

# KUNHARDT **FILM** / FOUNDATION

ANDY MCCAIN INTERVIEW  
*JOHN MCCAIN: FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS*  
KUNHARDT FILM FOUNDATION

**ANDY MCCAIN**  
**Son of John McCain**  
**December 13, 2017**  
Interviewed by Teddy Kunhardt  
**Total Running Time: 36 Minutes**

**START TC:**  
**QT: 01;00;00;00**

**QT: 01;00;01;20**

**CREW:**

Andy McCain interview, take one, marker.

**QT: 01;00;11;09**

**TITLE**

**Andy McCain is the second of seven children**

**QT: 01;00;16;00**

**ANDY MCCAIN:**

With Dad's first marriage, I'm the number two child. The middle one—you've got Doug, Andy, then Sid. And I'm Andy.

**QT: 01;00;24;08**

**TITLE**

On Andy's memories of his father before he left for Vietnam

**QT: 01;00;27;15**

**ANDY MCCAIN:**

I would have been about five and a half when he left to go—and it was unusual because he came back because of the fire on the Forrestal, and then shortly thereafter he went back again—so I can remember him being around for dinner when he was in town, but they were doing so much training, he

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was doing a lot of flying, so he was—he wasn't around too much, but you know, I saw him semi-regularly when he was in town.

**QT: 01;00;55;01**

**TITLE**

The McCain's adopted Andy and his brother

**QT: 01;00;59;18**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

I was pretty young then. I think that I was—would have been about maybe four years old, so I really don't remember that much.

**QT: 01;01;10;01**

**TITLE**

Andy's memory of John's appearance on Jeopardy

**QT: 01;01;13;06**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

I've seen replays of it. And I remember that he was on Jeopardy cause you know, my mom had made a big deal about it, and I just thought it was pretty awesome as a little kid to think that you know someone who was actually on TV. Cause back then, TV was a rather big deal. So it was kind of fun, but that's about it.

**QT: 01;01;33;23**

**TITLE**

On Andy's older brother Doug

**QT: 01;01;38;08**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

Doug was a good older bother. He—it's—it's funny. He's a little more serious than I am. I'm a little more easy going. And I think there was a stretch there where I was kind of a royal pain in the neck. But he followed my mom's instructions and when she would say, "Keep an eye him", he would. And sometimes begrudgingly, but he fulfilled his duties very well. And he was

always very helpful to me. So—and he made things much easier for me, you know, playing sports or you know, going to a new school. He had gone there already, so there was kind of at least a little bit of a pathway cleared, in terms of people that I was familiar with and what to expect, how to find a classroom, or something like that. And that was quite helpful, too.

**QT: 01;02;32;08**

**TITLE**

On finding out his father had been shot down in Vietnam

**QT: 01;02;37;11**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

I don't remember the day. In fact, I don't even know the time lag from when he got shot down and for example, when my mom would have found out. I do know that at some point, they sat us down and said that he had been shot down. What does stick out was I remember that they said he was alive. He had been captured. That was an important piece of information for a young person. Because the last thing we wanted to hear is that your dad had been killed. What we didn't know was how critical his condition was and how close to death he was. But I remember there was a lot of sadness. My mom was quite sad. But that was just something that we knew could happen. You don't really know it to the magnitude when you're such a young person. But, when you're you know, a pilot in the Navy off to war, these are real risks.

**QT: 01;03;36;03**

**TITLE**

John McCain's father (Andy's grandfather)

**QT: 01;03;40;13**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

He was really kind of an amazing person to me. He was very disciplined and he was a very small man. I think he was maybe, five feet, four inches. But he was such an imposing presence. And I just remember that when he walked into a room, obviously because of his rank, but I think more because of his personality, he really commanded attention and respect. And he just seemed

to have a way about him that was very stunning to me. His presence. And it was clear my dad very much wanted to please him, or more importantly did not want to disappoint him. And I thought that was notable cause when you're a little kid, I just thought my dad was the coolest guy around. But he really demonstrated some real feelings I thought in terms of his behavior for my grandfather.

**QT: 01;04;35;19**

**TITLE**

Andy's Mom and their lives over the five and half years John was a POW

**QT: 01;04;40;16**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

She was pretty good. You know, it—it takes its toll because you get very little information and the information you get is very inconclusive. But she was a trooper. She—she was very dutiful in taking care of you know, my older brother and sister. And we—we were able to live a pretty normal life I would say as kids. We went to school, we had regular meals, you know, we played baseball or whatever sports we were doing. And that did not get disjointed or disrupted. One of the things that was you know, unusual about my dad being gone is we lived in one town for a very long time. You know, if he'd have been back stateside, we probably would have been transferred a couple of times during his captivity, but we weren't. So, we were able to establish a real connectivity to that community, which I also think really helped a lot. And being in the Navy, they have a way of taking care of their own. So, there were plenty of father figures around that would help if like one of the appliances broke, or something needed fixing, or we needed extra rides somewhere. So it was—I felt very fortunate. It was a pretty stable time from a young person's perspective. And I felt very loved during that whole time.

**QT: 01;06;01;14**

**TITLE**

Andy was too young to worry and just remembers being happy that his dad was alive

**QT: 01;06;07;03**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

My brother was astute enough. You could see that the news—were that the war was still going on. I was pretty young. I wasn't paying that close attention. To me, nothing else mattered materially other than I was told my dad is still alive. And so my—my mind was in a good place, that even though he wasn't here and I—and all of us missed him a great deal, I knew he was going to be okay. Because they said he was alive. So I never—or I don't remember getting too hung up about the anticipation of the next holiday. I just think it was more an issue of we were just trying to be as grown up as we could be, dealing with the reality.

**QT: 01;06;51;16**

**TITLE**

On his mother's car accident on Christmas Eve in '69

**QT: 01;06;56;21**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

That was—that was really just an unfortunate time. We were at my grandmother's house and—outside of Philadelphia. And she had been out visiting some friends and had a car accident. And I remember the next morning we woke up to open our presents and my mom wasn't there. And it was a little surreal because we weren't getting the information about what had happened completely other than you know, everything's gonna be okay. We're gonna go ahead and open our presents. And as soon as we get some more information, we'll let you guys know. You know, my grandparents finally told us that she was in the hospital and she had a car wreck. But again, there were no significant details. And those kind of came over time. And you know, when you think about what my—my mom and frankly, all the families of —of these captured POWS endured, this was really just kind of an extra piece of very, very difficult news. And you know, I just think it's a tribute to her that she was able to cope with it, and really kind of be successful in her

own right and in coming to terms with it and you know, not crying about it, but—but making the best out of a bad situation.

**QT: 01;08;21;05**

**TITLE**

Andy's mother, John's first wife

**QT: 01;08;25;03**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

She's a rockstar! I mean, **(Cross talk)** she's amazing. And she's—she's—It's easy to see why my dad fell in love with her. She's just aside from being a very attractive woman— you know, as a little person, you always think your mom's the prettiest one, and I definitely believed that. But she was just a very bubbly personality. Real extroverted, could make a friend with anybody, was well liked by women and men. I just thought she was a lot of fun. I thought she was very smart. And you know, she still does the crossword puzzle daily and sometimes we'll compare notes. But you know, I'm just—she was—she is great.

**QT: 01;09;10;01**

**TITLE**

When CBS came to film a special on the family

**QT: 01;09;13;14**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

That was—that was you know, again, from a little kid's perspective, that was pretty cool. Cause everybody was familiar with the CBS News with Walter Cronkite. And I remember a guy named—I think his name was John Lawrence, was the person who was—I guess he was the reporter and they brought their team, and they were filming us and we were playing touch football out in the front yard and they interviewed the kids and they did a long interview with my mom. But they were really nice. It was—everybody in the neighborhood saw the show because everybody watched the CBS News.

And it was just kind of a good feeling, the way that it mattered to somebody important, that they wanted to talk about our dad.

**QT: 01;09;57;22**

**TITLE**

Andy did not feel pressured by the McCain military legacy but education was treated seriously

**QT: 01;10;04;06**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

Dad was very supportive of all of us. Mom obviously was too. You know, the Navy was certainly an option. It was not discouraged, but he—he wanted to make sure that we got a good education. And our parents I think sacrificed a lot to allow us to get very good high school educations. And then it was understood, and it was certainly stated early that you're gonna go to college. And you know, a lot of my friends, college wasn't something that was treated as seriously as it was for us. And we never talked about it but—I never thought twice about it. I just—I'm going to college and then, I'm going to have to get a job after I graduate. It was that kind of understanding. But no, I didn't feel pressure. Now, you feel pressure when you get in trouble or you misbehave. That's a different kind of pressure, but in general, no. It was fine.

**QT: 01;11;03;07**

**TITLE**

The day their dad came home from Vietnam

**QT: 01;11;08;10**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

That was—it was March 17th. It was St. Patrick's Day. It was a very special day. We grew up outside of Jacksonville in a small town called Orange Park. Orange Park was a very small town back then. It was maybe 8,000 people. I mean, it hadn't even hit the 10,000 people mark. Everybody in town was well aware of our family's situation, specifically Dad. And so when he was coming back, there was just a ton of excitement for Dad being back, for all the

prisoners coming home, and for our family. We went out to the base and we're on the tarmac. And we can see a bunch of friends out there that had come out with their posters. And I saw people that I knew. And I just—you know, the magnitude of that starts to kind of wash over you like warm water and I'm like 'Wow, this is really a big deal'. And—and then he got off the plane and my mom was just beside herself cause she was just so anxious to see him. And he looked great. He looked skinny. I mean, that was kind of the first thing I thought of. We all gave him a big hug and it was—it was really quite special.

**QT: 01;12;22;14**

**TITLE**

How his dad was when he got back

**QT: 01;12;26;09**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

It was interesting. He—he seemed a little battered, physically. You've probably seen a picture or two where his front teeth were a little messed up. But in terms of—they let us vis—they had to do a physical on him when he got back. They took him to the hospital and they had a—by hospital standards, they had a very nice room for him and he had to spend the night. But we all got to sit and chat with him for a few hours. And he seemed really good. And he was—you know, one thing that I always marveled about my dad was he spoke very matter of factly about his experience in Vietnam. And I never sensed bitterness; I never sensed this clinging to the past. I found that incredible, that there wasn't just this giant resentment from losing five to six years of your life and you can't do a thing about it. But to the contrary, I remember he just felt like the future had so much more promise. And he wasn't gonna let what happened to him bring him down.

**QT: 01;13;30;23**

**TITLE**

John McCain was a mini celebrity when he got home but he was always gracious

**QT: 01;13;37;02**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

Ya know, for a small little town like Orange Park, this was kind of a big deal. So, he was Grand Marshall of the—I think it was the July 4th Parade. And so we all got to ride in the car with him and that was a lot of fun. He was what I would call a mini celebrity. I remember the mayor of Jacksonville gave him a key to the city. I remember I did not go to the ceremony, but in our den, I saw this box with the key in it. And I'm like "Where'd you get this key?" And he goes "Oh yeah. They gave me the key to the city." I was like "What does that mean? The key to the city?" And it was—to me it was—I struck me as funny. I mean, does it unlock something? But he was great and he goes "No, they made a nice ceremony. The mayor was very gracious and said a lot of nice words" and my mom said it was a beautiful ceremony, so—but, it was things like that. The one thing that always tickled me as a youngster was—this was back in the early '70s and there weren't a lot of restaurant options in Orange Park. It was the beginning of fast food restaurants opening.

**QT: 01;14;46;04**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

And there was a Hardees there. And we went there to go get dinner to take it home. Somebody found out who it was and the manager gave him his meal for free. They just asked him to sign the receipt. He looked at me and goes "What do you think of that?" And I go "Can we come here all the time?" And so it happened to us a couple other times at different places to eat. And dad was so great. Cause I was the one who clearly got the biggest kick out of it. And he said, "We gotta find some more places to go. We're running out of places." And I said, "I'm on it, I'm on it." And so he was a good sport about it. He was always so gracious, even back then, you know, when people wanted to come up and say hi or shake his hand. He just really treasured the fact that people were thankful for what he did. And that really I think, was enough for him in terms of the effort was worth it, that people demonstrated that kind of affection.

**QT: 01;15;40;07**

**TITLE**

Having his father home again was an adjustment for everyone

**QT: 01;15;45;13**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

The Navy gave, I think, most of the guys—I don't know if it was the same, but they gave them a very extended leave, just to give them a chance to be with their families, to kind of get some R&R, and kind of get their body in a better state, mentally and physically. So you know, he became the head of the household quickly and that as a bit of an adjustment because you know, my brother and I had long hair. And you know, my long hair looked so stupid. And I see those pictures and I'm thinking like, you know, why did I care about this long hair? But he was like, ya know, it just needs to be well groomed, but we do have expectations in terms of chores. And so that was—it was fine, but it was a bit of an adjustment. We kind of were doing our own thing there for a little while and you get comfortable doing your own thing.

**QT: 01;16;34;12**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

But other than that, no, he was—he was great about if there were things around the house that needed to be done, he made sure that they got done. And I think—I think it was probably harder for him because he's—he's just now been inserted into a house with five people. And you know, there are a lot of different personalities and we're not maybe quite as sensitive to what he had endured cause again, were—we're kind of young kids. But, it seemed—it seemed to go fine.

**QT: 01;17;10;12**

**TITLE**

His father was always forthright about the POW experience

**QT: 01;17;15;10**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

You know, he never brought it up. He—he was really—it was interesting to me, because if you asked him a question, like "What was it like when they tortured you?" he would answer and say like "It was really rough." I asked him "Well, what would they do?" And he would s—one time he told me, he

goes, "Well they would tie my arms up behind my back and they would hold him there. And my legs would also be tied. And I was—" you know, it was amazing. But he was—he wasn't unwilling to talk about it. He really wasn't interested in bringing the subject up. And I thought that was very interesting. Sometimes a friend would come over and they would ask him a question and he would—he would answer it. You know, maybe not to the level of detail that would accurately describe the situation he had just left, but he would answer it and I always thought that was great.

**QT: 01;18;09;22**

**TITLE**

His father is beginning to reflect on his life

**QT: 01;18;13;12**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

We're all faced with our mortality at some point and he is no exception. He's getting a little reflective on his life and ya know, he's accomplished so much that I hope he doesn't worry too much about things that he didn't accomplish or—or things that were left unsaid. Because there's way too much to be happy about and to—and to dwell on in a positive way.

**QT: 01;18;37;12**

**TITLE**

On his parents' divorce

**QT: 01;18;44;07**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

You know, I don't—I know the timing of when all that happened but I don't know kind of the genesis of when they started drifting apart. I do know that it was important for him; he wanted to be able to fly again. So the Navy was accommodating. They sent him to the war college up in DC and then he did very aggressive physical therapy to get his body back in shape. And so he was able to do that. And we went back to Jacksonville again. So, we were again able to go back to where we had lived for so many years, so that was nice. But

as Dad progressed, then he went to be the liaison for the senate, and I think he got a real bug for politics there that kind of was always simmering beneath the skin. And I don't know at that point, kind of what was putting the wedge between him and my mom, except that he was gone a lot; he was doing a lot of international travel and it was putting a little stress on the marriage because you know, Mom was dealing with a lot of the issues at home, you know, with the kids, and those kinds of things. And so at some point, people decide to part ways. But the details are not super available to me.

**QT: 01;20;04;07**

**TITLE**

On the difficulty of the divorce and the power of forgiveness

**QT: 01;20;09;12**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

It was extremely bad news, from an emotional standpoint, for all of us. It was information we never dreamed we would hear, that our parents were getting divorced. The worst part of it was how much it hurt my mom. And it—it really—it really bothered her for a very long time. And I just think that you know, time ultimately heals all wounds, but this wound took a long time to get over. I came to terms that if I was gonna have a continued relationship with my dad, I was just gonna have to forgive him, you know, regardless of what he was gonna do with me. And when I did that, you know, really trying to take a strong Christian position on that, I immensely felt better. And then over time, our relationship started to improve, but I just think if you don't do that at some point, and it's a very hard thing to do when the raw, or the wound is still real raw. But if—but if you don't do that, it just makes reconciliation impossible.

**QT: 01;21;22;10**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

And you know, it's easy to—it's easy to be extremely bitter, but I just think if I can't affect his behavior, or frankly anybody's behavior, that I'm at odds with,

it's just gonna make me feel bad. And at some point, I don't want to feel bad anymore. So, you know, I forgave him.

**QT: 01;21;42;23**

**TITLE**

On John's marriage to Cindy

**QT: 01;21;47;20**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

You know, that was—that was a difficult time as well because that kind of just reinforced the wound that had just been opened and it was—It seemed very sudden and it was kind of like just dropped on us, as—as a kind of a piece of news. "And oh, by the way, didn't I tell you..." And you know, it was—you almost don't know what to say. But he had made the decision and you know, they were—they were already divorced, so I just kind of chalked it up to well, what else are we gonna hear? And again emphasizing I just think it just piled a little more of that burden on my mom for—for having to deal with a very difficult situation.

**QT: 01;22;35;11**

**TITLE**

John's absence after the divorce and his entry into politics

**QT: 01;22;40;09**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

I wouldn't say he treated us differently. The contact shortly after that, the divorce and the remarriage was for me very minimal. And that was partly by my choice. I was—I was angry. And I didn't have anything to say that was gonna be nice. And he—he would try. He would call. You know, and you know, if he was passing through town where we were, he would want to get together and have dinner. But—so the—the interaction became much less frequent. And then it—when he decided to get into politics, I mean it was kind of like he had the blinders on and it was full bore. And it was—it was just not often that we—we talked to each other. But you know, if I called him,

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you know, he would take the call and we would talk about whatever. If I was up in DC or you know, whatever, we'd get together. It wasn't like he didn't want to talk to us, but he was really focused on his political career at that point.

**QT: 01;23;41;15**

**TITLE**

Andy's relationship with John and Cindy and the kids

**QT: 01;23;46;00**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

I—I live in Arizona, so I got to see them a little more than Doug and Sid did. And you know, they're—they were fine. You know, they are so much younger so it's—I guess technically, you're a half brother, but you know, you're more like at a minimum an uncle or something like that. So it was fun to see 'em grow up. I wouldn't say we spend a lot—lot of time together, but you know, there'd be some functions. We'd be over at the house or we'd go up to—to their cabin up north. And so it was—I think it was comfortable. There was—it was—I would always get tidbits because you know, I work at Cindy's family's company, so I would hear things about what was going on. So you know, I felt like I had a little connection there at least.

**QT: 01;24;35;22**

**TITLE**

Cindy's father's company

**QT: 01;24;41;05**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

It's called Hensley Beverage Company and Cindy's dad started it back in 1955. And it's the—essentially, we're—we sell a lot of beverages, but our primary beverage is Budweiser and the Anheuser Busch products. And that was something Mr. Hensley started back in nine—the mid fi—1955 and it's been running strong ever since.

**QT: 01;25;05;00**

**TITLE**

Cindy's father and his relationship with John

**QT: 01;25;09;07**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

They seemed to get along very well. But Cindy's dad Jim, who was a wonderful man and he was extremely friendly and very helpful, just the easiest going guy you would ever meet. You really wouldn't know talking to him that he had such immense business success. And I think he was proud of Dad. I think you know, he admired his work ethic; he admired kind of his intellect and his drive and so yeah, I think there was some genuine affection there.

**QT: 01;25;41;07**

**TITLE**

John's second marriage, the timeline

**QT: 01;25;44;18**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

I would get—I think Dad got remarried—I think it was 1980. And I would say that was when I was going to college. And then I got my MBA after that, so that was about a six-year period. I would say around the end of graduate school. So, I would say shortly after that, I came to terms that you know, this is the way it's gonna be. So, I can enjoy it, or not enjoy it, but he is my dad and I do want to see him more often. So that's kind of when that happened, roughly.

**QT: 01;26;25;01**

**TITLE**

John's entry into politics

**QT: 01;26;29;12**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

The first time I came to Arizona was when I believe he ran for senate and won. I had been out prior to that, but it was—we went on a—it was during the summer when he was on vacation and we went on a trip. But something campaign specific, was when I came out for when he won in '86.

**QT: 01;26;55;22**

**TITLE**

The presidential campaign in 2008

**QT: 01;26;59;12**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

You know, I don't know what the general rule is for family members, when you're—you're—one of your parents is running for president, we were all available to help if needed. And personally, there's no reflected glory for kids from a first marriage of a dad who's running for president. I was very proud of my dad. I really wanted him to win. I thought he would have been a great president. And so there were a few things that I did, where I would speak to groups, but it was really quite minimal.

**QT: 01;27;32;06**

**TITLE**

On putting service above family

**QT: 01;27;36;00**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

I think it's a fair statement. And I think, if he was being candid, he would say—he would say so. He—but you know, it's—it's really quite an admirable quality. He has basically given his life to serve. And I don't know if that was his plan, you know, when he started out, but man once he got into that kind of mode, he gave it everything that he had. And so do I think he could have

spent a little more time with us and been a little more engaged at times? Sure, but you know, when you choose to be a pilot in the Navy and you're at war, okay, that's—you know, your services are needed elsewhere. And then when you follow another service path of being a politician, the demands on your time are incredibly hard—or high. I just think he made a decision, 'if I'm going to do the best I can, to do this job, to the people of Arizona's satisfaction, I've gotta give it everything I can.' And that's hard not to respect but I do think it was you know, at the sake of maybe other things he could have been doing with his family.

**QT: 01;28;48;15**

**TITLE**

On McCain's commitment to doing what is "right" and modern partisanship

**QT: 01;28;53;08**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

The most attractive John McCain as a candidate is when he's really kind of that maverick personality. And I don't know that he's a maverick per se, because he's essentially very conservative in most of his beliefs. But, he always demonstrated to me a strong willingness to do what he thought was right. And sometimes, that was not popular with his—within his own party. And I just think that—that can take a lot of courage for a politician sometimes to kind of rankle your colleagues, but for Dad it was just—it was about a higher purpose. And so now, you kind of come full circle to where he's nearing the end of his political career and for example on the health care bill, he took a stand. But it wasn't like he came out of nowhere to do that. He—he made it clear. He goes if the two sides will not talk to each other, it's gonna be very difficult for me to resolve—to support it.

**QT: 01;29;50;18**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

And—and so when that happened and he didn't support it, people were aghast. It was kind of like, he was being John McCain. And I just think he made it clear. He goes "look, come together." He goes, "I think you can get something done and I want to approve something." But I—I think that aside from being noble in the approach, I think it's—I think it's appropriate

behavior. I mean, he just loves telling the stories about how Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neil, you know, they just sat down and they figured out a solution to Social Security even though they both were really kind of possessing divergent opinions on it. But he said it was the willingness to work together. He said it's amazing the things you can get done when both sides are willing to give in just a little bit. And I think he'd like to see that come back, instead of the rancor that exists now.

**QT: 01;30;42;20**

**TITLE**

Andy's inspired by his dad

**QT: 01;30;47;00**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

He's—you gotta hand it to him. I mean he's just—even—even now that you know, he's—he's in his 80s, he just—it's like everything he kind of stands for is to mike—make this country a better one. And I just don't know many people that really not only believe that, but every ounce of their energy is directed towards that. I'm really proud of him for that. Because I think it's a testament to his personality. And it's fun to see him really kind of—kind of back to his, he goes, "If I won't do it, nobody will" attitude. And I just think it's inspiring. And hopefully it pushes that kind of conversation forward enough to where we can start coming back to a semblance of civility, in terms of trying to get legislation accomplished.

**QT: 01;31;39;21**

**TITLE**

On John's brain cancer diagnosis

**QT: 01;31;44;02**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

We knew he had been sick. They told us he's got to have these regular exams because of his melanoma issues. And they found something and they said—we were told that they gotta do a little procedure. They gotta clean this thing

out and it was above his eyebrow. I think it's his left eyebrow. And so they had that scheduled and then after that is when they determined this was something much more serious than what they thought. And then Cindy, who has been great about keeping us informed of kind of medically what's been going on with Dad, let us know. And they said they don't know what it is. They're not worried yet. And then when they got in there, they knew what it was. So they were certain. And then it was the glioblastoma and the—the consequences of that. So that was a little rattling. But you know, classic Dad, he said "Let's find out. Let's get the best care we can and let's attack this thing with full force."

**QT: 01;32;46;21**

**TITLE**

His father doesn't complain

**QT: 01;32;50;08**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

He's not—he's not prone to feel too sorry for himself. I mean, it's—and he easily could. I mean, you consider his medical condition but I can remember—and this was recent. And I asked him, I said, "How you feeling Dad?" And he goes "Fine, fine," he goes, "I gotta get back to DC. We gotta get that defense bill done." And—and he was really adamant about it. And he—he said, "It's really important," he goes, he goes, "we can't be wasting time. We gotta get this done." And I'm thinking so typical Dad. It's all about for the greater good.

**QT: 01;33;26;18**

**TITLE**

On anticipating his father's death and what he will miss

**QT: 01;33;32;15**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

I know it's coming. And it's hard to think about it in those terms. I think what I'm going to miss is his personality. Ever since I was little, he's a very magnetic person. People gravitated to him. And they gravitated to him and my mom. And he's engaging. He's a great storyteller. One of the things when they were POWs, to kill time—or to pass time, maybe that's a better way to put it—they would tell stories. And he would tell us some of these stories from the Wild West and we would be like on hour or two hour car rides and these stories would last the whole ride. I mean, it was fascinating and you were kind of consumed with kind of what's gonna happen next and he'd played it out and told you about the characters. So, I will miss moments like that, but I will just miss knowing that he's out there, kind of protecting the free world. And I don't want to be melodramatic, but I really think he has served that role very well for a very long time. And just seeing him and having that comfort and the assurance that he's doing that, I will definitely miss that.

**QT: 01;36;09;07**

**TITLE**

Andy's kids call their grandpa the "Geezer"

**QT: 01;36;14;07**

**ANDY McCAIN:**

He's the Geezer. And it's—it's so funny because—I think it's a great name because you know, nobody's—nobody's kids call their grandparents the Geezer. And he just thinks it's perfect. And you know, some of the—I think some people like my wife and some others are like, "You can't call him the Geezer. That's just so kind of demoralizing." And I'm like, "No way, he loves it." That's what—and they just say, "Hey Geezer, how ya doing?" And you know how he is "Good, good, good." And he plays it up a little bit.

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**END TC:**  
**QT: 01;36;45;19**