

# ZEPHYRHILLS ORAL HISTORY

## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Captain Reggie Roberts

Recorded February 15, 2019

Reggie: Well, I'll tell you what want to do. I'm gonna-- It's quite humbling every day. And I'm going to start with my day. It's quite humbling to come to this police department every day in the position that I hold and I'm grateful to hold. I'll tell you like this, we'll start here, but every day I make this entrance and I always feel like, you know, it's quite humbling to be able to come to this department from growing up in this town and to holding a position and responsibilities that I hold right now. And I always say to myself, and I always tell the guys, this is when you check self at the door and it's really time to do the business of the community, of the people that expect you to do it. And with the responsibilities that I have. So I'm very blessed to be a part of Zephyrhills Police Department, and to hold the rank of captain and be given that responsibility. I know many days, you know, small town, the high school is just a stone's throw away from here. And I remember many days younger, and I always say that growing up, especially in a small town, but growing up, most of the athletes are telling you that your coaches had a big influence on you. So I remember many days of walking these streets going home after football practice, basketball practice, baseball practice, and I'm walking over to the [Krusen] Quarters. I, you know, I didn't have a car until I was, I think I was a junior. I was probably a junior in high school, before having a car, but middle school and all, we basically walked home or walked to practice sometimes when practice was not directly after school. But I definitely remember, you know, Zephyrhills High School, my Alma Mater, and walking home from practice. Obviously it doesn't look the same anymore. There have been many improvements. But when you drive around, as I do this day and age as a police officer in the city of Zephyrhills, you can remember some of the old dirt roads and before the improvements and a lot of the wooden houses where a lot of them now are being replaced with the more modern brick houses and things like that. But it's still Zephyrhills and you get that feeling of home and that's a big part of why I am where I am and why I work at Zephyrhills Police Department. This is North Ave and this was normally our route home.

Production: How far was the walk?

Reggie: You know, I need to measure that. It felt like forever at times. And then a lot of times though, it was bunch of us together. So we clowned around and had fun. And it was just like a snap of the finger. I would say it's probably about a mile and a half, maybe two mile walk. But we always had a good time. A lot of my friends, you know, my age, you know, Jimmy Campbell and Orien McCants, Eddie McKinsey, Terrell Smith. I mean, all of us, most of us, you know, probably all of us lived over in the Quarters area all together back then. And it was a great time. You know, Booker Pickett, Reuben Pickett...I can't

imagine all of us getting together anymore. The fun we had back then, it was always a good time. You're kinda making me want to get a reunion together.

Production: How many years has it been since back then?

Reggie: Well, I hate to tell my age, but we're probably talking a little over 30 years ago when we were making these journeys from practice or whatever. It was one of those times where, you know, it was cool to walk and there was, there was not a problem walking and even when our parents had cars and probably could pick us up. But the fellowship of walking home with the guys and hanging out with the guys was the biggest part of my experience. Let me say my experience. And again, Sixth Avenue here--the path most used to get back to what we always say, the Quarters where we lived. Many days traveling this and I remember on this trip was a lot of wood houses. Now as you see it being replaced with a lot of the brick homes. I know I've talked already about the little, this was the little store that most people stopped and would buy things from. And this is furthest I could go from home. This was a little store. It's now a church. Um, a gentleman named Bo owned the store. We used to call it Bo's Store. So we used to walk across the tracks, come over here to the store and get what you need and go back. My mom wouldn't let me walk much further than that unless I was going to the movie theater, which we'll drive by later. So here are the railroad tracks. We will call this, this is the unincorporated Pasco County and the city portion, obviously we'll drive through, is on the other side. So, this road is city jurisdiction. Most of the homes in this area are in Pasco County, but I definitely remember playing ball, riding bicycles up and down these streets, there was a time where this road basically ended. It didn't go all the way through to Chancey Road and it would turn into dirt. Just a block or so from here it would turn into dirt and it was just a long dirt road. There used to be a nightclub, right where all that stuff is right there. Back in the day there was. Now if you would ask people, they wouldn't call it a night club. This is a juke joint. So, you know, they would, grown ups actually would hang out. And there was like a little nightclub there. Now this was all dirt. This was all dirt. We played football, kickball, basketball, everything along these streets. Obviously some of the homes are gone and they've been replaced. Some are still here. You know, my grandmother who passed away for many years lived in this home. As you see, no one has it now. Then my other grandmother lived across the street from us here. So that was my, I spent a lot of time here in this area. This street is actually named after my grandparents. This is Riley. My great-grandparents, Rufus and Laura Riley. They actually lived here. Again, no one lives here now. This is where Rufus and Laura, my great-grandparents actually lived when they were alive. Again, this is the streets, down the streets here. We would play ball, hang out with your friends. I know you had the opportunity to talk to one of our legends, Miss Irene Dobson. This was her home—or, is her home—right here. And I remember many days having to rake this yard—she'll tell you, she would tell me to come over here and rake, Rake my yard and uh, I would spend many days raking her yard and she would always encourage me. I will definitely say today I had a conversation about her, actually, with my wife as I came to work today, that I would visit her real soon because anytime she ever saw me, she made sure that I was doing the right thing and she always encouraged me. So, definitely a pioneer. Definitely. Someone that I respect graciously. I'll drive down to the church. Big part of my life growing up was the church. And I told a story that sometimes my friends would be playing along these streets as I drove to church on Sunday morning or on Wednesday

night or any day during the week or whatever we were having at church. And I earned the nickname “Rev” for “Reverend,” because my friends would call me that. They felt like I was in church all the time. So we'll drive down. Obviously, the church has definitely changed over the years. I remember when I was a little boy, the church bell that now stands in front of the church was recently put there. Probably a year or so ago there was a ceremony, but prior to that, there was a wooden church next to the church, and it's actually buried there. And I remember as a little boy helping in that process of burying the old wooden church that stood just to the north of the church here. So, next to the church was a wooden church right here where I—[phone rings] It's Mr. Spina.

## **BREAK**

Reggie: All right. Behind the church. I remember coming back, I can't remember my age, but I was a little boy, elementary school age, and there used to be an old school that was behind the church that's also buried here. I remember going in and it was, I kind of found an old piano here in the church and there were old school books. So I would try to read or, you know, look through the material, you know, basically. I think that's what sparked my interest in history, is trying to, you know, figure out what building this was. And my grandmother told me it was an old school and had an old piano. Only half of the keys would work. But it was nice going in and trying to play it. And it was history, but it's all buried back here.

Production: Did you find out anything about this school, like when it was built?

Reggie: You know, I did. I think I've pretty much forgot what my grandmother told me. She gave me the history of the school and the information about the school at the time. Sorry I don't remember, but this is, most activities were here. I mean we did everything here at the church. You know, holidays or what have you. A lot of gatherings. You know, Law Day. If you've tasted the food at Law Day, that's what came year round. Good food and good fellowship. I spent a lot of time in the choirs, ministry, Sunday School. I was a Sunday School superintendent—youth superintendent and really enjoyed growing up at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

Production: We interviewed the McKenzie Sisters.

Reggie: That was the Picketts. Yup.

Production: The McKenzies?.

Reggie: Yup.

Production: Do you have any memories of them at all?

Reggie: Oh, those are my cousins. That's family and, you know, Ryan Pickett, my younger cousin, he was the football player—played pro football—but I grew up with Booker and PJ, Reuben Pickett. They were in my age group. Booker Pickett was a little younger. Reuben Pickett was my peer in school. And we had a great time. We all had a great relationship

because it was pre social media, when you actually had to fellowship and communicate with folks face-to-face. So we had a lot of great times, whether it was hunting, fishing or what have you. You know, I wouldn't change a thing. I wish kids today would, take it back to that era where you actually came out of the house and actually rode bicycles together and played together in the streets and got to know people other than who you see on social media. It was a great time. Growing up had its challenges, and I think I've spoken about some of those racial challenges as well [in the seated interview]. But for the most part, I don't think I would change a whole bunch. There's not a whole lot I would have changed about growing up here. So now we're going into—this is Airport Road. We are actually going into the city. This is the City of Zephyrhills portion. And this is the street that I lived most of my childhood, Kennedy Avenue. Again, there have been a lot of changes here. Used to be a big wooden house right there that caught on fire and burned when I was younger. You spoke about the McKenzies: this is the McKenzies's home, where a lot of them were raised and grew up.

Production: What was it like to grow up so close to so much of your family?

Reggie: Oh, I mean it was the village raising the kid. It was the village raising the kid. And you know, people talk about it, but it's the truth. You couldn't do anything because anybody on the street could spank you, and then when you go home they'll tell your parents and your parents would spank you. So, that's just the way it was. And I think it just created a barrier of support to prevent injury of kids. You know, everybody cared about what was going on next door in the neighborhood. I think we've lost that. We've lost that touch, where everybody's their own individual now and we get along through social media. But it was awesome. It was awesome. Now, I can tell you this, as we roll up on this park: I do see people playing in this park from time to time, but I can tell you when I grew up here, when this park was built, this was a major function on the weekend. You know, we would get out and play basketball. We started our own basketball tournaments. We religiously played ball at this park or did something positive here at the park. And I'll drive back by and I'll show you an area where—this field where these houses are, I'll show you where—we used to play a lot of baseball before these houses were here. I'll turn around right here. Before all of these houses were here, that was just one big field. And that was the one place that we all gathered to play softball or baseball. Behind these houses were a big sugar cane field. And Mr. Ellis, who lives just one house up, the green house, from the park, he would give us sugar cane. This is where it all happened. Where the aspiration to play baseball, football and all those things happened here on the streets or in this field, around those days when, you know, Teddy Wilson, Mike Johnson, Greg Mathis, all those guys would organize us and get us to play a little ball. And I think that's what made us better. Roosevelt Sanders, all those guys, I remember that would put us younger guys together and say, "Get out of the house. Let's go play some basketball. Let's get in the field and play some baseball or let's play some football." And certainly you drive these streets today and you really don't see that. So I think it was part of our growth and part of our experience that I cherish.

Production: Back in this area: Was it pretty much all black?

Reggie: It was black and Hispanic majority and pretty much like it is right now. Majority black or Hispanic. We'll take a ride now. My route to the movie theater. I always said, that was

one of the other places my mom allowed me to walk. And most of the time it was my aunt or uncles or someone older that I had to walk with to go to the movie theater. We will make the journey down down this way. And unfortunately, it was the same journey that I've mentioned that a police officer would follow us all the way back across the tracks after the movie was over, encouraging the group to head home and get back across the tracks.

Production: What kind of movies do you remember seeing?.

Reggie: I tell you, the most memorable movie that I saw that I'll always remember is *The Last Dragon*. I actually saw that here. It's one of my favorite movies and the superstar was an African-American karate guy. It was one of those things back then that was great to see: A movie like that in Zephyrhills. And I think most that saw it then would probably remember it the same way.

Production: Bruce Leroy.

Reggie: Bruce Leroy, yeah. Yup. It was real nice, but we would always just leave the movie theater and walk straight down Fifth Avenue to head back across the tracks. And again, we had escorts, but this is still memorable. I think, you know, even downtown here, some things have changed but some things have remained the same. The feeling of downtown is downtown. I love it downtown. Yup. It's historic and all you have to do is come back for a Founder's Day. Then you'll really see how much we've changed, but yet haven't changed, from that small town feel. It's beautiful. This is the 7 Eleven that I was confronted at. I told the story [in the sit down interview] that I was confronted by a group of guys and called some things. I believe it was right before I went off to college. I was getting gas here and was told to go back across the tracks. But here is the old movie theater that's now no longer a movie theater. It's downtown.

Production: What do you think of some of the changes that have been taking place lately? Downtown?

Reggie: I'm encouraged that we want to be inclusive and I want downtown to become one of those places that people still want to hang out, whether it's a restaurant or what have you. I think I definitely encourage the goals of our city to grow downtown and to bring good business. And I definitely encourage people to buy local and to support our local businesses downtown or wherever they are in Zephyrhills. So I think we have a great growth plan here in the city, and I definitely support those efforts because I can see great things happening.

Production: What's your favorite restaurant in Zephyrhills?

Reggie: Wow. That's really putting me on the spot. Favorite...I don't know if I have a favorite, but I can tell you I definitely enjoy Sunrise [Eatery] if you want a good, hot meal, a big meal. There's the Country Cafe, you know, and you have restaurants that are moving in like Bagelicious right there. Obviously our normal fast food places are here, but you can look

at me and see that I support our restaurants here in Zephyrhills. I definitely support the restaurants. But it's hard for me to narrow it down to one. It depends on the day.

Production: Back when you were a kid, was there still the same situation with the snowbirds coming down?

Reggie: You know...Yes. I know it was the same situation, but I think it's grown, to be honest with you. At least as a police officer now, here in the city, I see it a little more and see how it affects us as far as the traffic and sometimes traffic accidents. I do see the effect that it's having on the city, but it's also bringing money to the city as well. So, you know, you look at it both ways. I think we welcome them.

Production: Was that something that you were even aware of back when you were a kid?

Reggie: Not really. Not really, I don't think. I don't think I was aware of snow birds or the effect of snow birds on the community, whether financially or what have you. I don't think I was aware of any of that, but this was a major shopping center. I think McQuarrie's, I think the old McQuarrie's or whatever. I think that was the name of it. And that was the big grocery store right there. It was called Thriftway. A lot of folks from high school worked there, and it was the big grocery store. My grandmother would go every Saturday. I would try to go with my grandmother there. So I know that shopping center and the plaza there with Thriftway was huge in my family because I knew that's where we mostly went. But Zephyrhills has definitely grown. I remember there was a bridge here and I believe it was right here where the old bridge crossed over 301 to Fort King there. So it definitely has changed. And our most recent change, as we see, is a Culver's and Wawa on the Krusen property there—excuse me, not Krusen. Can't think of the name—Hercules. Hercules. Sorry about that. Hercules property...You can cut that out. [Laughs] I don't know what else you guys want to see...Starbucks just opened.

Production: Let's cut for a second and we'll figure it out. No problem.

## **BREAK**

Reggie: I talked about being a police officer here in Zephyrhills now and my experiences when I was here before, but I can tell you that it is challenging, even in my shoes now, actually, being a police officer where I grew up, and actually just being a police officer, but certainly as a captain here, sometimes community puts expectations [on you]. Which I encourage, because I have to live up to those expectations. At the very same time, I think there have been some instances, a couple in the last year, where I was called a certain name or a certain word that obviously was not appropriate—the N word—and no matter where you go, you're going to get some of that. Ignorance grows everywhere. But at the same time, I definitely don't let that affect the job that I have to do. I love working where I'm working. I love being back in my hometown and, you know what, it doesn't matter what color you are or what color I am. I get calls all the time, calls of encouragement or calls if there's an issue, because people in this community know who I am and they know me. I accept those phone calls either way, whether it's something they think has gone wrong or something that that's gone well, but regardless, we're

going to fight through, we're gonna make it through some of those other challenges. And even those people that sometimes come off the wrong way and use the language they use a lot of times I just don't feed into it and I stay positive, and most of the time the interaction ends up being positive. It ends positive. I don't let it get under my skin, which is hard to do. I can't tell you that it's easy to do, especially in 2019. But it is what it is. And just like I tell all the officers, and I said before, you check self at the door and, as I do every morning when I go through that gate, I check myself at the gate, and I know I'm here to do the business of the Zephyrhills Police Department and the business of the City of Zephyrhills. We can't take things personal, but those kinds of things do happen, unfortunately, and we have to be a professional about it and continue to do our business. I tell you the police work is my calling, and what better place to do it than a city that you grew up in with the folks that you know. So it has been a very positive experience with me.

Production: What would you like to see Zephyrhills grow into over the next years?

Reggie: Well, I think as far as population, I think there's no doubt we're going to grow. But if you're thinking in the sense of a community, I'd like to see the community grow together even more. I can't say that we aren't together, but I wish we'd continue to grow together as the city grows so that we can continue to be a melting pot and inclusive of all. And I see that it's already happening. I think we have good leadership and we have a new city manager coming on [William Poe], and I think, you know, also being from here, I think he'll take the reins and continue to take us there. So I look forward to growing and continuing to be an inclusive community...I see somebody. You guys want to get out for a minute?

Production: Sure.

Reggie: What's up man? How you doing?

Chris [Drews]: I'm good. You?

Reggie: I'm pretty good. Doing pretty good. So, what are you doing? Walking out? Walking the streets?

Chris: I'm walking the streets of beautiful downtown Zephyrhills. That's what I do. It's Friday out here. Handing out some tickets to the Ren-Fest [Renaissance Festival in Tampa] coming up to local businesses. It's kind of like Christmas is coming early.

Reggie: I was telling these guys, man. This is the man, the Zephyrhills man. The newspaper downtown, you got to know everything man. What's going on in our beautiful city?

Chris: Well, Manolo's was open last night for Valentine's Day. I was there and, you know, we have a couple of empty places to fill soon, so we'll do that.

Reggie: Now this is the big question for me. Are crimes alright? Am I doing my job?

Chris: Crime is great! Page two of my newspaper every week, it's just full. It looks like Walmart's the place they like to shop, so...[laughs]

Reggie: That's good. As long as you know. I would say this is a beautiful place, man. I remember sharing my memories of growing up in Zephyrhills, and the movie theater downtown. It's only getting better and better and I think it's awesome.

Chris: Yeah, we try to stay at home.

Reggie: Stay at home. That's right. So, I look forward to all the growth. One of the questions posed to me was about growth and, like I say, filling those two spots right there with some good things there. And as the city continues to grow, then we still remember where we came from.

Chris: That's right. Small town America. This is Norman Rockwell America still. And that's what I like about having the small town paper. You write about what's going on with the Rotary clubs and churches and schools. You know, we have five kids from the high school, on the football team—Can you imagine that?—They made all state!

Reggie: Yeah, that's good!

Chris: And, you know, I put that on Facebook yesterday and it's getting lots of hits, and it's things like that that we try to cover.

Reggie: Right. I know when I coached, you guys, you definitely helped me out, helped me get those kids noticed then.

Chris: Every time they signed a scholarship, we were there.

Reggie: That was awesome, man. I appreciate what you do, man.

Chris: Appreciate you.

Reggie: Definitely so. This is the man here, the newspaper man! I appreciate you.

### **BREAK**

Reggie: Ninth Street and Sixth Avenue here. The old police department, prior to moving into the building we're in now. This is where I remember the police department. I've never been there adversarially, let me make that extremely clear, but that's where the police department was.

Production: So all of the people you were friends with and hung out with: They pretty much all lived near you?

Reggie: Yeah. You know, I had friends on both sides, obviously. I mentioned earlier, most African-Americans lived across the tracks at the time, but we had friends, obviously I had friends



on both sides. I would visit friends, but it was a little more...let's say, in my day, the tracks kind of divided where you lived here in the city. So, most of my friends I grew up with lived in the same area, whether it was on the county side or on the city side of the [Krusen] Quarters. You know, another thing: I'm going to drive by Krusen Field, which was another. Early on, the football league there, I didn't play youth football, but I played youth baseball. That was another place where everybody got together, because one thing about Zephyrhills, we've always been supportive of our athletics and our cheer and football, basketball, what have you.

Production: So your family was big on sports? And especially baseball?

Reggie: Yes, yes, definitely. Early on my mom wouldn't let me play youth football. So I actually got involved with baseball at a very early age, but in middle school, it was the first time I was able to play tackle football other than playing in the streets in the neighborhood. But it's always been that way, and hopefully that continues that our sports are [supported]. I remember playing football at Zephyrhills High School and it seemed like the whole city was there, like nothing was open in the city because everyone wanted to get there. So that's one of those things I've talked about before that's part of growing up in a small town like Zephyrhills where everything shuts down when it's that time and the city is very supportive of our athletes and you know, whether it's cheer, soccer, or what have you, I think our city has been very supportive, but you know, again, sports is one of those things that I thank God for, because if you didn't have that, I don't know. I don't know what choices I would have [made] or what would have happened. But I know one thing, that in my house, my mom wouldn't allow me to play sports if I didn't have my grades, if my grades weren't good, you know, and my behavior wasn't good. So sports made an impact, but at the same time, [there were] some things that I had to do to be able to play sports, and that's what it's done for me throughout those years. Also, you know, going to play football on scholarship, I wouldn't have gotten there if I wouldn't have taken care of business at school. So, even though I participated, and sports was a big thing in my family, academics was even a bigger thing. They're kind of blocking us out from the park, doing some work road work down there.

Production: It always amazed me that so many of the people who were athletes who I went to school with, who got scholarships and stuff, it seems like they just couldn't follow through once they got to college.

Reggie: I tell you, you are certainly right. And even some of the guys that I have coached, for some reason or another, a lot of them end up coming back to what's known and they're afraid of to deal with that unknown. I just thank God that, you know, when I left here, my parents, even my college games, every game that my parents could come to, they were there, my mom was there. The support. But you know, there's something else that goes along with that athletic ability: You've got to also know how to behave, and I did. I didn't have it easy. And I think that was a big part with me. No one gave me anything. My parents made me work for what I received. And, also, they encouraged when I was right, but when I'm wrong, they didn't support me when I was wrong. They would tell me I'm wrong. And a lot of times today, I see a lot of kids being supported and not being held accountable for their actions. So when you go somewhere else, and you're in the care of someone else, whether it's a coach, a counselor, or someone else, and they don't

do that, kids don't know how to deal with that. They do not know how to deal with failure when somebody corrects them. They don't know how to deal with that. But you know, I think a couple of things with me—and the fact was, my parents, my church life—I definitely say my church life had a huge bearing on that. I think the fact that my parents pushed academics, I didn't struggle there, and I think they didn't accept bad behavior. So I'm grateful that I was raised the way I was raised and I received those lessons and I was able to go to school and finish school and go on into my career. But you're absolutely right. A lot of kids who have all the tools as an athlete, sometimes they do not make it in school because they don't have the whole package. But it's incumbent on coaches, families. It takes everybody to build that. It's not something that will just happen.

Production: You said something that was interesting, too, about being tempted to return to what's familiar.

Reggie: Yes. I mean everybody loves to do it. We go to what? Familiar. If we walk into a room and that's the first thing. I'm a law enforcement instructor. Whether it's law enforcement, whether it was when I taught high school, you'll see kids coming in the room and they'll sit next to kids that they know and they'll come into a room and they'll sit next to people they know. And sometimes people that look like them and people that they know. And so the biggest thing that I always do is try to separate everybody. Put somebody near somebody that they don't know, are not familiar with. And that's when learning begins. And I think that's when life begins. When we were able to sit in a room or sit next to someone we don't know, sit next to someone that don't look like us, and we accept and we exchange ideas. So that's how it works. But coming home is easy. Your mom's home is always going to be there and you're familiar with that. So you just come on home and not fight the fight. So I pray, you know, and I encourage scholarships, and throughout my 10 years as high school head football coach, I was part of many signing ceremonies. But, you know, I always tell the kids there's something even bigger than playing sports. And even from the days they played with me, building on that fact that it's bigger than sports. It's life. So, here's where it all began. I was a baseball player here and this is where Krusen Field [is], where the baseball fields, softball fields [are], and we did it all here when I was younger. Zephyrhills Athletic League has the football program now. Looks like some softball being played here now. So this is where the football program—Damien Pickett, I think he's the coordinator of the league and that has a big turnout here. I come out here some Saturday mornings to support, and there's kids everywhere and families everywhere, so nothing's changed. It's getting bigger. And I believe he's added a basketball league and also he's added track, I do believe, and I may be missing a sport, but I think obviously he has cheerleading. Yes. They've put in the skate park and a few other things as well.

Production: That's the water bottle plant here, right?

Reggie: Zephyr Bottling right there. All right. I'll ride out this way and come in the back way. Everybody talks about Zephyrhills Water. This is it right here. Nestle plant here in Zephyrhills.

Production: And they hire a lot of people in Zephyrhills. That's one of the biggest employers, right?

Reggie: I don't know the numbers exactly, but I would assume so. It's a big employer. I would say it's between the prison and that in the Zephyrhills area.

Production: Is that a state penitentiary, outside of town?

Reggie: It is. It's more of an industrial side of the city down here.

Production: Who was the principal when you were at Zephyrhills High School?

Reggie: Larry Robinson was my principal there. Larry Robinson. I believe he's at Saddlebrook if he has not retired there. Very firm, very firm. Believes in discipline. We had a pretty good senior year basketball team, and we were probably one of the best to come through. We'd played together since middle school. With the exception of myself and maybe a few others, they went to a senior skip day, and Larry Robinson and then coach Craig Millburn basically dismissed them from the team prior to tournament. So we lost our first game in the district tournament because they were dismissed for attending senior skip day. When we all together or at least a few of us together, we kind of remember that we had a very good basketball team then. We played some very good basketball teams around the state and competed during the season. And this happened right before the tournament.

Production: Did you ever play any sports in high school with Marcus [McCants]?

Reggie: Marcus is my little cousin. Marcus was two years behind me. Marcus and Booker [Pickett] were two years behind. So they were sophomores when I was a senior. Marcus played quarterback. Booker played outside linebacker and running back. Also, Marcus was a baseball player, so I actually played on the baseball team with Marcus as well.

Production: He was telling us a story about playing the Dade City team in some sport, I think baseball or something like that. Found out that he had five or six cousins playing in the game that he hadn't even met yet. I think you were one of them.

Reggie: I'm telling you, and I always tell everybody when it's Zephyrhills and Dade City football and the Nine Mile War [the annual football game between Zephyrhills and Pasco High Schools] comes around or what have you, people say, well, you know, while that game is going on, it's the Hatfields and McCoys, but then it's a family reunion after, because, chances are, you're related to somebody on the other squad. So that's interesting. That's a good story.

Production: And I liked his story about a friend—it might've been his brother or something—that got on the bus to go to the family reunion, and the girl he had dated before was on the bus.

Reggie: Oh no! Oh man! I'm going to have to ask him about that one, man, huh? He didn't tell you stories about me, did he? Good! He always tells a baseball story about me when I was pitching, so I'm not going to tell it.

Production: You ever go out and eat at his restaurants?

Reggie: Oh, absolutely! Absolutely. I wish he'd move a little closer to me, though. But I do get out there every chance I get to stop by and pick up some wings. Absolutely.

Production: Well, if Zephyrhills keeps growing like it is...

Reggie: Yeah. He might have to put one here. That's right. Yeah. Most definitely. I try to support him every chance I get. He's doing an awesome job.

Production: I had been to both of his restaurants.

Reggie: You didn't realize he owned them?

Production: I had been to the one in Temple Terrace a lot.

Reggie: There's Mike Johnson! Should have talked to him. I ain't gonna bother him.

**END**