, when you do things like, like Terry and I did together, that, that’s a bond that you will never find again. Uh, well, maybe never. It’s, it’s something that’s hard to let go of. Uh, and I, I can’t explain to anyone else the things that we did. You know?

JW : (?)

02.37.01 TIM BROWN : I, I mean, we, we went places where humans don't live. I mean, we, we went obviously he went to the, the ultimate one but, I mean, we, we went into fires. And it just, it’s just that simple, Jim. You know, we, this, this is the story of a fireman and a police officer uh, going into these dangerous situations. Uh, it’s, it’s like a police officer and, and their partner.

02.37.35 You know, we just lost two New York City police officers uh, on the 10th, the night of
the 10th. You don't go into situations like that with someone and come out of it alive without building uh, a very special bond with that person. Terry and I had that bond.

02.37.58 Uh, and we, we had that, when I was with him in Ladder 4, we went to uh, to a real, real bad fire. Uh, during, a daytime fire and it was in two buildings, and there were people trapped, and I mean, it, it was, we, we called it hats and horns. It, it was uh, just completely out of control. And, and, and just where the chief is standing in front of the building looking at you like help.

02.38.29 And uh, Terry had a reputation, tremendous reputation of being a great fire officer. Uh, and, and very brave. You know, so, sometimes uh, I’m more of the brave and not-so-smart guy? You know, sometimes I, I do things that uh, you know, uh, I get myself in trouble sometimes.

02.38.56 Terry was always a guy that was hard to keep up with 'cos he was that good, but he’s also very smart. Uh, very rare to find all of that in one person. And you know, we went to this fire and the, the chief was like (?) uh-oh. And you know, we, we went upstairs uh, and searched one of the two buildings.

02.39.30 And I remember we wound up on the top floor of that building, and this, this place was an inferno. And uh, but we knew people were in there. And uh, we got a lot of people out. And we went to the top floor and the, the fire was coming out of the peephole of the front door of this apartment like a blowtorch. And you know, there, there were firemen in trouble, there were firemen trapped, there were, I mean, it was just a bad, bad fire.

02.39.58 And the, the best way to help people that are in trouble, firemen and civilians, is to put the fire out. And we, I mean, opening, this door was glowing red. And uh, you know, Terry and I knew each other, and you know, (STUMBLE) that’s a guy you go anywhere with. You trust him. And, and he the same with me. And we got that door forced open and started, the fire came roaring out over our heads.

02.40.31 And we hunkered down with the hose, and Terry was just screaming you know, move in. And uh, you know, we were three or four back on the hose and people just started bailing out. Uh, and it was, it was a difficult turn. You had to go in and make a left and then make a right for the main hallway where the fire was, but it was coming around the corner, so the, the water couldn’t get it. We were hitting a wall with the water.

02.41.59 And so everybody’s getting burned and uh, and I mean, the firemen were getting burned. And we, we weren’t gonna give up. And so it wound up being me and Terry alone on the line
together. And we, we made the turn. I had the nozzle, he was backing me up, and he just screaming encouragement. I mean, we were in hell. And he’s screaming in my ear through his mask, you know, let’s go, brother, you got it, you got it, move in, move in, you got it, let’s go.

02.41.32 And that right there describes our relationship. That (?) that we could do that together and, and that I knew he was there for me, and he knew I was there for him. Uh, I, I guess that, that moment right there describes it, you know?

02.41.58 And uh, you know, and I lost that. Uh, you know, a lot of people lost that, but I, I lost Terry. And uh, it’s hard to find a person like that. Uh, and then once you build a relationship with that person, and then you lose them, that’s, that’s hard.

02.42.35 Uh, he, he was a guy that was always there for me. And that always had his arm on my shoulder. And encouraged me and supported me and uh, you know, he, he really meant it. From his heart.

02.43.03 So you know, when, when you lose that, that’s, that’s uh, formidable. It’s a formidable opponent to, to survive without that. And uh, and that, and that’s Terry you know, and Patr5ick was the same way. Uh, you know, always there. Always there. Twenty-four hours a day.

02.43.39 And uh, and I mean, that described their relationship, too, because I mean, when Terry was uh, yelling for help in the tower, you know, I, I know people that saw Patty going up the stairs when everybody else was leaving. But Patty knew that uh, Terry was up there, and Terry was in trouble.

02.44.03 And uh, Patty knew, Patty knew where he was going up and probably never coming down. But he didn't care. Terry was his friend. It’s still there (?). It’s you know, when, it’s (?) like the rug was taken out, and uh, you know that’s uh, that’s hard to bounce back from, you know?

02.44.41 Uh, so we’ll see, you know, we’ll build it up again and you know, we go back to our roots. Uh, here with my brother and uh, see if we can figure that out, you know?

02.44.59 Got a phone call from my new friend, Gonzo (LAUGHS) who is still a fireman down in Three Truck and he’s a good man. And uh, and he was, Patty was his captain, and Gonzo and I uh, took our friend, Jerry’s body up to uh, Boston uh, after Jerry died in 9-11 and, and they found his body and it was a whole story, but.
You know, I, I didn't really know Gonzo before then, but he wanted, I mean, he's a big, big guy, that’s why they call him Gonzo, he’s huge. And uh, you know, he’s, he’s uh, he’s a New York fireman. I mean, he’s a tough guy. And to see him uh, reduced to, to tears the way I saw him and uh, asking for help, you know, he needed help.

I, I helped him and you know, that, that was one of those uh, it kind of reminds, that’s one of those things where you, you, you see the character of a person. Uh, and, and Gonzo is that character, like Patty and Terry were. Uh.

And to go through that, I mean, to go through that whole sequence of events with him that, that we did uh, in doing the right thing uh, it’s kind of like being with Terry on the fire floor. Or, or what Patty did in the tower. Uh, that shows you the character of a person. Uh, and those people are, are defiant.

You know? Uh, I, I value those friendships.

JW : Have you been looking for (?)

TIM BROWN : I, I guess, you know, we always look, you know, I, I guess we’re always in search of that, sure. I mean, that there’s something, you know, there’s, there’s more to it that just us. Uh. And I (?) think people get so caught up that they forget. You know?

Or they don't have it in them, or you know, whatever it is. But there, there are just some people that are, that have that in them. They have that goodness in them. And uh, in my, uh. It’s like uh, it’s intestinal fortitude. It’s, it’s depth of character.

Uh, where people stand up for the right thing. And they (?) want to do the right thing, and they fight for the right thing. And they fight for that ideal world. I, I admire people like that a lot, and I, and I like to count them as my friends. Uh.

And, and you know, maybe you don't see that uh, you don't see whether someone has that or not until you’re in the situation. And you see whether they sink or swim. And in (?) a lot of you know, my bosses sank as far as I’m concerned. Uh. And so the, there, there's the rub.

I mean, there’s the problem. Uh, I cannot work for someone I don't respect. And, and I don’t want to be around people I don't respect. I mean, and it’s uh, I’m learning. I’m learning.
(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.49.22 END OF TAPE # 2 of 4, T Brown

TAPE # TB-IV 09.12.04, 3 of 4
Tim Brown
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

03.00.01 PICTURE UP

03.01.10 TIM BROWN : I forget how much I miss Terry. Uh, Terry was such a big thing for me.
03.01.35 I, I admired him so much. And uh. (PAUSE) Yeah.
03.02.00 It wasn’t supposed to happen this way, you know? And uh, it, it doesn’t uh, you know, I
guess uh, it doesn’t get easier. Uh, I think I don't think about it as much, you know? But it
doesn’t get easier when I do think about it. You know, it’s, it’s just there.
03.02.30 And I was listening to someone's coverage yesterday and I forget who said it, but I think
maybe it was Al Fuentes said uh, we, we never get over it. You know, we never get past it,
we never (?) so it’s just something we put kind of on the side. It’s always there. But you
know, if we, if we continue to live in it, then we’re not productive and we’re not happy. We,
we don’t have moments of happiness.
03.03.01 Uh, but it’s just something you learn, you learn to live with. Uh, but it, it missing my friends
does not get easier. Uh, I don't think it gets easier to talk about at all. Ever. Uh, I, I think
now being retired, that I have more time to reflect and to think about it.
03.03.37 Uh. So maybe it’s a little bit harder right now. Uh, and, and maybe that’s where the
depression is coming from and the sleeping more and, and all that. Uh, and, I’m, I’m trying
to (LAUGHS) understand it, but it’s hard for me 'cos I’m not a person that sleeps, you know?
03.04.00 But if, if that’s what I need to do for now or to deal with it, then that’s what I need to do.
And uh, I hope, I look forward to some point where I, I don't have this uh, controlling my life
so much. Uh, you know, I want, I want, I want this to go away kind of. I don't, I don't, not
the thoughts of my friends, but the, but the depression part of it, I want it to go away.
03.04.32 Uh, I don't like it. It's very disconcerting for me. Uh, and, and it's not productive. So you know, it'll uh, I'll listen to my brother for a year and I'll give him that. And I'll try and deal with it, but then I want it to go away.

03.04.56 And uh, you know, we'll see. (PAUSE) I need to be comfortable in my skin again, and I'm not there yet. Uh.

03.05.26 And I'm trying to do, you know, take steps to do that, but it's, it's uh, it's a challenge, you know? But I, I have a lot of good friends, still, I have family, I have people who love me. And uh, you know, and I'm, I'm great, I mean, I'm, I'm in a great position, I'm collecting a pension, I'm thankful for that. And I have my health, thank God for that, 'cos a lot of my friends that survived do not have their health. The guys that I was with, from OEM that were every day in, in the rubble every day for 9 months are, they're all sick.

03.06.04 They're all sick, they're all, they can't breathe, they can't talk. You know, if any of them were athletic they, they can't do that anymore. You know, there, there are a lot of you know, scars, real physical scars. And I'm thankful that uh, that I'm so far healthy. Uh, I didn't have to get out with a disability pension, you know?

03.06.30 Uh, I, I walked away and I'm thankful for that. I can run around, I can ride my bike, I can snowboard. And so. (~I~)

JW : How often does the day or the issue come up during the day these days, and is that different from a year ago?

03.06.52 TIM BROWN : Yeah, I, I think uh, uh, you know, I, I have, I certainly don't have the frequency of emotional moments that I had. That, that's noticeably different. Uh, I, I do have them uh, I think when I he them they're just as deep. Uh, but they're less frequent, so how many uh, I mean, I don't cry every day. I don't you know, I don't, certainly don't do that. I cry (?) and I don't know what it is, Jim, just, I'll just say something that maybe has nothing to do with it, and it'll take me back and I'll just start crying.

03.07.33 Uh, and you know, that, that happens every three or four weeks probably now, if I had to say. Uh, I, I think I always think about it. I mean, I put on my bracelet every day uh, and (?) I take my friends with me on my wrist every, every day, everywhere I go. Uh, I, I don't, you know, I don't tell the story.
03.08.01 People don't really know who I am here. They, they don't know my background. I'm, I'm someone new in the neighborhood. Uh, so when I meet new friends, I really don't talk about it much. Uh, if I get to know them a little bit better, maybe I'll talk with them a little bit about it. There, there's one person I met here who, who I just wound up going on a bike ride to the beach and stuff, and I told her about it. And uh, you know, I, I went through the whole story with her uh, but she's probably the only person that I've talked to here about it.

03.08.34 Uh, and you know, I, I think in some ways that's good. Then I'm not surrounded by it 24 hours a day. If I was still in New York uh, you know, I would be surrounded by it. So, you know, this is probably healthy for me here.

JW : How has the frequency changed from year one to year two to year three?

03.08.58 TIM BROWN : If I had to describe it, I, I would think that year one was shock. Uh, I mean, just not even anywhere near uh, I, I mean I was completely in shock, I think. I, I think year 2 I, I (?) think I cried a lot in year two. I think I was very emotional. Uh, was still in shock a little bit, but uh, you know, it's, it seems to me and I don't have a great memory, but it, it seems to me that I, I was crying all the time.

03.09.37 That's how I see it. I don't know, other people might see it differently that were around me, but that's how I feel. Now, (?) and now, it's a periodic thing. Uh, you know, and it comes up sometimes when I expect it, certainly around September 11th, the anniversary, you expect it to be harder.

03.09.56 I mean, (?) every time I turn on the television in the last week, uh, you know, it's there. And yesterday in (?) my apartment in Manhattan. I turned on the television to see what the hurricane was doing, and you know, there was nothing about the hurricane on. It was all the, the ceremony at Ground Zero, and uh, every person that was on television being interviewed on the news channels I, I know. And so then it's hard for me to turn off.

03.10.31 Like Al Fuentes wrote a book, Al was a captain in the Marine division. And he was actually buried in, trapped in the rubble for a long time, and he was physically uh, uh, he was very injured. But they didn't know if he was gonna live, and he, he did live. But Al, Al wrote a book uh, about it. He's an immigrant, and he wrote a book about how proud he is to be an American.
03.10.57 So that’s hard for me to (?) once I turn that on, I can’t turn it off. So then I’m drawn back into it. Uh, and (?) I’m not really sure that’s what I wanted. The, this year. Uh. So (?) right around now, it’s pretty emotional, I think, you know? Uh, you know, the, the party this afternoon is, is gonna be happy and sad.

03.11.28 Uh, and you know, I’m kind of looking forward to this week being over. And, and trying to uh, get back to my daily routine here. Uh. And, and kind of immersing myself in that for a while. Uh, it’s.

03.12.01 It’s hard. You know? And I’m, I’m not so sure I want to cry anymore. You know? Uh, just sad. It’s profoundly sad, the whole thing.

03.12.29 And, and you know, it’s profoundly sad for me, personally. But uh, it also, the helper in me says well, what about all these other people and, in our country and in, in other countries that deal with these things and worse, you know? And you know, I, I hope, Jim, one day that I, all this stuff I’m going through is uh, I think building me for something.

03.13.02 It’s you know, this is not all happening to me for, so that I can just go away. I don’t believe that. I don't believe that with, with all my heart. I believe that this is all teaching me.

JW : What are you learning?

03.13.23 TIM BROWN : I’m, I’m learning a lot about people. Uh, and (?) their character, and what’s important to me and, and what (?) I find valuable. And I’m learning a lot about Tim. About uh, why I seek approval as much as I do. I mean, this all goes back to my childhood uh, and trying to get approval from my daddy, you know? Uh, and I, I’m (?) if I can learn about that and (?) learn what that is in me and why I do that uh, I think I’ll be a better person, professionally and personally.

03.14.09 Uh. And that I don't need you know, I shouldn’t be seeking that, it’s uh, I don't need that, you know? I’ve done my time. And I have proved myself. And (?) if I can get through that, then I think it frees me to uh, be a better person and a better leader uh, for something, you know, down the road.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)
JW: You admired Terry. He went off and you weren’t there.

03.15.00 TIM BROWN: (MID-STATEMENT) I know. I, I was (LAUGHS) yeah uh, I mean, uh, sure, I, I think about that and then, then the stuff Beth said to me that day, you know? Uh, if I had heard Terry on the radio calling for help, I would be dead.

03.15.29 That radio was in my back pocket, the fire department radio, 'cos I would, had my OEM radio in my hand. And the same way that Calvin’s cries for help brought me to Calvin, we know, I know, that if that radio in my hand had been a fire department radio, and I had heard Terry yelling for help, I would have been running up those stairs with Patrick.

03.16.00 And the, when I saw Beth up at the firehouse where, where the mayor was after the two collapses, she (?) said to me, where is Terry? Go get him. What, what are you doing here, why are you here? Go get Terry and bring him to me.

03.16.31 I felt horribly guilty. And I (?) feel like you know, I, I should have, I should have been there with him, whether there's life or death, I should have been there with him in death. And I, I, I mean, that’s an emotional thing.

03.16.58 Intellectually I, I knew that there was nothing I can, there’s nothing I can do. I can’t go get Terry, I can’t. Terry’s dead. I mean, I didn't say that to her, but in my head I knew. That there, then there’s nothing I can do, it’s, it’s not like he might be trapped. He’s not, he’s, he’s dead. He, he was upstairs. I mean, he was up on the 70th floor or somewhere around there, and you know, he, I can go back and, I can go back and look for his body, but I can’t go get Terry.

03.17.37 Terry’s gone. Uh and certainly if I had heard him on the radio, I would have, I would have been gone with him, you know, but I didn't hear him. And all, all those things you know, happen for a reason. Uh, I don't know, I don't understand. I don't understand why, why he’s gone and I’m here, or Patty’s gone or Jerry, or Chris.

03.18.08 Uh, you know, that, that’s out of my control, man. (PAUSE) Do I wish I was there with him? No, I wish he was here with me. You know? (PAUSE)

03.18.31 I, I had made a choice uh, a few (?) years earlier, leave Rescue 3 and to go to OEM. Uh, and that wasn’t you know, that, that was another choice made because I lost respect for my boss. Uh, and that, that move, although it wasn’t my first choice, was a choice that saved my life.
Because all the guys in Rescue 3 died. Uh, I certainly would have been upstairs, certainly. You know? (?) in the first uh, terrorist attack in 1993, on the World Trade Center I, I was off duty and I went down and put on my gear and uh, went down in the, below ground and helped uh, with my friend Kevin Shea. He was a fireman who fell in the hole, and then I went up 110 stories, searching for people and helping people and so.

Certainly I would have (LAUGHS) done that again. If I was in rescue, but that wasn’t my job. My job was in the lobby command post. Uh, and, you know, that’s what I was doing. Helping the chief, you know, logistically.

So you know, the radio was in my back pocket, my job was the command post and, and that’s what I did and, and I lived. You know? So you think back and you say, geez, Jaret, I wish Terry was in my job with me. Wish Terry was in OEM. And, and uh, you know, he would have lived with me.

But. You know you never know. So you know, there’s something else going on here, there’s some reason I’m here, I don't know why. Maybe it’s to be with my brother and my family. Maybe it’s, maybe one day down the road I’ll get back into the politics and I’ll have learned, and I’ll be able to uh, be in that world a little easier, where it’s a little easier for me to be in that world.

Uh, yeah, I don't know, Jim. I don't know. Right now I’m just gonna take it easy. As much as I can. (PAUSE) They, they taught me a lot in the time they were here, and I talked with Beth about this. That she was happy to have him for six years. And I had tried, I have to try you know, I have to try to be that way. That’s hard. I mean, I mean, we, we say that and it’s, it’s a nice thing to say and it’s true, but I didn't want it for six years, I wanted him for 50 years.

Uh. You know, that’s true, that’s what I wanted. And I’m angry that that was cut short. And, and, and hurt.

Badly hurt. Uh, I mean, that, and that’s not me. I mean, and (?) that’s not just me, that’s something that he uh, he had so much to offer, you know? That there was, there was so much that needed to be done. And uh, he was such a good guy.

He would have been such a great help to, to New York. Uh. So, so you don't, you know, you, you just say why, you know? It wasn’t supposed to happen that way.
03.23.35 So, so now with, it’s like you know, for, for me to say what, what’s my future, I don't know shit man, I don't know. I, I just uh, I, I don't know. I mean.

03.24.05 You, you try and plan your life, you know, the best that you can, and uh, you know, it just could be all gone. We, we’re going up the highway coming up here yesterday and uh, and we changed, changed lanes and my brother was driving, and there was a car in the lane and he didn’t see the car and uh, you know, we, we almost, we almost rolled the car over.

03.24.33 And uh, it could go just like that. You know? (?) 9-11 was a, a big dramatic event (?) you know, we don’t understand why, but I mean, this, this stuff is happening every day, you know? This, there’s people losing people every day and you, you just never, you never know. You know, it could have been all over for both of us, just like that.

03.25.01 Uh, I don't know. Try and love as much as we can every day, you know? And make sure we tell people that we love them. And, and show it, you know?

JW : How is Beth?

03.25.25 TIM BROWN : Beth, Beth is, Beth is OK. She’s uh, she’s I mean, it’s the same thing, she’s getting better every day. She’s uh, you know, she doesn’t grieve uh, any, she grieves as deeply as, as I do, uh, you know, at least as equally as I do and I, I just think that you know, it’s uh, less frequent for, for everybody. I mean, it, I think it’s the same pattern for, for all of us, that I know of.

03.26.04 Uh, but uh, I mean, she’s good. She uh, she, she started dating. She had a real hard time telling me that. Uh, but I was up uh, for Terry’s second birthday party in uh, in May, and uh, you know, there were a lot of people there.

03.26.32 Some of them I knew, some of them I didn't. And by the end of the night, Beth, Beth’s sister, Karen, is uh, a character to say the least (LAUGHS). And uh, she likes the wild crowd. And so her, her crowd was there, and you know, they like to have a few drinks by the end of the day, and everybody else had left, and Terry had gone, baby Terry had gone to bed.

03.26.59 And so they were all standing (?) in the kitchen drinking tequila and beer. And uh, you know, (?) I just, you know, I just wasn’t in the mood to do that. And uh, I was sitting on the couch, and I saw Karen like kind of yelling, not yelling at Beth, but kind of scolding her a
little bit. In, in the kitchen, you know, in the other room and uh, kind of pushing her toward me.

03.27.27 So finally Beth came in and plopped down on the couch next to me (LAUGHS). And she said, Timothy, I have something I need to tell you and it’s hard for me to tell you so I’m just gonna tell you. And I was like, Ok, Beth. And she said, you know that guy in there? I said, yeah. Well, he, he’s gonna stay over tonight, and (?) I said, well, I’m, that’s great, Beth, I’m happy he’s staying over tonight because they’d been drinking and you know, we’re all gonna just stay here tonight, which is a great thing.

03.28.02 And she said, no, Timothy, he’s staying over in my bed tonight. And I played with her a little bit and gave her like a real serious look. And then I busted out laughing. And I said, uh, you know, I got it and I said, you know what, Beth? That’s great. And she was so nervous about telling me.

03.28.28 And uh, and so you know, we had a little bit of a laugh uh, uh, it broke the tension and we had a little bit of a laugh about it. And uh, I said you know what? I said it’s great, but if he makes you sad or makes you cry, I’m gonna kill him. And you know, we, we laughed and she, she treats, he, he treats Beth very well and he (?) more importantly even, he treats baby Terry like gold.

03.29.02 And uh, and so (?) you know, she was dating him for a while, and as we had talked about it a little bit more, uh, she told me, well, he’s you know, I’m just having fun with him. He’s not a keeper, but we’re having a good time. And you know, it, it’s just uh, it’s a sign to me that she, she’s healing, and that she was able to share herself that way with someone else.

03.29.31 And, and uh, even to tell me about it, you know?

JW : How did you feel?

03.29.38 TIM BROWN : How’d I feel? Well, I, I felt, I felt great for her. I mean, uh, I, I think uh, I think (~JW~) For myself? Uh, I, (?) I’m fine with that. I mean, I think, I just, I, I want Beth to be happy for the rest of her life as much as she can, because it’s been so hard.

03.30.12 Uh, I, I just want her to be happy, you know? And, and if, I, I know that that is you know, I mean, she’s, you know, still a young woman and, and those are things that, that we all need. That, that intimacy is something we need, you know?
03.30.34 Uh, (?) personally I don't know how she didn't have that for so long. Uh, but every person’s different, you know? Uh, so I’m, I’m happy that she was able to go there. For her. I’m also happy that she was able to talk to me about it. And, and after.

03.31.00 Not only telling me about it but then being able to say to me afterwards, we’re just having fun, you know, it’s not like I’m gonna marry the guy or anything. So that’s uh, a level of, of comfort with, that we, that we have now. That is not a level of comfort we had before. So it makes me feel like our, our friendship and our relationship is, is deepening, that we can talk about things like that.

03.31.34 Uh, especially Beth, because she doesn’t talk to anybody about, she talks to her sister and that’s about it, you know, about her very personal stuff, so. I guess uh, that’s how it made me feel, that I’m happy she was able to share it with me. And that, that I hope that our relationship continues to grow in, in that way, you know, that we can have that uh, comfort with each other.

03.32.04 So, you know, she’s working 3 days a week. Uh, she has a nanny that uh, is with her 5 days a week uh, to take care of Terry. Uh, although Beth is always around unless she’s at work. Uh, it’s having the nanny uh, gives Beth some freedom to uh, do, do, to have a little balance in her life, you know?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What about Chia-fest which is also connected to Beth, right?

03.32.41 TIM BROWN : Yeah. I mean, (-JW-) we had done this last year, excuse me. We, we had done uh (STOPS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.32.59 TIM BROWN : Uh, we had done this uh, last year and our friends from Milwaukee came down uh, and it was kind of just a party, it was only like, you know, it’s only like 15 or 20 people, altogether, and I called my brother Chia 'cos of his haircut, and so I just for fun and to tease him a little bit, I named it Chia-fest and uh, this year we had uh, bigger ambitions,
especially me. Uh, and that I wanted to do a much bigger party. And (?) kind of showcase Rhode Island and where, where we’re living now and try and start teasing people to start moving this way a little bit.

03.33.36 And uh, then, then Beth had said to me that it would be nice to have uh, you know, do something happy around the 11th, instead of doing you know, all this sadness, (?) turn on the television, it’s in the newspapers and it’s uh, you know, everybody’s calling.

03.34.04 And you know, it was just like, and I understand that, and let’s do something that’s happy, so that Terry can grow up thinking that we’re celebrating her father’s life, not mourning it. And I, I said why don't we do Chia-fest that weekend, this weekend, of the anniversary and you know, invite people and if people want to come, they can come and if they don't, but give people the option of having a happy event and uh, so, so we did it.

03.34.37 We jumped in with both feet and uh, we, we, you know, we planned and we invited a lot of people and we set things up and, and then nobody responded to it. And uh, it was very emotional for me.

03.34.58 I uh, I don't want to have to explain to people the event or the sadness or the you know, the, the reasons for trying to do something like this. And (?) to get the beach (LAUGHS). You know, it’s a private beach, it’s a beautiful beach, but you have to, you have to talk about the, the reason behind it and what you’re trying to do.

03.35.29 Uh, it’s hard emotionally for me to do that. And then the hotel is expensive, and I, I went to a hotel room broker, and you know, just said to her, you know, we’re doing this thing and you know, it’s, we’re honoring the lives of our friends who died and you know, I just left it at that. And she (?) didn't get it. She didn't understand. You know, the people we’re inviting can’t afford to pay $3, 400 for a night in a hotel.

03.36.03 And I, I can’t afford to pay for all of them. And so she came back and uh, with these outrageous prices, and uh, I just said, you know what? I just, I can’t do that. You know, I can’t ask these people to come here and pay those prices, I just can’t do it. Uh, so I, I wound up over at the Marriott Hotel, and uh, talking with their salespeople.

03.36.31 And (?) I mean, I went through the whole thing like I do here. And I wound up having a (?) good cry with the guy and, and uh, I had forgotten the hotel that I was trapped in was a Marriott. And uh, so we made that whole connection and it wound up being a great thing.
Uh, and they got on board and they gave us rooms, very inexpensive rooms. And uh, they actually came on board, kind of, as a sponsor of Chia-fest.

03.37.02 And uh, and then nobody called up and (?) reserved rooms, you know? And so I, I’ve been on this roller coaster. And uh, you know, Beth decided that it wasn’t, you know, it wasn’t the thing for her to do this weekend. And you know, it kind of uh, it left me reeling. Uh, ‘cos kind of the reason, the whole reason we did it this weekend was because of the conversation I had had with her, and thinking that it would be a good thing for the families to be able to get away.

03.37.39 But as, as the anniversary got closer it got harder and harder and harder for people to do anything. And I understand that. Uh, and you know, she just wants to stay close to home.

03.37.59 So uh, in the end, although it was noble and it, it is a great idea, it’s, it’s a really bad idea on this weekend uh, because it’s just too hard for people. Uh, now maybe in the future, you know, maybe we’re too close to it, still. So maybe in a few years, this weekend is a good idea, but it’s too soon right now. Uh, so, so then we cancelled it and I, and I felt horribly guilty, because I had gone to the Marriott and I had gone to the Beach Club and, and kind of put on this emotional display, although it was, it it’s truthful and honest.

03.38.43 Now I, I feel like you know, kind of the, the reason we put out there behind this isn’t there. Uh, ‘cos the families really aren’t coming to it.

03.38.58 So, so uh, so then I feel like it’s you know, it’s just a party that Tim and Chris are having. And you know, I, I don’t want it, I feel guilty saying that it’s a September 11th thing. So uh, it’s a world of emotions that, that I’ve gone through. Uh, and you know, then to turn around and still have the party after we cancelled it, it’s just, it, it kind of turned into a mess.

03.39.34 And uh, I, I’m happy that it’s happening. I’m happening that there’ll, you know, my friends and family will be up here. It’s not what I had hoped for, you know? Uh, so I’m not sure what the future of it is.

JW : What will today bring?

03.39.52 TIM BROWN : I think today’s gonna be a wonderful day on the beach. Uh, it’s, I mean, it’s a beautiful day in Rhode Island here. Uh, it’s a beautiful place we’re having it. I’m going to get to see a lot of uh, my friends and family. Uh.
JW : Some families will be coming?

03.40.13 TIM BROWN : My family will be coming. (~JW~) Uh. You know, I, I, Jim, I'm not even sure, 'cos, 'cos people have said yes then no, then yes, then no, then yes, then no, then no, then maybe. Then uh, I don't even know. Anymore.

03.40.33 Uh, we, we’re gonna do it and uh, you know, whoever is here is here. I don't know. Uh, I had to kind of let it, just let it go. Uh. I mean, I, I know my family’s gonna be here and some people are coming from Connecticut, some are coming from New York, some friends of ours are up from Florida, they’re gonna come.

03.41.05 Some people from around here, I don't know. And we’re gonna have a nice day together, and then we’ll see, you know? We’ll see what happens next year. I can’t uh, I can’t and I won’t control people, you know? If, if this is, this is a very, very hard weekend for people.

03.41.29 And uh, you know, it, it’s, it’s not, it was a hard, it was a hard thing for me and Beth, this whole thing, because uh, you know, it was hard for her to tell me that she really didn't want to come. Uh, it was a very hard phone call for her to make to me. Uh, and she’s a brave woman for being able to do it.

03.42.00 Uh, but I, I didn't want it to affect our friendship, and so I went and, when I went down to New York, I went right to her and brought her flowers and, and loved her, and you know, and made sure she knew that it’s OK. And uh, that I, that I of anyone, I understand how hard it is for her.

03.42.31 Uh, so you know, we, we, we just move on. We keep one foot in front of the other every day. And uh, you know, we, we’re gonna have a nice day today and I’m gonna enjoy being out there with my family and, and my friends. That’s all I can do.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.43.13 END OF TAPE # 3 of 4

TAPE # TB-IV 09.12.04, 4 of 4

Tim Brown
JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director
PROJECT REBIRTH

04.01.44  PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW : What about your retirement ceremony and the complexities in approaching it? What changed?

04.01.36  TIM BROWN : I was well (STOPS) When (?) I got out in the last, the last few years of my career were not traditional. Uh, I, I was all over the place. I was in the mayor’s office, then I was in uh, Washington, and then I was up here in Rhode Island.

04.01.59  So it kind of (?) separated me from the fire department. I wasn’t in my company anymore, my you know, Rescue 3. And traditionally that’s how things go. Uh, that you’re, your company would throw you a retirement party. Uh, but I (?) didn't really have a home in, in the fire department anymore. And uh, my, my brother knew that.

04.02.35  So. Uh, a few months back we went to uh, our friend, Joe Brosey’s retirement party where there were about 300 people. Uh, and a wonderful time and it was uh, you know, a tribute to him and his 37 years in the fire department. You know, a big deal. Uh, and so I think it got my brother thinking a little bit and we talked about it.

04.03.01  And I was never a big uh, you know, and I didn't need to have a big party for Tim. You know, it, it just was never my thing. Although we’ve had them, you know, they’ve been motivated by other people. Uh, and so I, I told Chris that we would uh, you know, I’d be happy with a dinner in the city, Manhattan, whatever or something, not too big.

04.03.34  And uh, it, it just started getting to be too much effort and work on him and it, it started to get very expensive. And I, I, you know, I, I didn't want that.

04.03.58  Uh, you know, I don't want it to be a burden on, on my brother. Uh, so you know, it just went from being, having something small in Manhattan to, to getting it to being something bigger, and then you know, I had a talk with him about it and I just said, you know, Chris it’s just, just you know, I don’t need it.
04.04.29 It’s, it’s not that it’s not important to me, but I don't, I don't need that. I don't need a ceremony. Uh, and it’s I, I compare it to you know, the, the ceremonies of September 11th and uh, you know, going, going to Ground Zero, because that’s the last place that Terry was or Patrick. Uh, that it was never about ceremony for me, you know?

04.04.59 It’s uh, I mean, I like a good party, there’s no question. But if it becomes a burden, then, then why are we doing it? You know, I don't, I don't need that. I’d rather just have Chia-fest. And uh, have a party on the beach and have fun with my family and friends. I mean, that’s this, this is better than any retirement party that I could have, for me personally. Uh.

JW : It’s another instance of you being selfless. It’s hard sometimes?

04.05.38 TIM BROWN : Well, you know, I, I uh, when I left New York and I turned 40, that was kind of all at the same time. They, you know, my friend, Tom had a uh, big bash at his house for me. And, and that was wonderful. I mean, I don't, I don't know if there’ll ever be anything that tops that. I mean, it was a moment in my life.

04.06.00 But if, my brother has enough to do, and if it becomes a burden on him in his life, then you know, why, why are we doing that? I, I don't. It’s, it’s a party, I don't need it. You know, there’s gonna be plenty of other times where we get together with friends and family, and we do value those times, but that’s really what it is.

04.06.28 You know, uh, I, I don’t need, I, I don’t need people to acknowledge my retirement with a party. I just don't. And uh, I do need people to uh, acknowledge my retirement in other ways, and, and those have pretty much all happened. Rescue 3 acknowledged my, my time in the company and my retirement uh, with a ring and, and uh, and a pin that everybody else had gotten and I had never gotten.

04.07.06 And you know, just stuck in my craw that they never recognized me, and they finally did. Uh, OEM (~JW~) that was uh, you know, was a few months back, I guess.

JW : Did you go there?
TIM BROWN: Yeah, I went down to New York and uh, went to the uh, uh, a party they had in the Bronx and uh, you know it’s, it’s once a year where they give uh, you know, they give gifts out to all the members for all different things, promotions, retirements.

Uh, you know, years in the company, things like that, so they did give me uh, my Rescue 3 ring, and they did give me the uh, the, the pin, the 343 service pin uh, that other people had been wearing on their uniforms for two years.

And no one ever gave me that. Uh, you know, I have felt like an outsider. Some of it is my own doing in blazing my trail. Uh, but uh, I also feel like I was not a part of the family, you know? Rescue 3 didn't make me a part of their family uh, you know, after things happened and uh, you know, they, they probably blame me. They say, well, you didn't want to, you didn't come and be a part of our family. But I was busy, you know, doing other things.

Uh, so just to get that pin that, that I never got was pretty big for me. Uh, and then also OEM acknowledging my service and my brother’s service was very big for me. So those are things I felt was (?) that was unfinished business. Uh, the party? You know, I’m, I’m uh, it’s not necessary.

Uh, it’s not necessary to uh, acknowledge uh, I don't know. I, I just. I’m happy with the way things are. And uh, I’ll (?) say this on the camera because this is not gonna come out, but I know, I know they had a little surprise in store for me.

They don't know I know. But I know. And it’ll be, it’ll be a nice thing to see today. Yeah, so. There, there are some people showing up that, there’s only one reason they’re showing up. I know why they’re showing up. And it’s something I had asked for uh, awhile back. I might be wrong, but I don't think so. Uh, there’s a photograph of my friend uh, Michael Judge, who was uh, the priest who uh, died.

Who was a friend of ours, Terry and Patrick and, and all that. And there’s a favorite photograph I have of him uh, and he was uh, a friar, I think, and so he wore the robe with, you know, the tie and, and the sandals and, and uh, you know, there, there are some people who think he should be a saint. Uh, he was a saint in my life. Uh, but he used to walk from his, his place on 31st and 7th in Manhattan to Coney Island.

Uh, I think (?) I don't know if it was a specific day of the week, but he, he would put on his robe and his uh, sandals and walk, and he would walk through all the bad neighborhoods of New York. And he would have a wad of one dollar bills in his pocket, and he would rise at
sunset and (?) sunrise and start walking, and he would be at Coney Island for the sunset on the beach.

04.11.02 And he would stop all along the way and sit with people on their stoops and talk with people and, and just uh, spread love. And someone took a photograph of him on the beach at the water in Coney Island in his robe, just with his hands, you know, behind his back just looking at the ocean. And it is, it’s a spectacular photograph of him, but it just says something about uh, life.

04.11.34 It’s very, it’s very reflective, you know? And that was always a favorite photograph of mine uh, of uh, of my friend, Michael. And uh, and I had asked a while back for a friend of mine to paint it for me. ’Cos he’s a great painter. And uh, so I got a feeling, he’s coming today, so I got a feeling he’s coming with something.

04.12.02 And it is one of the bests gifts I could ever get. Uh, uh, you know? Beautiful. Uh, just a beautiful thing, he’s a beautiful person, you know? And it just, it’s uh, I, I think uh, I feel like it says something about who I am.

04.12.32 And what I value. Uh. I value people like that. Like Terry and Patrick and Michael, the goodness in them. Even, even with all their faults you know, and we, we were, none of us were by any means perfect. You know, we uh, we had our faults for sure. And including Michael.

04.12.58 And uh, he is in his life and death an inspiration to me. Uh, so. So we’ll see. ’Cos later on today, after this all happens, I want to laugh at my brother and say we already have the whole thing on tape, so. (LAUGHS) Yeah. It’s uh.

04.13.31 I think this is a, this is another milestone for me today, I think. And it kind of gives me uh, it’s another step in the permission process that I give myself to continue to move forward.

04.13.58 And tonight and tomorrow morning I’m gonna take a big breath and sigh a couple of times big, and then charge forward. And uh, get back into this wonderful life in Newport and the new business. And uh, and, and love a lot. You know? And, and you know, there’s unfinished business I need to uh.

04.14.31 I need to do the same thing with Jerry, my old boss and friend uh, that I did with Calvin. You know, I need to uh, suck it up and reach out to him, and realize that he has faults uh, as I do. And forgive him for the, the things that he did. And try and be his friend, because (?) you know, Jerry and I lost so much together.
04.14.58 You know, he was friends with all these guys, too. Uh, and, and at some point I probably need to do that with the governor, too, you know? And you know, he’s not a perfect guy, either, and he’s not the uh, you know, he’s not the, the hero that I had made him up to be. And you know, I made that up in my head. It’s not true. You know, he’s, he’s human, so. I uh, you know, I need to forgive that in them.

04.15.32 And, and try and get, it’ll be good for me to have the friendships again. Uh, personally at least, I don't know about professionally, but certainly personally. Uh, it’s too hard to carry that baggage around. It takes up too much energy and, and time. And uh, I’m going to try to teach my brother that because he’s gonna have a harder time uh, with all this than I am.

04.16.00 He’s very angry. For me. As I would be for him. Uh, but you know, I’m, I’m a little older and if, if he can learn that stuff a little bit younger in his life, he’ll be a better person for it. And it’ll help him in a lot of aspects in his life, too. So. I, I have a mission, and if I can do this, then I start becoming the leader that I would like to be.

04.16.34 Uh, I, I will be the big, bigger man and I will put my foot forward first. And uh, it’s, it’s gonna help me grow. As a person, you know?

JW : Is this part of the healing process?

04.16.59 TIM BROWN : Uh, yeah, yeah, I mean, it’s, I think it all is, sure. Uh, I, I take it as uh, as a more of a learning process for me. And (?) in both for me. Uh, yeah I mean.

JW : Where are you in the healing process?

04.17.25 TIM BROWN : Uh, (?) I think I’m still lost in it, you know? I mean, I, I see what’s going on, and I acknowledge what’s going on with you know, the (?) grieving (?) less often. As deeply still but less often. Uh, but I, I’m, I don't know that I, I (?) don’t feel like I can step out of myself and look at myself and say you’re here in the grieving process or the healing process.

04.17.58 Uh, yet. I, I think I will be able to do that at some point. Uh, with, with the help of a lot of people. Uh, you know, and maybe, maybe I don't know enough about the healing process to really identify where I am, but I don't uh, I feel I’m going through it, and I, I see myself
moving. I’m not stuck. And I know some people that are stuck and I’m, I’m very saddened for them. Uh, so I’m, I’m comfortable that I’m going through it. but I’m not really sure where I am in it.

04.18.34 Uh, and I need, I need a year of this life and distance myself from things a little bit, and uh, and then be able to look back on it, you know? And, and then maybe I’ll be able to see it and plan. But I, I don't, I don't feel like I’m on top of it yet. I feel like it’s still on top of me, still.

04.19.09 Yeah, I don’t know. You might be able to tell me more than, than (?) I realize, you know? But.

JW : (?)

04.19.20 TIM BROWN : I don't know. I’m, I, I'm going, I’m just going through it, you know? Uh, and, and I feel like I’m going through it in similar ways to the people that I’m in touch with. Because we, we’ll say things to each other and you know, we’ll go oh, yeah, yeah, me, too. And, and then they talk to other people and, and it’s, you know, it kind of seems like the group in general, although there’s exceptions on both sides of it, but the group in general is going through things generally together.

04.19.56 Similar things. Uh, and I feel, you know, like I’m somewhere in there, in the middle of that. Uh, I’m, I’m happy with the way things have worked out, uh, although it’s been a rough road. I’m pretty happy with uh, where, where I’m at right now. I’m starting to feel like I, Tim’s in control of Tim’s life a little bit more now than I have been in a long time.

04.20.30 Uh, so, we’ll see. We’ll see if it works, yeah.

JW : Anybody you would like to mention in your life?

04.20.45 TIM BROWN : (LAUGHS) You always ask me this, and I always duck it. Uh, yeah, I mean, there are, there are people in my life, certainly. Uh, but with I don't know that there’s room, I don't know if there’s room in my heart right now for someone else.

04.21.09 Uh, I mean, like a (?) very serious relationship. I’m you know, I, I date and stuff. But the, there is my heart is, is uh, in other places now. My heart is in New York, my heart is with other people.
04.21.29 You know, it’s with Beth and Tanya and, and uh, you know, Mrs. Blackwell a little bit more
now and, and Denny Slench a little bit more now. And uh. And uh, and with my brother, too.
You know? And, and that's a hard thing for someone to break into.

04.21.56 Uh, and, and it’s something that will happen over time. And you know, with my moving
around and my, my, my turmoil uh, it’s hard for somebody to come along for that ride, you
know? It’s, it’s not fair to ask someone and uh, you know, I, I’m in no rush. I’m 42 and
single and uh, I, I don't see kids uh, I don't see having kids, you know, for myself, I don't
think so.

04.22.28 Uh, so I, I have a lot of rules. You know? And I, I don't expect someone to follow my rules.
Uh, it’s not fair to ask them to. So if, if someone comes along that we can walk together and,
and be happy with that, then I’m all for it. But uh, it’s hard for me to bring somebody into
that now when things are so, you know, changing constantly changing.

04.23.06 I’m trying to be honest, Jim. (LAUGHS)

JW : Anything you want to add?

04.23.16 TIM BROWN : It’ll be interesting watching all this stuff you know? Uh, the next year is a
mystery to me. You know, when, when we sit down and do this again, I, I really uh, I really
have no, I have no idea.

04.23.31 You know, I think I’m gonna be here in New port. Uh, I want to buy a house here. And uh, I
just, you know, I don’t know. For the first time in my life, I really don't know. And uh, and
I’m Ok with it. I’m good. (STOPS) (COUGHS) I’m excited about my life.

04.24.05 I’m excited about The Bravest. I think we’re gonna be doing (?) real well with that. And uh,
it, it’s something I never thought I’d be doing, but shit. I think it’s fun. And uh, and I think
we’ll be uh, successful at it. So we’ll get to travel a lot, you know, go to the conventions and
all that stuff, and that’s always fun.

04.24.30 And uh, having money would be nice for a change, you know? Being able to, you know, of
course, you know, that’s how we are, me and my brother. We’re already thinking about who
we can give it to. You know? The, the foundations and, and we’re trying to figure out who
you know, who we want to adopt as (?), we, we have all these lofty goals about how much
money we’re gonna make. But if, if we do do it, then, you know, there are certain charities and things that we want to support.

04.25.01 And uh, it would be, it would be nice to be able to do that, to continue helping. One way or the other, we’re gonna help. You know? Whether it’s in politics, in government or you know, (?) philanthropic things or you know, whatever. That’ll just be the way we are until we’re dead, (LAUGHS) so. Good stuff.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.26.42 END OF TAPE # 4 of 4