

9TH UNPLUGGED

HONORABLE STEVE JEWETT

COUNTY COURT JUDGE

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HOSTED BY: HONORABLE ALICIA L. LATIMORE

JUDGE LATIMORE: Hi, I'm Judge Latimore.

JUDGE JEWETT: Hello, I'm Judge Steve Jewett.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And welcome to 9th Unplugged.

(Music)

JUDGE LATIMORE: Thank you, Judge Jewett, for joining us here today. Would you tell the audience a little bit about yourself, what assignment you have at this time?

JUDGE JEWETT: Currently, I'm in the criminal division on the county court. I've been a judge for 16 years, well, this is my 16th year.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE JEWETT: Let's put it that way.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, glad to have you here. And we're going to get a little bit unplugged today.

JUDGE JEWETT: Okay.

JUDGE LATIMORE: All right, so my understanding is that you are a born and raised Floridian, correct.

JUDGE JEWETT: That is correct.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Second generation.

JUDGE JEWETT: That's right. My mother was born in Florida and my grandfather came to Florida in 1919 when he was 16 years old, so really I'm almost third generation.

JUDGE LATIMORE: And where did he come from?

JUDGE JEWETT: He came from South Georgia. He lived on a farm and went to West Palm Beach in Palm Beach, County just because he wanted to branch out. Didn't do farming when he got there. Eventually he did open an insurance agency and a bank.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, did you ever do farming?

JUDGE JEWETT: No. No, no.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Would you ever do farming?

JUDGE JEWETT: No, no, no.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Why not?

JUDGE JEWETT: I don't want to be a farmer because my grandfather was a farmer. I know how it's hard work.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah, it is hard work.

JUDGE JEWETT: I'd rather be you know inside where it's not hot.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Ha, Palm Beach.

JUDGE JEWETT: That's right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: There you go.

JUDGE JEWETT: Yes.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, good. I'm not mad at you because I prefer not to be out in the sun myself. Now, I understand that you speak German.

JUDGE JEWETT: A little bit. Ein bisschen. For whatever reason, I took German in high school. I took German in college but never really did anything with it. I mean, you know you had to take – at the University of Florida you had to take a language as part of your degree and so that's just what I chose. Of course, now, I wish I had taken Spanish all those years. I can read a little German. The actual conversation not so much because it just goes by too quick. I can recognize a few words, but if it's written out, I can kind of figure it out.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Have you been to Germany before?

JUDGE JEWETT: No, never. Never been. I really want to go.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You do.

JUDGE JEWETT: We traveled to Italy a lot. We do a lot of traveling but we just haven't been to Germany yet.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Where is your most favorite place that you have traveled to?

JUDGE JEWETT: Wow, that's tough. We just went to – you know, it's funny, it's I guess primacy and recency, we just went to Iceland in October and it was incredible.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I bet.

JUDGE JEWETT: Just incredible. I mean, you know Iceland is a small place. It's only the size of Kentucky and has 300,000 people, which is what one-fourth of what we have here in Orange County alone. But it was gorgeous. I mean, you're driving around and there are just waterfalls, you know. It's a beautiful place and I mean now everyone is going there unfortunately, it's going to be more crowded, but it was just fantastic. Just fantastic. But probably the Amalfi coast is one of my probably favorites in Italy.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE JEWETT: Because that place is incredible.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Now, it says here because I have some little notes on you that you've traveled to every U.S. state except Hawaii.

JUDGE JEWETT: That's right.

JUDGE LATIMORE: That is incredible.

JUDGE JEWETT: And the reason why we haven't been to Hawaii is because you can't drive there.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, I was going to ask you about that, okay.

JUDGE JEWETT: Right, because my mom was a teacher. My father died in 1969 when I was eight. So there was three kids and my mom, she was a teacher, so at the end of the school year, we would get in the – it started out with the station wagon and pop up trailer camper. Eventually by the end, we were in a motor home. But every summer we would go somewhere and so I've been to all the provinces of Canada except for the ones with the weird names that are way up north. We've been all the way across. We've driven through every state, seen every state and Hawaii, we almost went, myself and my wife, almost went to Hawaii for our honeymoon so I could knock it off the list many years ago but we decided to not go there. We went somewhere else so we still have to get – I still have to you know –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You're still going to go.

JUDGE JEWETT: Oh, yeah, definitely.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE JEWETT: I got to get it off – I got to get it off the list.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You got to go to Hawaii, yeah.

JUDGE JEWETT: Now, it's just you know with COVID and flights and stuff like that, but we will go.

JUDGE LATIMORE: So I'm curious, where did you go for your honeymoon?

JUDGE JEWETT: We went to St. Lucia.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, it's beautiful. Oh my gosh.

JUDGE JEWETT: Oh, it was so gorgeous and we went to a place called the Body Holiday and so half of the day you would get spa treatments and the other half of the day, you could do whatever kind of sports and stuff you wanted to do. So it was pretty incredible. All but one of the spa treatments we really enjoyed. There was one where it was called water therapy and literally what they did, you would stand in a, maybe about the size of this room, about ten feet away, you know and you're naked as a jay bird, and then they sprayed you with what was kind of like a fire hose.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Wow.

JUDGE JEWETT: Like a high-powered hose. That's – yeah, it was weird.

JUDGE LATIMORE: It was therapy.

JUDGE JEWETT: It was therapy, they said, you know. It wasn't my favorite.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right.

JUDGE JEWETT: Let's put it that way. And I – at the time I used to have a – well, actually after that even I wore an earring, I had a diamond stud. That was a diamond from one of my grandmother's old rings, and I lost it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: You lost it –

JUDGE JEWETT: On the honeymoon and I think it was in that therapy room.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Another reason why you don't really like cared for it, right.

JUDGE JEWETT: That's right. Well, you know, I mean it was like – it's like you're standing in a room and someone just spraying you with a really strong garden hose. I don't understand the therapy. It wasn't that enjoyable.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah.

JUDGE JEWETT: The seaweed wrap, yeah, I'll do that again. That was nice.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'll bet.

JUDGE JEWETT: Yeah, and the massages, of course.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, that sounds wonderful. So speaking of sports, you're a real sports fan, right?

JUDGE JEWETT: I do enjoy sports.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Yeah. And true Gator.

JUDGE JEWETT: Orange and Blue.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Diehard Gator, right.

JUDGE JEWETT: Orange and Blue.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Orange and Blue.

JUDGE JEWETT: I'm going to bleed it.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Definitely. And I notice Miami Dolphins as well so I'm born and raised in Miami, grew up in a Miami Dolphins household so I understand.

JUDGE JEWETT: Well, you know we're over the age, not to say that you're old, but there was only one team.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, thank you. That's true.

JUDGE JEWETT: And they also were really good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: They were very good. They were awesome.

JUDGE JEWETT: They were really good.

JUDGE LATIMORE: They really were. Now today maybe not so...

JUDGE JEWETT: You know every year we have hope.

JUDGE LATIMORE: But I was curious, Boston Red Sox fan.

JUDGE JEWETT: That's a – that's a – yeah, and I hate all the teams from Boston, especially New England, the Patriots.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, if you're a Dolphin fan you of course hate the Patriots, right.
That's a given.

JUDGE JEWETT: Well, of course. The Red Sox comes because my mother went to the University of Florida, and her roommate was dating the quarterback and the catcher, the same guy, that played for Florida. When he left Florida, he went and played for the Boston Red Sox. And so eventually when he retired, he became the general manager of the team because the owners, the Yawkeys, who were actually kind of despicable people, but they liked him, and so they made him general manager. And one of those summers, when my mom was, you know, when we would travel, we went up to Boston and we were travelling up through the Northeast, we stopped, stayed with them and Haywood, who was the husband, the general manager, took me with him to work one day. And I was at Fenway Park and I got to go into the clubhouse, and I met some players. And I was 12 at the time. I was a kid from Florida who didn't have any – baseball was nothing to me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right. Right.

JUDGE JEWETT: But then I kind of you know, it really got into me. And then the next year was – they made it to the playoffs and then in '75 they – it was the famous loss in the World Series and I can remember when I was watching it as a kid, and they lost the last game. And laying on the couch crying. It was so – my mom was like, what are you crying about. She's like, you, baseball, what. So but that's how, it was only through her and through them. So that's the only team in Boston. I hate the Celtics. I hate the Patriots, all those teams.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, let me ask you some questions. What is something that tons of people are obsessed with but you just don't get the hype?

JUDGE JEWETT: That's a tough question because there's a lot of things that I'm obsessed with that people say like reality TV, I love reality TV.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay, you do.

JUDGE JEWETT: Oh, Bravo, I love Bravo.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Okay.

JUDGE JEWETT: Love Bravo. What are other things that people are obsessed with?

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, tell me, what are some of the things you're obsessed with?

JUDGE JEWETT: That's a tough one. Well, I mean, you know, the Real Housewives –

JUDGE LATIMORE: You watch the Real Housewives.

JUDGE JEWETT: Yeah, I do.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I can't do it.

JUDGE JEWETT: I don't watch all of them, but there are certain ones that I do. And Survivor and all – reality TV, I love reality TV.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Would you ever do anything like that, like the Survivor thing?

JEWETT: Oh, I would like to think I could. I think that I would probably be, not eating would be problematic for me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Right.

JUDGE JEWETT: And then also I think people would probably get sick of me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: I'd get voted off the island.

JUDGE JEWETT: Yeah, that's what I'm saying.

JUDGE LATIMORE: For sure. I definitely would get voted off the island.

JUDGE JEWETT: Because you know if you have an opinion and you talk too much, you're gone. And I think it would be a problem for me.

JUDGE LATIMORE: Well, thank you so much for being unplugged with me.

JUDGE JEWETT: I'm being voted off 9th Unplugged right now.

JUDGE LATIMORE: No, you're not. We've run out of time. Thank you for being here with unplugged.

JUDGE JEWETT: Thanks for having me. It was fun.

(Music)