

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000

You

2

00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:32,000

You

3

00:00:43,680 --> 00:00:49,740

Springs back a lot of memories of when I was laced here back on December 31st

4

00:00:50,920 --> 00:00:52,920

2010

5

00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:59,040

It's not every day that you receive a phone call regarding a body that's found in the landfill

6

00:01:01,000 --> 00:01:03,760

In Wilmington, we have you know

7

00:01:04,600 --> 00:01:09,440

Homicides we have robberies. So this wasn't gonna be anything different from what I was expecting

8

00:01:11,280 --> 00:01:16,240

As I was approaching the body I could observe that it was an older white male

9

00:01:17,040 --> 00:01:19,040

There were no obvious signs of

10

00:01:19,360 --> 00:01:22,440

Injuries such as a gunshot wound or stab wound

11

00:01:23,040 --> 00:01:26,400

He was wearing black pants a white shirt

12

00:01:27,120 --> 00:01:34,160

In some type of a black garment covering his upper torso area and as we took a closer look

13

00:01:34,160 --> 00:01:39,360

I noticed a ring that stood out as no ring that I had ever seen before

14

00:01:40,080 --> 00:01:42,080

The ring was a West Point ring. I

15

00:01:43,400 --> 00:01:45,880

Could tell right away that this was someone of notoriety

16

00:01:47,600 --> 00:01:50,960

This was not our typical homicide that we were dealing with in Wilmington

17

00:01:56,400 --> 00:01:58,400

You

18

00:02:27,120 --> 00:02:37,360

Now we turn to a just discovered murder that has stunned a lot of this nation's veterans and those who knew the victim

19

00:02:37,360 --> 00:02:39,360

His name was John Wheeler

20

00:02:40,280 --> 00:02:45,160

Jack's murder has all these facts around it that just naturally

21

00:02:45,680 --> 00:02:51,860

Confound as of this point. There are no suspects. We will continue to bring you break. It was big news at the time

22

00:02:52,180 --> 00:02:57,240

Detectives are still baffled this morning by the murder of a former White House aide very sensational case

23

00:02:57,240 --> 00:03:03,460

Thanks, we're gonna turn now to a murder that's mystifying official body found in a landfill and you just think to yourself

24

00:03:03,460 --> 00:03:06,860

That's a targeted murder sounds like something the mob would do

25

00:03:07,500 --> 00:03:09,500

Nobody ever intended this person to be found

26

00:03:09,940 --> 00:03:17,140

Police discovered the body last Friday morning at a landfill and over the weekend officially identified the victim as John Wheeler

27

00:03:17,820 --> 00:03:20,240

So the sensational aspects of Jack's

28

00:03:20,680 --> 00:03:21,840

Murder

29

00:03:21,840 --> 00:03:23,840

Were what first attracted me?

30

00:03:24,280 --> 00:03:31,120

But you could say that you know I came for the murder but ended up staying for the man, right because he lived a really

31

00:03:31,680 --> 00:03:33,680

fascinating life

32

00:03:33,680 --> 00:03:35,680

Let me now introduce to you

33

00:03:42,680 --> 00:03:44,680

Thank you, Jim a

34

00:03:44,720 --> 00:03:47,680

Lot of people claim to be patriots

35

00:03:48,640 --> 00:03:56,320

Jack was a patriot in our youth our hearts were touched with fire in the Vietnam War

36

00:03:56,320 --> 00:03:58,480

Each American was touched with fire

37

00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:05,960

Jack was devoted to causes that were for the great benefit of the country such as being

38

00:04:06,280 --> 00:04:10,920

Executive director of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial John Wheeler served in Vietnam

39

00:04:10,920 --> 00:04:15,680

And when he came back he began planning a memorial for all those who fought and died there

40

00:04:16,680 --> 00:04:19,920

Well Jack was a very exceptional person a

41

00:04:20,760 --> 00:04:24,440

graduate of West Point a graduate of the Harvard Business School a

42

00:04:25,800 --> 00:04:29,520

Graduate of Yale Law School. I mean this guy was extremely bright

43

00:04:31,280 --> 00:04:35,640

In 1982 as we were building the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

44

00:04:35,640 --> 00:04:40,160

He provided the overall strategy guidance was the chairman of the board and

45

00:04:40,960 --> 00:04:44,800

How could have happened without him it wouldn't have happened it wouldn't have happened

46

00:04:46,680 --> 00:04:48,680

I actually hired Jack in

47

00:04:49,240 --> 00:04:52,480

2004 when I got sworn in as secretary of the Air Force

48

00:04:53,360 --> 00:04:54,760

within the

49

00:04:54,760 --> 00:04:56,760

George Bush administration

50

00:04:57,520 --> 00:05:02,000

Jack brought a an intensity to life that few of us manifest

51

00:05:02,640 --> 00:05:06,200

Jack thought outside of the box before there was a box

52

00:05:06,400 --> 00:05:12,720

We need to expand our definition of who's wounded not just people killed by a ballistic

53

00:05:13,640 --> 00:05:19,280

Incident by a bullet or wounded by a bullet. It's got to be people who suffer after the war

54

00:05:20,720 --> 00:05:22,720

He accomplished so much

55

00:05:22,880 --> 00:05:26,760

And he did it all with the equivalent of a piano strapped to his back

56

00:05:27,840 --> 00:05:29,840

Because he had bipolar disorder

57

00:05:31,400 --> 00:05:36,640

By polar disorder is marked by bouts of like frenetic activity

58

00:05:37,760 --> 00:05:41,360

But there's also no doubt that it has a really awful

59

00:05:42,120 --> 00:05:45,920

Reverse side where he could be very impulsive and

60

00:05:46,760 --> 00:05:48,640

overly emotional

61

00:05:48,640 --> 00:05:52,320

So there's no question it propelled him forward and it held it back

62

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:54,280

and

63

00:05:54,280 --> 00:05:59,000

What he did get done is all the more impressive because it was that much harder for him

64

00:06:11,360 --> 00:06:22,480

Jack was passionate about everything he did

65

00:06:23,320 --> 00:06:26,920

Whatever you ask him to do or ask him about

66

00:06:27,560 --> 00:06:32,680

Doesn't matter if it was a US foreign policy or the guy next door

67

00:06:33,000 --> 00:06:37,600

Who needed help with the city council or any it just it didn't matter

68

00:06:37,920 --> 00:06:40,920

He would put the same energy into everything he did

69

00:06:42,360 --> 00:06:45,240

Jack and I were married for 13 years

70

00:06:45,840 --> 00:06:49,040

We lived in Harlem and we had a house in Newcastle

71

00:06:49,680 --> 00:06:56,880

He had two kids that were twins that he adored and I had two kids and he treated my kids like they were his

72

00:06:59,720 --> 00:07:03,520

I met Jack when my mother you know started dating him and

73

00:07:05,120 --> 00:07:07,440

He was a funny

74

00:07:08,800 --> 00:07:10,560

sort of

75

00:07:10,560 --> 00:07:13,160

cheesy but very serious man

76

00:07:15,800 --> 00:07:19,800

Being married to Jack means you're never you it's it's never dull

77

00:07:21,000 --> 00:07:23,160

Full of unexpected things which I like

78

00:07:25,400 --> 00:07:27,400

When I first met Jack I

79

00:07:28,320 --> 00:07:33,720

Remember talking to him and saying something about George Balanchine ballet and

80

00:07:34,640 --> 00:07:39,440

He said I watched Balanchine choreographed jewels

81

00:07:40,560 --> 00:07:42,560

I said you did

82

00:07:43,080 --> 00:07:50,480

Now that's like saying to a drug addict. I have I have a lifetime supply of anything you want

83

00:07:51,480 --> 00:07:57,080

It was because I love I loved you all that I love all Balanchine ballet a

84

00:07:58,680 --> 00:08:03,040

Soldier who loves ballet. I just thought I had a lucky I was oh

85

00:08:05,320 --> 00:08:08,880

I loved him with all my heart. I really did

86

00:08:10,840 --> 00:08:12,840

I

87

00:08:16,960 --> 00:08:22,980

Was on my way to Washington and I got a call that Jack Wheeler had apparently been murdered

88

00:08:24,480 --> 00:08:26,720

And I'll never quite

89

00:08:27,640 --> 00:08:33,000

Be the same a lot of people who knew him never will you know we everybody loved him

90

00:08:35,200 --> 00:08:37,200

It was a sudden shock

91

00:08:37,440 --> 00:08:45,040

There was no indication as to why someone would want to murder Jack Wheeler

92

00:08:47,120 --> 00:08:49,120

It's very hard to wrap your head around

93

00:08:49,920 --> 00:08:55,960

That all of a sudden you know Jack had been found in a landfill and it didn't make sense

94

00:08:57,760 --> 00:09:04,040

To find a body in a landfill seems to me like it would be a place someone who didn't want him to be found would put him

95

00:09:04,640 --> 00:09:08,880

And I'm very surprised that we actually did find him

96

00:09:09,680 --> 00:09:13,120

That that to me is a miracle and one that we're very grateful for

97

00:09:16,640 --> 00:09:19,360

I'm not sure when I got the phone call

98

00:09:20,440 --> 00:09:23,740

Jack's daughter called me up and she said

99

00:09:24,680 --> 00:09:26,680

Jack's dead

100

00:09:27,600 --> 00:09:31,600

It was incredulous. I didn't know I couldn't make sense of it

101

00:09:32,600 --> 00:09:39,040

It just it didn't seem possible it didn't seem possible that the world could go on without him

102

00:09:40,120 --> 00:09:43,720

That can't be true. How do you have a world without Jack?

103

00:09:55,600 --> 00:10:00,880

I remember we went down to see his body at the police station

104

00:10:02,600 --> 00:10:09,120

We went into the this room and he was covered from

105

00:10:10,120 --> 00:10:12,280

the chest down with

106

00:10:14,440 --> 00:10:16,320

Sheet and

107

00:10:16,320 --> 00:10:21,920

They would let us see just his face and head and the rest of him we didn't see and

108

00:10:23,360 --> 00:10:28,560

Probably that's just as well because from what I learned later he had been

109

00:10:28,760 --> 00:10:30,760

pretty well

110

00:10:33,960 --> 00:10:35,960

Beaten up and tossed around

111

00:10:39,960 --> 00:10:46,280

This had to be a professional hit job the way he was dumped into that landfill tells me that

112

00:10:46,800 --> 00:10:53,440

Somebody deliberately went out and got him something is very very wrong and a great tragedy to America

113

00:10:54,360 --> 00:10:57,720

Jack had a very strong network with government

114

00:10:58,880 --> 00:11:02,240

He worked as an assistant to the secretary of the Air Force

115

00:11:02,960 --> 00:11:08,080

for a time and his contacts within the government were extremely strong and

116

00:11:10,160 --> 00:11:14,720

Because of his government service he may have been the target of a

117

00:11:16,080 --> 00:11:18,920

Murder for higher type situation

118

00:11:20,600 --> 00:11:23,000

What we know is that at the time of his death

119

00:11:23,440 --> 00:11:29,920

He was working as a consultant for the MITRE Corporation, which is a defense contracting firm

120

00:11:30,960 --> 00:11:33,920

They specialize in stuff like artificial intelligence

121

00:11:34,480 --> 00:11:36,480

satellite systems for the military

122

00:11:37,880 --> 00:11:40,880

Jack was working in the area of cyber security

123

00:11:42,880 --> 00:11:49,280

He was working on the issues that we're seeing now made manifest with you know Russia interfering with the election

124

00:11:49,280 --> 00:11:55,840

Russia and China supposedly hacking into our power grid. That's the stuff that the Wheeler was working on at the time

125

00:11:56,840 --> 00:11:58,840

the problem though is

126

00:11:59,120 --> 00:12:04,560

That there's nothing to connect those parts of his bio to his actual murder

127

00:12:06,600 --> 00:12:10,320

The confounding part is that when you reach into these things individually

128

00:12:10,920 --> 00:12:17,520

Your hand just kind of goes right through right you get caught up in it and you can go down all these blind paths. I

129

00:12:18,520 --> 00:12:24,200

Think that what we have to do because this is such a mystery is absolutely remain open-minded

130

00:12:33,200 --> 00:12:35,920

The body was here for several hours that day

131

00:12:37,520 --> 00:12:44,320

You had to call out the evidence detection unit courting off the location to make sure that we did a thorough search I

132

00:12:44,320 --> 00:12:49,000

Had never searched for evidence of landfill within my 23 year career

133

00:12:49,800 --> 00:12:52,840

And this being the first time we took precautions

134

00:13:00,800 --> 00:13:05,760

Any kind of evidence that you're actually looking for could be contaminated with the trash that's mixed in

135

00:13:07,040 --> 00:13:11,440

We're looking for other pieces of clothing. We're looking for potentially a cell phone and

136

00:13:12,200 --> 00:13:17,040

We did not find anything other than just trash that had been disposed of

137

00:13:22,840 --> 00:13:26,880

We were able to positively identify the victim John Wheeler that day

138

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:33,080

And after finding out that this was Mr. Wheeler in that he had a house in Newcastle City

139

00:13:34,600 --> 00:13:39,480

I immediately contacted the Newcastle City Police Department and spoke with a detective

140

00:13:40,240 --> 00:13:46,040

Who advised me that they were actually in route to Mr. Wheeler's house investigating a potential burglary

141

00:13:48,040 --> 00:13:54,960

And that's when this investigation turned a page to something larger than finding Mr. Wheeler to landfill

142

00:14:10,480 --> 00:14:11,680

I

143

00:14:11,680 --> 00:14:14,240

Knew Jack as a temporary next-door neighbor

144

00:14:15,120 --> 00:14:18,320

He was never here for very long

145

00:14:19,360 --> 00:14:22,760

But I got involved in being the caretaker of the house

146

00:14:25,120 --> 00:14:28,960

Jack he was just an interesting character. I always liked Jack

147

00:14:29,760 --> 00:14:33,640

He was never one to sit down and just casually talk to you

148

00:14:34,040 --> 00:14:38,880

He was he was always doing something or had something on his mind

149

00:14:40,360 --> 00:14:42,360

So any how I

150

00:14:42,840 --> 00:14:47,360

Was talking to my neighbor and that's when I happened to notice

151

00:14:48,200 --> 00:14:51,400

That Jack's second floor rear window. It was open

152

00:14:51,960 --> 00:14:54,880

So being the good neighbor I went over into the house

153

00:14:59,920 --> 00:15:01,760

Now when I came in

154

00:15:01,760 --> 00:15:07,480

The storm door was closed, but this door was a jar about like that

155

00:15:07,960 --> 00:15:14,640

And then I just walked in here and kind of saw the turmoil in the in the kitchen

156

00:15:15,880 --> 00:15:18,300

The there was a tree a

157

00:15:19,160 --> 00:15:23,840

Tall tree sitting on that bay window and that was tipped over

158

00:15:25,040 --> 00:15:30,540

And spices were all over the place. They were all over the floor all over the table

159

00:15:30,720 --> 00:15:33,720

There were a bunch of broken dishes in the sink and

160

00:15:34,520 --> 00:15:39,560

Right by my feet there was white powder on the floor and I could see it was probably

161

00:15:39,680 --> 00:15:45,280

Comet because there was a comet can sitting here on the on the counter and there was also

162

00:15:45,960 --> 00:15:47,960

Jack's

163

00:15:48,040 --> 00:15:53,360

ceremonial West Point sword and shield on the floor right here

164

00:15:55,320 --> 00:16:00,840

And then I did notice that there was a bare footprint in the comet right in front of the sink

165

00:16:03,720 --> 00:16:05,720

I was sure it was burglary

166

00:16:06,440 --> 00:16:14,180

Because things were in such a state of turmoil. I figured somebody had broken in and probably through this side door

167

00:16:17,280 --> 00:16:22,800

Jack's neighbor calls the police and the police happened to have just

168

00:16:23,480 --> 00:16:30,960

been notified of the body at the at the landfill and discovered Jack there so you can imagine it's a pretty frantic

169

00:16:31,680 --> 00:16:33,280

scene

170

00:16:33,280 --> 00:16:39,800

So to add to the confusion there's another investigation happening across the street from Jack's house in Newcastle

171

00:16:39,800 --> 00:16:44,120

There are new clues in the mysterious death of former White House a John Wheeler

172

00:16:44,120 --> 00:16:48,920

This is new video you're looking at from inside his neighbor's house under construction

173

00:16:48,920 --> 00:16:52,440

So it turns out that just a few days before Jack's body was found

174

00:16:53,040 --> 00:16:57,840

Someone had set off a couple of smoke bombs at a construction site across the street

175

00:16:58,200 --> 00:17:01,760

There wasn't much damage, but it's a weird turn in the story because

176

00:17:02,560 --> 00:17:07,520

Police found a cell phone at the site and when they examined it they discovered it was Jack Wheeler's

177

00:17:14,200 --> 00:17:19,880

So you've got all these things happening at once Jack's body found in a landfill a

178

00:17:22,160 --> 00:17:24,680

burglary investigation at his house and

179

00:17:25,640 --> 00:17:29,000

An investigation into the smoke bombs across the street

180

00:17:29,760 --> 00:17:33,040

So you have to wonder how or if all these things are connected

181

00:17:46,640 --> 00:17:53,520

In 2010 I was the FBI agent assigned to the violent crime unit in Wilmington, Delaware

182

00:17:54,200 --> 00:17:59,880

The FBI was called in to the Jack Wheeler case with regards to him having

183

00:18:00,280 --> 00:18:03,280

past relationship with the Pentagon as an employee and

184

00:18:04,120 --> 00:18:06,320

The fact that he had worked for a couple of presidential

185

00:18:07,320 --> 00:18:09,080

administrations

186

00:18:09,080 --> 00:18:12,720

ATF was involved DEA was involved. We're talking

187

00:18:13,240 --> 00:18:17,720

At least ten different agencies federal state and local running down every possible lead

188

00:18:18,400 --> 00:18:25,160

Police are working now to reconstruct the last few days of John Wheeler's life

189

00:18:25,240 --> 00:18:30,880

Hoping that will help them solve the mystery of who killed his prominent advocate for veterans and why

190

00:18:34,880 --> 00:18:40,120

The last time I saw him he had been in DC he came up to New York

191

00:18:40,560 --> 00:18:45,040

on Christmas Eve and we had Christmas Day and

192

00:18:45,880 --> 00:18:47,880

There are all the kids were there

193

00:18:48,680 --> 00:18:54,440

We always go to my mom's for Christmas dinner. It was very much like it always is and

194

00:18:55,320 --> 00:18:57,400

Jack was in very good spirits

195

00:18:59,600 --> 00:19:03,800

The next day he said he had to go back to DC I

196

00:19:04,320 --> 00:19:10,920

Was annoyed because I thought we were gonna go to the movies after Christmas. We'd gone to movies that we'd missed

197

00:19:11,920 --> 00:19:15,800

And it was things that we could do with the kids too, which was always nice

198

00:19:17,240 --> 00:19:20,720

My mom was not happy that he decided to leave after Christmas

199

00:19:24,080 --> 00:19:29,640

But that was Jack he was always working and he always had 15 different things happening at once

200

00:19:30,060 --> 00:19:32,060

So

201

00:19:40,360 --> 00:19:47,440

We know from the time that he got on the train and went into Washington DC that Jack was on his phone a lot

202

00:19:48,360 --> 00:19:52,620

So we knew from talking to people that he worked with and his family

203

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:57,540

That he lived by the phone, which is a good thing for investigators in piecing together timeline

204

00:19:59,640 --> 00:20:06,040

On December 28th, Jack goes and works in D.C. for only a day.

205

00:20:06,040 --> 00:20:10,480

Later that day, Jack's phone records show he must have left D.C.

206

00:20:10,480 --> 00:20:13,920

and he comes home to Newcastle.

207

00:20:16,920 --> 00:20:20,920

Jack and Kathy kept this beautiful, elegant home in Newcastle

208

00:20:20,920 --> 00:20:23,920

right at the edge of a historic park.

209

00:20:24,920 --> 00:20:28,640

And that night, you've got this smoke bomb incident

210

00:20:28,640 --> 00:20:30,640

across the street.

211

00:20:40,640 --> 00:20:45,640

The next day, I had tried to call him and I couldn't reach him.

212

00:20:45,640 --> 00:20:49,640

And I thought, why would he not be answering his phone?

213

00:20:51,640 --> 00:20:55,640

That never before had I not been able to reach him.

214

00:20:58,640 --> 00:21:00,640

He was in a car.

215

00:21:05,640 --> 00:21:10,640

On the morning of December 29th, Jack contacted Miter where he was employed

216

00:21:10,640 --> 00:21:14,640

and told them that there had been a break-in at his home.

217

00:21:14,640 --> 00:21:20,640

He told them that he had lost certain items that he would typically use for access to their business.

218

00:21:20,640 --> 00:21:27,640

That he had lost his wallet, his key fob, his briefcase, as well as his cell phone.

219

00:21:27,640 --> 00:21:31,640

His cell phone was extremely important. He used it for everything.

220

00:21:33,640 --> 00:21:38,640

I'm sure he was very stressed to have lost his cell phone.

221

00:21:40,640 --> 00:21:45,640

Of course, it is curious that Jack doesn't notify the police that there was a break-in

222

00:21:45,640 --> 00:21:47,640

and doesn't notify Kathy.

223

00:21:47,640 --> 00:21:49,640

That's a little weird.

224

00:21:51,640 --> 00:21:56,640

Once Jack loses his cell phone, that also leaves investigators in a bit of a quandary

225

00:21:56,640 --> 00:21:59,640

as they're trying to track him and create a timeline of his movements

226

00:21:59,640 --> 00:22:02,640

because they can't use the cell phone anymore.

227

00:22:04,640 --> 00:22:07,640

Now that he didn't have his phone, all they had were witness signings,

228

00:22:07,640 --> 00:22:11,640

which are always accurate and any surveillance footage they could find.

229

00:22:11,640 --> 00:22:32,640

The video was obtained that showed that Jack had been inside a pharmacy on the 29th in Old New Castle,

230

00:22:32,640 --> 00:22:34,640

not far from Jack's house.

231

00:22:35,640 --> 00:22:37,640

Jack's a familiar figure in this pharmacy.

232

00:22:37,640 --> 00:22:41,640

This is where he gets his prescriptions filled whenever he's in New Castle.

233

00:22:41,640 --> 00:22:44,640

But this time he's looking for a ride to Wilmington.

234

00:22:45,640 --> 00:22:49,640

There were a couple of people that worked in the pharmacy at the time

235

00:22:49,640 --> 00:22:53,640

that heard the conversation and offered to take Jack to Wilmington.

236

00:22:55,640 --> 00:22:59,640

Investigators believe Jack wanted to get to Wilmington to get his car,

237

00:22:59,640 --> 00:23:02,640

which was parked at the Amtrak station there.

238

00:23:02,640 --> 00:23:05,640

That's where Jack left his car when he went to New York for Christmas.

239

00:23:06,640 --> 00:23:10,640

And so he obtains a ride around 6 p.m. into Wilmington.

240

00:23:12,640 --> 00:23:17,640

And the next we know is around 6.42, I think it was.

241

00:23:17,640 --> 00:23:19,640

He shows up in a parking garage.

242

00:23:20,640 --> 00:23:24,640

He's trying to find his car, but he's in the wrong garage.

243

00:23:25,640 --> 00:23:28,640

He's blocks from where his car is actually parked.

244

00:23:28,640 --> 00:23:29,640

He's parked.

245

00:23:34,640 --> 00:23:36,640

Finding his way around was challenging for him.

246

00:23:36,640 --> 00:23:38,640

He was certainly directionally challenged.

247

00:23:38,640 --> 00:23:42,640

That's why, for example, he liked to walk around Madison Square Park

248

00:23:42,640 --> 00:23:46,640

multiple times for his exercise, because he knew where it was and it was a square.

249

00:23:47,640 --> 00:23:49,640

So it would be hard for him to get lost.

250

00:23:51,640 --> 00:23:53,640

He didn't have a good sense of direction.

251

00:23:53,640 --> 00:23:56,640

He had almost no sense of direction.

252

00:23:56,640 --> 00:23:59,640

And he would lose things.

253

00:24:00,640 --> 00:24:03,640

He would park his car and not be able to find it.

254

00:24:06,640 --> 00:24:13,640

Jack was famous for coming home in a cab on days that he'd driven to work,

255

00:24:13,640 --> 00:24:15,640

because he would forget where he parked.

256

00:24:16,640 --> 00:24:22,640

So he constantly was misplacing his car, because he was so caught up in his to-do list,

257

00:24:22,640 --> 00:24:24,640

so caught up in whatever project he was working on,

258

00:24:24,640 --> 00:24:30,640

that he just, it was like he didn't want to devote any brain space to remembering where something was.

259

00:24:38,640 --> 00:24:42,640

At the parking garage, the footage is haunting.

260

00:24:43,640 --> 00:24:48,640

Jack is in a completely different state than he was in when he was at the pharmacy.

261

00:24:50,640 --> 00:24:52,640

He appears in great distress.

262

00:24:52,640 --> 00:24:54,640

He's agitated.

263

00:24:55,640 --> 00:24:58,640

He's got one shoe off and the other shoe in his hand.

264

00:24:59,640 --> 00:25:05,640

And you could see that at times he appears to sort of peek around a corner or look out a door before he goes through it,

265

00:25:05,640 --> 00:25:07,640

like he's scared he's being stalked.

266

00:25:08,640 --> 00:25:12,640

And he tells the people in the parking garage that his briefcase has been stolen.

267

00:25:15,640 --> 00:25:18,640

He said to me his parking ticket was inside his briefcase, so I said,

268

00:25:18,640 --> 00:25:21,640

well, where's your briefcase at? He says his briefcase was stolen from him.

269

00:25:21,640 --> 00:25:24,640

So when I kept asking him how was it stolen, all he kept saying to me,

270

00:25:24,640 --> 00:25:26,640

my briefcase was stolen, it was stolen.

271

00:25:26,640 --> 00:25:31,640

That 40-minute time frame between when Jack is seen at the pharmacy

272

00:25:31,640 --> 00:25:35,640

and when he appears in so much distress at the parking garage

273

00:25:35,640 --> 00:25:41,640

is one of the fundamental foundational mysteries surrounding his homicide.

274

00:25:42,640 --> 00:25:48,640

When I saw the surveillance footage, it didn't look like Jack.

275

00:25:49,640 --> 00:25:53,640

It looks to me like he was trying to get away from something or someone.

276

00:25:56,640 --> 00:26:01,640

And I think not having his phone, for example, and or being able to find his car

277

00:26:02,640 --> 00:26:05,640

made him more afraid.

278

00:26:05,640 --> 00:26:12,640

Jack had bipolar disorder and it may have been the reason he was acting that way.

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00:26:13,640 --> 00:26:19,640

Most of the time I was with him, he was just regular old Jack.

280

00:26:19,640 --> 00:26:23,640

Every now and then he would get a little manic, I guess.

281

00:26:23,640 --> 00:26:26,640

He was pretty diligent about taking his pills.

282

00:26:26,640 --> 00:26:32,640

But bipolar disorder is mysterious and very unpredictable.

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00:26:36,640 --> 00:26:41,640

He might have had some significant mental break.

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00:26:41,640 --> 00:26:46,640

And it's also possible that he was physically attacked.

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00:26:46,640 --> 00:26:52,640

Maybe his foot was injured in some sort of scuffle and that's why he pulls off his shoe.

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00:26:52,640 --> 00:26:56,640

It seems like this central mystery and I would love to know what happened

287

00:26:56,640 --> 00:27:01,640

during that 40-minute time span between when Jack is seen at the pharmacy

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00:27:01,640 --> 00:27:04,640

and when he appears at the parking garage.

289

00:27:06,640 --> 00:27:10,640

And I think the same thing happens with the other people.

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00:27:25,640 --> 00:27:29,640

The next time Jack is picked up on camera according to the cops, it's 20 hours later.

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00:27:29,640 --> 00:27:34,640

He's in the basement of the Nemours building, which is an office complex in downtown Wilmington.

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00:27:34,640 --> 00:27:40,640

Investigators later found evidence that Jack spent the night and part of the day in this basement.

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00:27:42,640 --> 00:27:47,640

So this is the corner of 11th and Orange in downtown Wilmington,

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00:27:47,640 --> 00:27:52,640

where a lot of the police investigation centered on Jack Wheeler's whereabouts

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00:27:52,640 --> 00:27:58,640

that he had been seen on surveillance camera in the tunnel located underneath where we're standing now.

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00:27:59,640 --> 00:28:02,640

And in a couple of shots in the hallways.

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00:28:08,640 --> 00:28:12,640

There are many hallways, accessways, alleyways.

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00:28:12,640 --> 00:28:18,640

There is a fitness center, employee lockers, etc.

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00:28:18,640 --> 00:28:25,640

So there is a lot of ground to cover, looking to see where possibly Jack may have gone into.

300

00:28:26,640 --> 00:28:31,640

Some of the employees of the Nemours building had said they had seen something in her stairwell

301

00:28:31,640 --> 00:28:33,640

that could have been where somebody would have stayed.

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00:28:33,640 --> 00:28:41,640

We were not able to find any personal effects that would have told law enforcement that belonged to Jack.

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00:28:43,640 --> 00:28:47,640

There's some mystery over why Jack would go to the Nemours building.

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00:28:47,640 --> 00:28:52,640

No one really knows what Jack's connection would have been to that building or that basement.

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00:28:53,640 --> 00:28:58,640

He couldn't get to his car and so now it's like he's gone to ground.

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00:28:58,640 --> 00:29:08,640

His activities seem more like a guy trying to hide and figure out a careful way out of town

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00:29:08,640 --> 00:29:11,640

to at one point he's asking to go to Philadelphia,

308

00:29:11,640 --> 00:29:16,640

potentially I guess to get an Amtrak train to New York where he might join Cathy.

309

00:29:16,640 --> 00:29:21,640

And it's just a mystery.

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00:29:32,640 --> 00:29:36,640

At 8.30pm Jack shows up exiting the building.

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00:29:36,640 --> 00:29:38,640

Now he's wearing a dark colored hoodie,

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00:29:38,640 --> 00:29:46,640

which is something the suited Washington DC insider Jack Wheeler had not worn to anybody's knowledge before.

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00:29:49,640 --> 00:29:52,640

This is a valet section for the Hotel DuPont.

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00:29:52,640 --> 00:29:59,640

Jack moves quickly past, probably walking along the same pathway that I'm walking

315

00:29:59,640 --> 00:30:03,640

and comes into the view of one camera,

316

00:30:04,640 --> 00:30:10,640

continues on through the overpass

317

00:30:13,640 --> 00:30:18,640

and that is the last camera shot that we have of Jack Wheeler alive.

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00:30:18,640 --> 00:30:25,640

When I couldn't reach him I was uncertain what to do.

319

00:30:25,640 --> 00:30:31,640

I didn't pace around and think oh dear something terrible has happened.

320

00:30:31,640 --> 00:30:34,640

I never, I thought something's wrong,

321

00:30:34,640 --> 00:30:38,640

but I just didn't like it.

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00:30:38,640 --> 00:30:42,640

I just didn't like it.

323

00:30:42,640 --> 00:30:45,640

I never, I thought something's wrong,

324

00:30:45,640 --> 00:30:52,640

but I just didn't let myself imagine that something bad had happened or something terrible.

325

00:31:03,640 --> 00:31:06,640

December 31st 2010.

326

00:31:06,640 --> 00:31:10,640

It was just a typical day. It was cold.

327

00:31:10,640 --> 00:31:17,640

I went to work, went to the landfill, went up top, dumped off.

328

00:31:17,640 --> 00:31:22,640

I got off the scale and I went around to jump on 495 and my dispatch called me and said

329

00:31:22,640 --> 00:31:28,640

go back to the landfill they found a body in the pile.

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00:31:28,640 --> 00:31:35,640

When we got up top of the landfill all the bosses from the landfill and everybody was coming up.

331

00:31:35,640 --> 00:31:39,640

I seen the body there, stick them up out of the pile.

332

00:31:39,640 --> 00:31:43,640

It jolted you a little bit. It kind of freaked me.

333

00:31:43,640 --> 00:31:45,640

It was kind of freaked out.

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00:31:45,640 --> 00:31:47,640

I asked them guys to go cover him up.

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00:31:47,640 --> 00:31:51,640

They went and covered him up and we waited for the police to come.

336

00:31:57,640 --> 00:32:01,640

Any investigation of a homicide you have a crime scene.

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00:32:01,640 --> 00:32:07,640

You have somewhere to go and early on there was no crime scene to be found.

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00:32:07,640 --> 00:32:15,640

Other than the landfill, after combing through tons and tons of trash,

339

00:32:15,640 --> 00:32:23,640

the investigators determined that the trash surrounding the body of Jack Wheeler had come from the city of Newark.

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00:32:27,640 --> 00:32:31,640

That is when the case was turned over to Newark police.

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00:32:32,640 --> 00:32:39,640

And so the Newark police department were able to come up with a particular trash truck that they believed

342

00:32:39,640 --> 00:32:42,640

picked up the body of Jack Wheeler.

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00:32:44,640 --> 00:32:49,640

They zeroed in on a couple of dumpsters on its trash route.

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00:32:53,640 --> 00:32:59,640

The forensic unit went out and started swabbing these dumpsters.

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00:33:02,640 --> 00:33:10,640

And thereby were able to come up with a partial DNA match to Jack Wheeler to one of those dumpsters.

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00:33:15,640 --> 00:33:18,640

To my knowledge, he had no connection to Newark, Delaware.

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00:33:18,640 --> 00:33:22,640

I was stunned. I would think, what are they? They must be making a mistake.

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00:33:23,640 --> 00:33:30,640

So this is another big twist in the case because the last time Jack was seen, he was in Wilmington, 14 miles away.

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00:33:31,640 --> 00:33:33,640

Different town.

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00:33:33,640 --> 00:33:37,640

And in the opposite direction from where he had been walking.

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00:33:37,640 --> 00:33:41,640

So how does he end up in a dumpster in Newark, Delaware?

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00:33:47,640 --> 00:33:54,640

A lot of time was spent just trying to figure out how Jack got out of Wilmington going south into Newark.

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00:33:55,640 --> 00:34:02,640

There is a witness that came forth that had seen Jack in a taxi cab.

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00:34:02,640 --> 00:34:10,640

According to this witness, Jack Wheeler shared the cab when Jack had heard that the cab was going to Newark.

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00:34:10,640 --> 00:34:12,640

So you have to go with that.

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00:34:12,640 --> 00:34:19,640

But you also don't want to ignore the fact that the witness may have misidentified just another individual that looked like Jack Wheeler.

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00:34:19,640 --> 00:34:24,640

We don't want to lose the fact that he could have taken a train from Wilmington to Newark.

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00:34:25,640 --> 00:34:31,640

It is very frustrating to not come up with any one definitive answer.

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00:34:31,640 --> 00:34:35,640

We're at the Delaware College of Arts where I usually run my route at.

360

00:34:35,640 --> 00:34:37,640

We got two cans here.

361

00:34:37,640 --> 00:34:40,640

One's an eight yarder, one's a six yarder.

362

00:34:40,640 --> 00:34:42,640

We got the side doors here.

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00:34:42,640 --> 00:34:46,640

If you can tell, the side door's up real high on the eight yarder.

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00:34:46,640 --> 00:34:49,640

If you come over to the side door, you'll see the door.

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00:34:49,640 --> 00:34:55,640

So we're going to go down to the side door and we're going to go down to the side door.

366

00:34:55,640 --> 00:34:57,640

The side door's here.

367

00:34:57,640 --> 00:35:00,640

If you can tell, the side door's up real high on the eight yarder.

368

00:35:00,640 --> 00:35:13,640

If you come over to the six yarder, the side door ever on the six yarder is kind of shorter to where somebody can climb in real easy.

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00:35:13,640 --> 00:35:16,640

Easier than the eight yarder.

370

00:35:16,640 --> 00:35:24,640

When we spoke to the trash truck drivers, they told us that it was fairly common that people would go in there and actually sleep.

371

00:35:24,640 --> 00:35:31,640

Or people would go into those dumpsters to find some warmth in the winter months.

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00:35:31,640 --> 00:35:35,640

I'll drive up to a stop and I'll go and put my forks in.

373

00:35:35,640 --> 00:35:42,640

And either somebody will pop up through the top or they'll just climb out the side door.

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00:35:42,640 --> 00:35:46,640

We call them hollers because that's all they do is they jump up out of the can and they start hollering.

375

00:35:46,640 --> 00:35:48,640

Whoa, whoa, whoa, like that and everything.

376

00:35:48,640 --> 00:35:53,640

And sometimes you can hear them and sometimes you can't.

377

00:35:54,640 --> 00:36:00,640

So there's been a theory of Jack's death that maybe he wanders out into the night.

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00:36:00,640 --> 00:36:05,640

Maybe he just gets cold and crawls into a dumpster to escape the winter.

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00:36:08,640 --> 00:36:14,640

The theory that he crawled into a dumpster to stay warm seems completely preposterous to me.

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00:36:14,640 --> 00:36:22,640

I mean, in part because of the medical examiner's report that, you know, it's concluded that he was murdered.

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00:36:23,640 --> 00:36:32,640

When you look at the autopsy and the degree to which he was beaten, it's just not consistent with a fall from a dumpster.

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00:36:37,640 --> 00:36:51,640

In the autopsy report, there are listed severe injuries such as punctured lung, broken ribs, and he had bleeding in the head.

383

00:36:52,640 --> 00:36:58,640

Bruises to the face and orbital bones, temples, mouth.

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00:36:58,640 --> 00:37:04,640

All these places you'd expect somebody to hit you if they were pummeling you and he gets driven down to his knees.

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00:37:04,640 --> 00:37:09,640

And when they describe the cause of death, it's just blunt force trauma.

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00:37:12,640 --> 00:37:16,640

So it seems like a severe beating.

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00:37:16,640 --> 00:37:21,640

What I don't get is why would someone want to beat him so severely?

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00:37:23,640 --> 00:37:28,640

Was it targeted? That's possible. Who would target him?

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00:37:28,640 --> 00:37:34,640

That would create a lot of speculation. Was he in the wrong place at the wrong time?

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00:37:34,640 --> 00:37:53,640

One of the big questions in the case is whether or not Jack's murder was related to what happened in Newcastle that night when he came back from D.C.

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00:37:57,640 --> 00:38:03,640

Late at night, there is a smoke bomb incident at this house across the street.

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00:38:03,640 --> 00:38:12,640

After this incident happens, the police find Jack's cell phone and so one of the theories is he's the one who set off those smoke bombs.

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00:38:12,640 --> 00:38:24,640

Jack was a passionate guy. At the time of his death, he was in a housing dispute with some people across the street who were building a big house on historic Battery Park.

394

00:38:25,640 --> 00:38:32,640

You talk to people about why he entered into this big legal effort to stop that house from being built.

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00:38:32,640 --> 00:38:42,640

It was the history of Battery Park. It was the idea that somebody was going to build a private home on what to him was public land and sacred land.

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00:38:42,640 --> 00:38:51,640

Jack liked being there. He liked being in Newcastle a lot. It was quiet and it was old fashioned.

397

00:38:51,640 --> 00:39:04,640

Jack was sort of old fashioned. We were both very unhappy about the house going up across the street and he was very fired up about it.

398

00:39:04,640 --> 00:39:11,640

He got it into his head that this can't happen. This is a sacrilege.

399

00:39:11,640 --> 00:39:18,640

And bipolar disorder can make you more emotional and illogical.

400

00:39:22,640 --> 00:39:30,640

I could just imagine Jack being so upset to come back to his house if he had done the smoke bombing.

401

00:39:30,640 --> 00:39:38,640

He comes back to his house. He realizes he doesn't have his phone. He realizes where it must be. And now he's upset.

402

00:39:38,640 --> 00:39:45,640

And Jack, who is very hard on himself, just flies into a kind of panic and just starts flinging stuff around.

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00:39:52,640 --> 00:39:55,640

No one knows for sure what happened at Jack's house that night.

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00:39:55,640 --> 00:40:04,640

And the whole case is so layered in various mysteries that we have to be open to varying explanations.

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00:40:04,640 --> 00:40:12,640

But here's the thing. Jack's personal distress doesn't explain his murder. Someone killed him.

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00:40:12,640 --> 00:40:17,640

And the question is whether or not it was somebody just happened across him when he was wandering around.

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00:40:18,640 --> 00:40:26,640

And that theory kind of gets blown apart because the circumstances in which he's later found don't fit with a random mugging.

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00:40:28,640 --> 00:40:35,640

Street muggers who wind up killing their victims leave the body where it drops. They don't hide it or load it into a dumpster.

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00:40:36,640 --> 00:40:42,640

The other problem with the robbery theory is that when Jack's found, he apparently had some cash left on him.

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00:40:43,640 --> 00:40:49,640

He has got a Rolex. And he's got his West Point ring.

411

00:40:52,640 --> 00:40:57,640

But it just seems unlikely that in the case of a robbery, they're going to miss all that, right?

412

00:40:57,640 --> 00:41:00,640

Particularly if they've taken the time afterward to hide the body.

413

00:41:03,640 --> 00:41:11,640

I don't think it was random. I do find it strange and unusual that given the reward we offered,

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00:41:12,640 --> 00:41:20,640

that no one came forward with any tips or leads. As my mom said, perhaps because they'd already been paid.

415

00:41:20,640 --> 00:41:25,640

But we don't know. That's what we want to find out.

416

00:41:33,640 --> 00:41:41,640

We all have enemies. And he may have been in a position where people thought that it would be better if Jack was not on this earth.

417

00:41:43,640 --> 00:41:49,640

He always carried this briefcase around with him. Many harness security clearance. That's where he'd keep that stuff.

418

00:41:49,640 --> 00:41:51,640

And he claimed the briefcase was missing.

419

00:41:57,640 --> 00:42:06,640

I would look at it and ask the question, what happened to the briefcase? Because we took many international trips and he was never without that briefcase.

420

00:42:08,640 --> 00:42:11,640

Investigators did everything possible to locate this briefcase.

421

00:42:12,640 --> 00:42:22,640

But from everything that investigators have searched in any other place that Jack might have been, we have not been able to come up with this briefcase.

422

00:42:29,640 --> 00:42:35,640

As an investigator, I can't exclude any theory. But somebody out there knows something.

423

00:42:35,640 --> 00:42:39,640

Came across Jack whether in an insignificant way or not.

424

00:42:39,640 --> 00:42:46,640

Even if it's somebody who was not intending harm, but assisted Jack one way or another.

425

00:42:46,640 --> 00:42:52,640

They need to call in order to help investigators finally determine what happened to Jack.

426

00:43:05,640 --> 00:43:23,640

I was proud of him for all the good work he'd done in his life.

427

00:43:23,640 --> 00:43:37,640

And for who he was, his life was devoted to service and service to his country.

428

00:43:39,640 --> 00:43:46,640

His whole life was focused on the way to be useful. That's what he wanted.

429

00:43:46,640 --> 00:43:51,640

He was a soldier. He was always a soldier.

430

00:43:54,640 --> 00:43:58,640

And he was good. I've never known anybody so good.

431

00:44:01,640 --> 00:44:03,640

Oh God, do I miss him?

432

00:44:17,640 --> 00:44:25,640

He was silly and fun and kind. It made you feel good to be around him.

433

00:44:27,640 --> 00:44:35,640

Because of how remarkable he was and how full of love he...

434

00:44:36,640 --> 00:44:39,640

He cared very deeply about everything he did.

435

00:44:40,640 --> 00:44:48,640

And took it to heart. He had the largest heart of anyone I know.

436

00:44:49,640 --> 00:44:53,640

So, I don't know, I just miss my dad.

437

00:45:35,640 --> 00:45:37,640

I miss him.

438

00:46:05,640 --> 00:46:07,640

You

439

00:46:35,640 --> 00:46:37,640

You