

1 GVP65, Elizabeth Angeli

2 K: The first question is just a little demographic information that we're gathering about our
3 participants. So, just a little bit about yourself, what is your age?

4 E: Thirty-five.

5 K: And your self-identified race?

6 E: White.

7 K: And gender?

8 E: Female, cis-female.

9 K: What neighborhood or area of Milwaukee do you live, and how long have you lived there?

10 E: I live in West Milwaukee and I've lived here for three-and-a-half years.

11 K: Great. Now, we're going to move on to the, to the gun violence experience that you'll be
12 sharing. First question is just generally, do you remember where your story happened? You can
13 just share a general neighborhood, just for mapping purposes.

14 E: I think officially it was in Cudahy.

15 K: Okay.

16 E: It might've been in South Milwaukee. It was [in the Mitchell Field neighborhood].

17 K: Okay, yeah, I'm not sure what city that is, but that's great. Thank you so much.

18 E: Sure.

19 K: So, now we'd like to hear, or now I'd like to hear the story of what happened and you can
20 share in any way you'd like from the beginning and then I'll have some follow up questions. But
21 we'd like the opportunity for you to share your experience.

22 E: Sure. So, the person who I know who's a victim of gun violence is my uncle, my mom's
23 brother, her oldest brother. And he was murdered on March 1st of 2018 by his tenant. He owned
24 a four-plex, I guess. You know, where a four-family? And I believe it was Cudahy. And he'd
25 been renting to this person, as I understand it, for, you know, a few years. And of course, we
26 don't know exactly the details of what happened because this happened, my uncle was murdered
27 in a garage. And at like 3 o'clock in the afternoon on a Thursday. And according to the person
28 who murdered him, they had gotten in an argument about the rent being raised something like
29 thirty dollars. And my uncle gave the murderer, sorry, I'm trying not to say his name.

30 K: Sure.

31 E: But I'm also conflicted because I don't want to protect him because his name's already been
32 in the news, you know. Because it was on the news networks for a while. But, anyways,
33 according to the guy who killed him, my uncle gave you know, said the rent's going up. You
34 know, "If you want to stay, fine. If you don't, you need to move out. Because I've got to fill the
35 apartment." And I don't quite know, you know, what happened, but this discussion, according to
36 people who were home at the time, happened I think in the apartment building. And then my
37 uncle went out to the garage where he was working on some projects and his tenant, the guy who
38 killed him, in that time got the gun that he had hid and he owned this gun illegally. He, the guy
39 who killed him, I'm just going to call, his name's Jason.

40 K: Sure.

41 E: He is a convicted felon. He has probably twenty years of, worth of (pause) things on his
42 record. And some were felonies, some aren't.

43 K: Okay.

44 E: So, he had this gun hidden and went to the garage and again, this is all according to Jason and
45 what the scene looked like after. But, he shot him in the head, my uncle turned to say, you know,
46 whatever, this is it if you want to pay 30 bucks, if you don't, turned around and Jason shot him
47 from three feet from behind. And then, he died instantly. And then Jason, and this is what the
48 news doesn't talk about. And this is what has been, these details are what have been removed
49 from Jason's record. So, you know, it's important for me to provide this.

50 K: Right.

51 E: As difficult as it may be to, for people to hear this. So, you know, my uncle's shot in the back
52 of the head, dies, falls. Jason robbed him. Stole from all of the cash from my uncle's, first of the
53 month he collected payment from his tenants.

54 K: Right.

55 E: Rolled his body up in a tarp or blanket or something and stuffed it in a corner of the garage.
56 Took my uncle's car. And proceeded to go to Wal-Mart where he went into a dressing room and
57 changed out of all of his bloody clothes, left the clothes there, went to his parole officer, or
58 whatever it was, because he had to be tested for drugs or something like that as part of his parole.
59 And then went to a bar, drank with one of his friends, went home and at this point my cousins
60 and my aunt started like, "Where's, where is he?" You know, "He was supposed to be home."
61 And the next morning, which would've been Friday, March 2nd, woke up at like five to a bunch

62 of text messages from my cousin. You know, “Do you know where Uncle Bill, do you know—”

63 Like, all—

64 K: Right.

65 E: —nobody had any idea where he was. Everybody’s thinking the worst. And I ended up going

66 to the apartment with my mom that morning to try to find him. And I had a feeling that he was

67 dead. I, just when I saw my cousin’s text message saying, “We don’t know where my dad is.”

68 I’m like, this is not right. This is not normal.

69 K: Right.

70 E: So, we were basically prepared to look through dumpsters. Look in ditches. You know, for my

71 uncle’s body. And when we got to the apartment, which is where we knew he last was, that’s

72 when we were greeted with Cudahy Police, South Milwaukee Police, and Greenfield Police

73 because my uncle lived out in Greenfield. And my mom and I were the first to be told that there

74 was a body in the garage, and I had a picture from Christmas, which was from you know, two to

75 three months before, of my uncle and my mom. And I gave it to the detective, on my phone, and

76 they used that picture to identify his body.

77 K: Right.

78 E: And then Jason went to work that morning, he worked at the Cudahy meat processing plant

79 and that’s where they arrested him. Meanwhile, little did I know when I think my whole family

80 didn’t know, but that was, that was really when stuff started, when they arrested him and you

81 know, we thought, “Okay, great, he’s arrested. Case closed.” You know, he confessed to the

82 murder. And that is far from reality when it comes to gun violence and our “criminal justice

83 system”.

84 K: Right. What happened after? (pause)

85 E: It's, well, (pause) he has a criminal, or what is it, what is it called? Public defense attorney?

86 K: Okay.

87 E: What are they called? A public defender. He had a public defender and the DA, I didn't know
88 this. I mean, I don't know a lot about the legal system.

89 K: Right.

90 E: My family's learning about this as we go. But, the state decided to take on my uncle's case.
91 Apparently, the state doesn't have to take on all murder cases.

92 K: Oh, wow.

93 E: As I understand it.

94 K: Right, yeah, I don't know either.

95 E: It was, but we just all assumed, we're like, "Yeah, this guy confessed to murdering uncle
96 Bill." You know, case closed kind of thing. But then when my cousin who is my uncle's
97 daughter, she's the main contact for everything. And you know, she said, "Wow, I guess the
98 DA's takin' the case. Didn't know that was an option. Just thought this was what people do." We
99 got assigned to, we got assigned, or my uncle's case got assigned a prosecutor and that, we
100 shifted prosecutors I guess, once. It was, and it has been one of the most frustrating things I
101 think, and I don't want to speak for my whole family, but it's, I don't know. I mean, I'll just.
102 Jason is a white male. And he is benefitting from the system with his white male privilege. The
103 system's designed to protect him.

104 K: Right.

105 E: Meanwhile it's not designed to protect us, or to even help Jason. Because as we found out,
106 Jason has pretty severe mental illness problems. But this was just diagnosed as a result of him
107 murdering my uncle.

108 K: Oh, okay.

109 E: If you go back and look at circuit court history, he's got twenty years of felonies. Never has
110 mental illness been brought up ever. And he was on parole, he was supposed to be under the
111 watch of federal agents. We found out on February 28th, so the day before he killed my uncle, he
112 was supposed to have surrendered all of his firearms.

113 K: Wow.

114 E: Every single one. And my cousins had to clean out his apartment after, because the building
115 went to my cousins. Because my uncle owned it. So, when they were cleaning out Jason's
116 apartment, they found weapons of all kinds that weren't confiscated by the people who were
117 supposed to be doing this. So, you know, we find this out. You know, he gets a diagnosis of
118 pretty severe mental illness. Because of that, he got to choose whether or not he wanted a jury
119 trial or just a trial by the judge. And I kept telling the prosecutor, I'm like, "I don't understand
120 why and how this is his decision." He already confessed. I don't, this doesn't make any sense to
121 me. And especially given his, you know, history.

122 K: Right.

123 E: Of pretty, and he's had other violent crimes. I mean, he had a restraining order put out on him,
124 I think a few months before he murdered my uncle. All this stuff. So, fast-forward about a year
125 from that, he was found by the judge not guilty due to mental illness. He had all of those charges
126 of hiding a corpse, which is apparently an offense.

127 K: Right.

128 E: Robbing my uncle, stealing his car. The public defender was able to get all those removed. So,
129 the only charge that he was left with was apparently the only one that “mattered”. Which was
130 first-degree, intentional homicide by a felon, and having, you know, a felon having an illegal
131 firearm. But, you know, and so because of that, this whole, the whole way leading up to that, the
132 prosecutor, and we also had a family victim advocate who has not been in our life for about a
133 year. Even though things are ongoing. She just isn’t talking to us. For whatever reason. Like,
134 she’s not following up with his continuing, ongoing case. Anyway, that’s another thing. I know
135 I’m kind of going all over the place.

136 K: No, that’s hard. Yeah, there’s a lot.

137 E: It’s a lot. There’s, there’s a lot. So, the prosecutor and the advocate were pretty convinced that
138 he was not going to be found not guilty due to mental illness. But he was. And they also said,
139 you know, our family would get the opportunity to talk to Jason in the court room. Because at
140 least one of us were present for every single court appearance. It was usually my cousin, I tried
141 to make everyone, my mom was almost at everyone. Because we wanted someone to be there for
142 my, you know, my uncle.

143 K: Absolutely, right.

144 E: And when the day that Jason was sentenced, he wasn’t even sentenced because he’s not in
145 jail. He, whatever the right word is, the judge found him not guilty due to mental illness so he is
146 now at Mendota. Which is a mental health facility, correctional facility. It’s apparently not jail,
147 from how I understand it, or maybe it is, but it’s not what I think of as jail. We were not given
148 the opportunity to talk to him, even though that was part of our rights as the victim’s family. And

149 he was taken away directly to Mendota. And here's what really gets me, he gets to petition for
150 release, every six months for the rest of his life. And I thought that, okay, fine, he gets to petition
151 to go to jail, like he's not going to be released to the world. No, he gets to petition to be released
152 to the world if a psychiatrist deems him fit to be in society. And you know, we've, our advocate,
153 and he actually already petitioned. We found out the day of his court appearance that he, he was
154 petitioning. Our advocate didn't call us to tell us that. The prosecutor didn't call us to tell us that.
155 My mom and my cousin found out in a letter that was posted three days before he was supposed
156 to show up in court. And, you know, I'm, it's just been, you know, and the thing is that really
157 gets me, Jason has serious mental challenges. He shouldn't have you know, the system failed
158 him.

159 K: Right.

160 E: Totally failed him. And it's doing nothing to protect us. And you know, and there's just, and
161 we have to sit with every day, that my uncle's murder could've been prevented if people were
162 doing their freaking jobs. You know, if the federal agents had actually collected all of his
163 weapons. If, you know, he didn't even get to the point where he had a track record of 20 years. If
164 there were mental health, you know, supports in place when he was in high school, or junior high
165 or whatever it was. And, so he has a life that you know, now that, according to his public
166 defender who has spoken to us outside of the court room, which I don't even think she's
167 supposed to do. Yeah, she talked to us outside the courtroom before we went in, one of the last
168 times, and she said, you know, "Jason is choosing not to have a jury trial." And we said, "Okay."
169 And she said, "He doesn't want to put your family through this." And I looked at her, and I said,
170 "Really?" And then I thought, are you even supposed to be talking to us? Like, is this how,
171 you're, you don't work with us. And she said, you know, "Jason knows what he did was wrong.

172 And he doesn't want to put your family through that." And then I think, if he knew what he did
173 was wrong, how is the mental illness thing coming into effect? Like, he knows what he did was
174 wrong, he needs to, like, he needs to, I'm sorry. Like, I know that this goes against a lot of
175 current movements that are out there with you know, abolishing prison reform. But the reality is,
176 is my uncle murdered, you know—

177 K: Absolutely.

178 E: I don't think the majority of people deserve to be murdered. You know, I'm (inaudible).

179 K: Of course.

180 E: And people deserve a system that prevents them from falling into crime and robbing people
181 and needing restraining orders and Jason needs a lot of help.

182 K: Right.

183 E: And, so we, like, that's the thing too. My family needs a lot of help. And it's been really, I
184 don't even have the word for it.

185 K: Right, absolutely.

186 E: Tough.

187 K: I mean, just listening. I mean, it, I mean it's incredibly, of course, very sad for your family.
188 But the same time, just hearing about the system, the frustration, and the anger that, I mean,
189 because of the dysfunction. And it's not working for anyone, the victims or the perpetrator. How
190 old is Jason? You said, he has a 20-year record, like, I'm trying to understand how old he is.

191 E: I think he just turned forty, or he's going to be forty this coming December.

192 K: Okay, okay.

193 E: Yeah.

194 K: Wow. And how, I'm just interested, how long had he lived in your uncle's, in the apartment?

195 And were there any indications of these issues before?

196 E: He, I think, I don't know for sure, I think he rented from my uncle for a few years. And you

197 know, my uncle, I get a lot of crap about this from people when I tell them this, but this is just

198 who my uncle was. He didn't do background checks on people, as I understand it. You know, he

199 wanted to give people second chances.

200 K: Right.

201 E: Because mental illness has affected our family in ways that you know, and the system,

202 systems really are not designed to help people unless you have families that can advocate for

203 you.

204 K: Right.

205 E: And, you know, so he really felt for people who didn't, you know, weren't able to get in, you

206 know, live anywhere else.

207 K: Right, absolutely.

208 E: You know, a lot of times people are like, "Well, that's irresponsible of him". I'm like, "You

209 know what? I'm not blaming the victim." Like, you know, he wouldn't, I don't know what Jason

210 would've done or where he would've gone. And you know, he owned that building for a long

211 time. I don't remember a time in my life where my uncle wasn't a landlord.

212 K: Wow.

213 E: And so, I think, I know that Jason was with him for a while. And it was long enough that like,
214 my cousins knew him. You know, or of him. And I mean, my cousins don't you know, live there
215 or around there. So, it was, it was a while. You know?

216 K: Right. Yeah, so, it's not like some new tenant who, you know, just.

217 E: Yup.

218 K: Wow, wow. So, you've shared, I mean it's obviously greatly affected you and your family.
219 Are there, I mean, anything else that's, how it's affected your family or your community on a
220 wider scale? I'm not sure how the community reacted also.

221 E: I think it's, it's just like any other gun violence story. It happens all the time. And I think that
222 we're so sensitized to it, and you know, the things that were really, there were a few things that
223 have continually surprised me. I did not know how many people in my own communities and
224 groups had the same story I did.

225 K: Wow.

226 E: So, I would share this, and people would come up to me or email me after and said, "You
227 know, I had a friend who was murdered." "I had a cousin who was, who was gunned down." "I
228 had—" And I'm like, what, why, why? Why is this a thing? And you know, and the things that
229 get in a lot of ways, I don't have as much fear anymore. You know, when I'm out and about,
230 people are always like, you know, "Oh God, crime and robbery," it's like, you know what I
231 could be working in my garage at 3:30 on Thursday afternoon in March and someone can come
232 by and kill me. You know that's, that's crazy to me. And the fact that you know, one of the
233 impacts of that is that I'm less fearful, I don't think I had anticipated that. I think it's, I might just
234 be numb to it, or just sort of you know, I don't know. I haven't really been able to put a name to

235 that. I have a very hard time with fireworks or anything that sound like gunshots. Because all I
236 think about when I hear them is you know, did my uncle know what was coming? Did he hear
237 the gun before it hit him? Yeah, I mean, just.

238 K: Right.

239 E: Things that, and I'm grateful that it was fast and that given all the other weapons had in his
240 apartment that he chose a gun over like, a machete, or whatever else he had in there. I mean, it's
241 just, I never imagined that I'd be grateful for someone choosing a weapon that, you know.

242 K: Right.

243 E: It's just been, and I mean, the thing. It's also really impacted me, you know, I'm a professor
244 and this happened in the middle of the semester. And I know that my students were affected by
245 it. Because I went into freeze mode. When things happen to me and I have grief, I just freeze.
246 And you know, my students showed up in ways that I just wasn't ready for in a, in a good way.
247 You know, I took a week away from campus, so when I got back, I had hand-written notes from
248 students who I hadn't had in a year, under my door. You know? They, people just, they really,
249 they were incredible. And you know, I know that as painful as it is, it's prepared me to be with
250 people in a way that I would not otherwise be able to. Just because this is grief like I have never
251 known before. And I have, I am still sitting with and working with a lot of anger. A lot of anger.
252 I mean, I don't know that I've ever come into touch with my anger and rage as much as I have
253 now. And you know, that's starting to impact how I talk to people about you know, what's going
254 on right now with anti-racism and I'm like, "Yeah, you know. People are in jail unfairly, people
255 of color. Meanwhile, there's people like this white guy who I think should be in jail." So, let's
256 get the people out who really don't, shouldn't have been there in the first place.

257 K: Right.

258 E: Let's start not, like, let's just really start, I don't know. And then, I think, I just learned about
259 restorative justice. And it's interesting because I know the core of my being wants to have a
260 conversation with Jason to really understand you know, how is this impacting you? What
261 happened in your life that lead you to the point where you had to pull the trigger? Or you got,
262 like, because I really, I mean we're, my family, like it or not, is connected to this person forever.
263 Like, this is going to go in the stories that you know, my god sons tell their family. And you
264 know, my cousins and I were talking about it. And so, knowing that on my best days, that's
265 where I'm at. I'm at, you know, I know, I really feel like I'm learning what forgiveness actually
266 means. And it's as I'm, and I'm choosing to learn more about it. And how it's an inner
267 transformation that I feel like you have to go through in order to really not want to carry the
268 weight of it. I mean, I'm not there yet. I mean, it's been two-and-a-half years and I don't know,
269 like, it's a journey. I mean, these are things that I'm kind of trying to understand, but sometimes
270 it makes it very difficult for me to have conversations with family members or even close friends
271 who are like, I can't believe you're not out for blood all the time. And it's like, no, I mean
272 sometimes I am. And I feel bad using that, because I don't believe in eye for an eye in a lot of
273 ways. And you know, I have, you know, some people in my circle are "Don't you think he
274 should be dead?" I'm like, no I don't because then what happens? Either you believe in the
275 heaven that he gets to go to, or he comes back and you know gets reborn, you know.

276 K: Right.

277 E: I don't think that's fair. And you know, I don't think it's fair where he's at right now. And so,
278 it's really, it's tested my ability, or it's tested my idea of what fairness really is. And what justice
279 is or isn't. I almost thought about going to law school a few times because I was so infuriated

280 with how we were treated and mistreated and that our rights were completely not followed. I
281 mean, we had, we have basic rights that were not upheld. And you know, people are saying, you
282 know, sue the state, sue this. I'm like, okay so then it's going to be my full-time job to go after
283 the state. And you know, I'm, I don't know. Obviously, it's been a lot, I just gave you a lot of
284 answers to one question.

285 K: No, that's, that's how, it's a process and we appreciate, I mean, these are the stories we want
286 to capture. Especially like you said in the beginning, there's a lot that the media doesn't capture,
287 and your families' story and experience is part of that, that isn't, most likely shown in the media.
288 And the injustice that you are facing not only in your uncle's death, but through the system and
289 how you've been treated. Given all of this, and you've mentioned a few things, what are your
290 thoughts as you've thought about this experience and how to even eliminate gun violence? Or
291 where, where would you start?

292 E: Projects like this, I think are really how it's going to happen. Any changes. You know, I'm a
293 firm believer the more that I have experiences and talking with people that being able to listen to
294 other people stories and ask questions like this project is asking, that's the start of being open to
295 change. And you know, I know that going to talk to the prosecutor's going to do nothing. Calling
296 our advocate and saying, "Where have you been for the last year?" And, "Why are we finding
297 this—" that's not going to change anything. I'm sure that she is overworked. I'm sure that she is.
298 You know, I mean, any person who works in the social welfare, it's, she's got a ton of cases.
299 And you know, so I don't blame them, again on my best days I don't blame them. So, I really
300 think that we're going to have to be more open to holding each other in, into being. And being
301 comfortable with reliving this. I mean, I've got to tell you, I was, I usually respond to email
302 pretty quickly and I waited a bit to respond to yours because I knew that talking about this was

303 potentially going to take a lot out of me. And I knew that I had to be in a space where I wasn't
304 going to have to do anything of high cognitive you know, workload after this. Because I'm
305 probably, I'm going to be done. You know, I'm going to be done. And you know, I'm and I think
306 it's, I've talked to people who are pro-gun, pro-all of that. And I'm like, let me tell you a little bit
307 about why this doesn't work. Here's a picture of my uncle Bill. Like, and here's why, you know,
308 it's, and the gun violence isn't just about the guns. It's about mental health. It's, you know, about
309 making sure that you know, we have systems in place and more money invested in counselors in
310 schools so that someone like Jason, who may have been exhibiting things when he was ten or
311 whatever, someone has the opportunities to sit down with him and say, "Hey, what's going on?
312 What's going on at home? What's not going on at home? What are you feeling? What are you—
313 " You know, just really normalizing, and I don't like, but really making it okay for people to say,
314 "I'm angry and here's why," or, "I'm upset with you." And we're, the emotional intelligence I
315 think of most people, is we don't talk about that. And meanwhile, we're so you know, bent on
316 getting people through school and let's graduate college in three years, and let's not take the time
317 to really slow down, how we are being formed as humans who live in community, whether we
318 like it or not, with one another every minute of every single day. You know, we're not taking the
319 time to foster that. And you know, I think, it's a multi-tier, multi-pronged, however you want to
320 say it, problem that needs, a you know, a solution that aligns with that. But at the core, I really do
321 think it, it starts with talking and listening to other people's stories.

322 K: Right. Yeah, and that's the, like you said, that's, I mean, I came onto this project after it had
323 already started. But when I learned about it, I just felt, like you said, when you hear another
324 person's personal story and you can connect, it just changes, policy discussion, it changes the
325 whole landscape when you start to listen, like you said, to people's stories and their experiences.

326 And their views on what, what should change because they're the people who've experienced the
327 violence.

328 E: Yup. And I think, you know, you brought up the word "listen". And I'm sure I did too,
329 although I don't remember if I did.

330 K: Yeah, you did.

331 E: Okay. But we have to be taught how to do that, you know. I can just think of conversations
332 you have with people, where it's like, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, okay." It's like, no you're
333 not actually listening to me. It's the thought, that's a learned skill that takes a lot of practice and
334 in order to listen to people, you've got to be open to how it's impacting you and put that aside.
335 So, you don't bring it back to you. But you can actually sit and hear someone else's story. And
336 then go, okay, this stuff popped up for me. Now, I have to go tend to it. You know? So, it's,
337 yeah. But it's, I can just think of you know, people sharing their personal testimony on C-Span.
338 Or you know, whatever, when people are making policy. I don't know that anybody in that room
339 is actually listening to them. You know, it's like, people have their minds made up already and
340 they are voting because that's what the money is paying for or that's what's going to get them
341 the most votes. And it's just like, where are your intentions? Like, let's get back to that. Like,
342 you know, I don't, there's, there's a lot of inner work that we're all called to do. And don't know
343 that we're always aware that we're being called to it and that we even have the courage to do it.
344 So, because like, listening to stories like this, as I'm sure you've experienced, it's, it can be
345 really challenging. And I thank you for actually listening to me.

346 K: Yeah, absolutely, yes. I mean, and that's the purpose of yeah, this website is to be able to
347 capture the stories and, and share the victim's stories and, and honor their lives as, as well in an

348 ongoing way. Is there anything that you'd like to say to elected officials or you know, anything
349 that you've thought of you that you know, that you'd really want a politician to hear?

350 E: (pause) I think it comes back to listening and being intentional about what you're doing and
351 why you're doing it. You know? And knowing that gun violence is, the effects of it are
352 pervasive. I mean, as an example, I've got called to sit in a jury last year, actually was a year ago
353 almost to the date, and, you know, I'm, I mean full disclosure, okay, I guess it's not really full
354 disclosure, but you know, I'm a professor. My PhD is in rhetoric. So, I, I understand, like, I have
355 been trained to study argument and look at things from multiple sides. I'm not a lawyer but it's,
356 it's rhetorical theory. And I was actually kind of excited to sit on jury duty, I thought, great, you
357 know, this is going to be. You know, this is going to be, yeah, this is rhetoric in action. You
358 know, I'm going to be able to ask questions and you know, and we got, I got called to the case
359 and sat down in the jury box. I kid you not, they read off the charges and it was a first-degree
360 intentional homicide with a convicted felon who had an illegal firearm. And I sat there and I
361 started getting antsy, I'm like, I've got to get out of here. Like, I have to get out of here. I mean,
362 it was, I was reliving everything but on the other side of the glass.

363 K: Right.

364 E: And you know, I stood, they asked you know, if you had any, you know I shared. And I left
365 and I thought, how unfortunate for the criminal justice system that there are people like me who
366 really have an ability to look at things from multiple perspectives and you know, they were
367 starting to read stuff off and you know, the defendant's sitting right there. And I just thought,
368 maybe he's not guilty. Maybe there are things that are going on. I mean, I took into effect, I'm
369 like, "Okay he's a black guy who I think shot a white guy." Someone has to sit, someone needs
370 to raise these questions about race.

371 K: Right.

372 E: And you know, and obviously I wasn't the person who was going to do it because I got
373 dismissed. And I'm never going to be able to sit on a jury. And I just wonder how many people,
374 because someone was murdered, we're not going to be able to participate in the process, in a way
375 that could actually be really important and useful. And so, you know, I just, I don't know that our
376 system, it doesn't work. At all. I mean, I think it's been proven time and time again that it
377 doesn't work. I think that our policy makers and legislators need to really come to terms with
378 that and you know, do their own interior work of, "Who is this system benefitting? Is it
379 benefitting people who look like me and think like me?" If the answer is yes, then there needs to,
380 I mean, that's where the work begins. It's like, okay, what changes do we need to make in order,
381 you know, to make sure that it is an equitable society. Not equal. But equitable where we are all
382 benefitting, really. You know, I don't know. I just, yeah. I think it's listening and being
383 intentional and knowing that the system needs to be completely recreated because as people say,
384 it's working the way it was designed to work, which means it's not working for where we are in
385 2020.

386 K: Right, absolutely.

387 E: But, and I hope they actually listen to this. I hope that the people who need to hear this, have
388 the courage and, and don't use the excuse, "I don't have time." You have time. Make time. Don't
389 glorify being busy. That's where, you know, we get into these things, "Oh I'm sorry, I don't have
390 time to talk to you." Actually, you do. You're just using an excuse not to confront things that you
391 actually need to confront. So, find some inner courage, people. (laughter)

392 K: Well said, yes. Do you have any photos or articles or anything that you'd like to share? You
393 can email those to me, about, about your uncle's, like the case. We can include those as well.

394 E: Yep, yeah, I have, I have pictures of him. And links to the stories that were on, like, I think it
395 made it to USA Today at one point.

396 K: Oh, wow.

397 E: Yeah. I mean it's the thing, he's just another story. And they never named him, because ope,
398 sorry, they never named him because they were, I know that they were protecting us. Which I
399 greatly appreciated. So, yeah, the only, he was named I think a year after when the local
400 Greenfield newspaper did some follow up.

401 K: Okay.

402 E: On, on him. But, yeah, they were. And I think now we're at a point, like, "No, my uncle had a
403 name. His name was Bill." You know, he was known as dad, uncle, pa, grandpa. And just, you
404 know, he was, he was that uncle that, like he would always do questionably unsafe things, but
405 you always felt like you would, we were fine, because you were with Uncle Bill. It's like, "Oh,
406 yeah, we can go swimming in the lake while it's starting to storm, we'll be fine." Oh, we're with
407 Uncle Bill. Like, it's all good. But, it's, you know. So, he was, he was that. He was, he was that
408 uncle.

409 K: Right.

410 E: Yeah, everyone should have at least one.

411 K: Yeah, I have one as well. (laughter)

412 E: Yeah, yeah. I miss that, on summer days like this, where I'm like, "Aw this would've been a
413 time Uncle Bill would've wanted to you know, do x, y, and z." And it's like, just living in
414 memories. But yeah, I can share those with you.

415 K: Great, thank you.

416 E: Thanks for asking for them.

417 K: Is there anything else that you'd like to share? Anything we didn't cover? I mean, and you
418 can always email me if there's something that comes to mind later, also.

419 E: No, I don't. And I apologize if you can hear the lawnmower that's going on next to me.

420 K: Oh, no, I can't.

421 E: Okay, that's good, I was, I was a little worried about that. No, I think, I think that's it. Just,
422 thank you for you and the research team for doing this. Because this is the only way I think
423 stories like this are going to get told and heard.

424 K: Right. Absolutely. Thank you. I'll stop recording now.