

Paul: [00:01](#) Okay. We are recording episode 32 with Bob Woodruff and here we go. Angry Americans around the world and worldwide welcome. We have a very special and inspiring and iconic guest and we are, uh, at new location. We are not at the classic car club New York. We are deep in the epicenter (laughs) of news and investigative reporting and I would argue thought leadership at ABC headquarters in New York with the great and powerful Bob Woodruff.

Bob: [00:34](#) Well that's about the best introduction I think I've ever gotten. Thank you for that.

Paul: [00:38](#) You're welcome.

Bob: [00:38](#) (Laughs).

Paul: [00:39](#) How are you man?

Bob: [00:39](#) I'm good man. Sounds good to see you.

Paul: [00:41](#) Sure.

Bob: [00:41](#) You know, I think we've, what... we've known each other I think for about 12, 12 years since we did that documentary. And you came out with a great spokesperson. For basically what's happening to the veterans when they come, uh, yeah come... come home wounded. And you were, uh, you were the great voice, man.

Paul: [00:57](#) I remember about that. I, I learned a lot from you as I make this transition from advocacy to media. I really consider you a true role model. But before we get into all that, you're having a pretty big week, man. Not everybody comes and talk to me after being on stage, uh, you know, a night or two before with Bruce Springsteen, Sheryl Crow, and maybe the most talented person though Lee Woodruff.

Bob: [01:18](#) (Laughs) You know, every time someone comes up to see me, the first thing they ask is, where's Lee? Where's your wife, Lee? She's the greatest. Where is she? And, and there you are. You s... you did it already. And I get... what I get about a minute and a half in before, uh, you'd ask about her.

Paul: [01:30](#) She's awesome. [crosstalk 00:01:31].

Bob: [01:31](#) Yeah, she's the greatest.

- Paul: [01:32](#) ... thing on stage every year at Standard for heroes and everywhere you are. That's, that's really, really awesome.
- Bob: [01:38](#) Yeah, she's, she's unbelievable. She's been there for the re-eat. Now you see why I married her. She also made four babies for me. So (laughs) she's a, she's a master of everything.
- Paul: [01:48](#) I want... You've also been a great role model for me in terms of Parenthood. It's one of the things I'm, I'm dying to ask you about, but just to, to, to fill people in, you and I did first meet 2007. You got blown up in 2006 and you've told that story a million times. But maybe for folks who, who, uh, who haven't heard it or whatever you want to talk about now with all this perspective. But I met you in 2007. I think I was the first... one of the first people you interviewed for your comeback documentary in 2007. Right?
- Bob: [02:20](#) Yeah, we won it. We did an... we did an hour on ABC, uh, called to ro... to rock and back. And we're trying to find somebody who can tell us what's happening to the veterans when they come back from those war zones, uh, wounded. And, you know, we did a story a-a-an hour then I think some wanted to do the story about what happened to me because it was a v-very well known story, but, uh, but we really, really wanted to make the bulk of the story about what's happening to the other veterans. And so we went to go s... find someone who could tell us that information. It was you, you were deep in that, in that mission to try to make sure that the people in this country knew what's happening.
- Bob: [03:02](#) You know, these wars are so, so different than previous wars. You know, because these are so many, you know, injuries from blasts, you know that you, you survived. But the medical care was so amazing out there in the, in the sands that people lived when they would not have... tha-that they would have died in previous wars and some, they'd have these kind of invisible well, wounds inside their brain that is no physical evidence of it from the outside because it just shake the brain around. So there's so many wounds that w-w-we wanted t-to, to make sure that the world knew that the country knew that not enough is being done and there's nobody better to tell that story than you.
- Paul: [03:42](#) I appreciate you saying that, man. But what, what I think that that day and that time kind of set you up on this new path and when you got wounded 2006 you get blown up by an ID. You and Doug, right at the same time. And-

Bob: [03:55](#) Yeah. Doug... Doug Vogt, my camera man.

Paul: [03:56](#) Right.

Bob: [03:56](#) He's amazing guy.

Paul: [03:58](#) And you would have died. And, you know, any, any year, probably prior if not for the emergency medical care you got. Right? But from that moment forward, you did what you just did in this interview. You didn't make it about you. You made it about us and, and you were, you were, I think maybe the most public wounded person in, in America, like people could relate to you in a way they couldn't relate to me or they couldn't relate to other veterans because they knew you from their living rooms, you know, and that was really powerful man. And ever since then, you and Lee and your whole family had been telling our stories through your own.

Bob: [04:29](#) Well, it was... it was a strange moment to be in where I was being interviewed (laughs). I guess like I'm doing right now. Right?

Paul: [04:36](#) Hmm.

Bob: [04:36](#) As opposed to all those years of interviewing the other people we got... I always got the chance to be the obnoxious one, asking a million questions, which my wife says I always asked too many of (laughs). Um, but back then, yeah, it was this one that we, we realize that something could be said. You know, my, my family was so emotional. What-What was happening when they came to Bethesda Naval hospital where I had been unconscious for 36 days. My wife had gone on that 35th day to go look at nursing homes to see, you know, people. When I was hit, the medics out there in the field thought that I was about to die. And, you know, so it's... it's pretty lucky that I was. But what we did see too was on that third floor of Bethesda Naval was there all these other wounded veterans, you know, largely ma... the bulk of them were Marines, uh, who had been hit.

Bob: [05:19](#) Some of them seemed to be even worse than I was. And all of them unconscious or recovering. And my family looked at them and said, you know, uh, w... let's, let's make sure that everybody in this country can do their best to make sure they get the best care, attention and love that, that I was getting in that, in that hotel, that... in that, in that hot-hotel, we were all... I mean that hospital, we were getting exactly the same treatment. Whether i-it... me or them. But we're more

concerned about what happens when they leave that hospital and they go back to their, their neighborhood, to their town, and they don't have really anything laid out yet about what they're going to do. They could have conditions that were so much worse that they wouldn't. So, my family was so emotional about it and when I did wake up, they really made this decision with me that we really want to do something. And so we started this small f-foundation. We never would have thought it would grow to the point where it is now.

Paul: [06:13](#) And you spent a family effort, your brother is involved, right? The whole family got involved and you got ABC involved. All these people that were in your extended family, hundreds of millions of dollars raised now. Right? And, and the other night, I think you raised \$5.7 million in this amazing annual concert at Madison square garden. You guys have brilliantly put together, uh, the, the comedy festival that's happening in New York every year. And veterans and artists and you get Springsteen. I mean Springsteen's like-

Bob: [06:43](#) Yeah, hussy.

Paul: [06:44](#) ... cherry on top of this amazing event you guys put on every year, but it's all about the vets. And you raised five... almost \$6 million, right?

Bob: [06:51](#) Yeah. We've raised, uh, we've actually now spent about \$70 million on organization's operations that are happening out there in the world. More than 400 of those grantees that we've, you know, had found money for. Yes. And Springsteen he's been a, uh, he's a big backer from the very beginning. When we started this foundation, uh, we had to s... figure out a way to raise money. And we got t-the, the, the ones that right... that run, uh, New York comedy festival saw this audit that we did with you in it, Paul and said that was so outrageous to them and that something had to be done. And they knew we had this foundation. They said, listen, we can get all of these amazing comedians in the world to come and perform for free during New York comedy festival and you guys can raise some money. We said, okay, that'd be, that'd be great.

Bob: [07:41](#) And then we had another connection with somebody who knew somebody who knew somebody and, uh, Bruce Springsteen came forward and he said, "I absolutely want to participate in this as well." So it's been the same. This, we just had our 13th. So we've been able to raise money and, and even more than that, you know, we get a chance out there on that stage to

attract people that would normally not have much, you know, contacts with the military. And, and certainly not the, the world of the wounded. And so this is their chance to sit right next to him in this thing and, and watch comedy and, and listen to these, you know, military, these service members right there that need some help. And that's when they start, you know, throwing out the cheque. I have to say. And it was amazing. With just an auction alone, we raised more than a million dollars.

Paul: [08:24](#)

Alone.

Bob: [08:24](#)

This week. Yes.

Paul: [08:25](#)

In seeing this she... when did he... did he offer to cook people dinner oneself?

Bob: [08:28](#)

You know, he's done that so many times. You know, he's given so much time into it. You've got to sometime take at least one year off from that. But, uh, we were not really trying to get any gifts and, or, you know, sell any items up there or have his guitar. I'm like, we were just going to concentrate on, on the auction, sell the tickets, and just make sure people knew... yeah, that it's still happening. And Bruce always tells jokes too, you know, he goes out there and tells jokes, you know, I just can't remember all of them, but he's got some good ones. Yeah.

Paul: [08:55](#)

Do you... do you always have a great sense of humor? And you've been through so much. When we did those first interviews, we, we actually re-shot them again. Cause you were healing during that process.

Bob: [09:05](#)

Oh yeah. I couldn't come up with the words.

Paul: [09:06](#)

You were getting-

Bob: [09:06](#)

Yeah.

Paul: [09:07](#)

But you Bobby, you were getting better by the month. Right? And over the course of that document that took a couple months. And we'd come back and shoot some stuff and it would, it would unfold. And I could see you getting better before my eyes. And to see you now on a stage at Madison square garden, traveling the world, going to China, doing all the great work you're doing. Did you, did you think you could get this well?

Bob: [09:29](#) No. Well, I mean for me I didn't really, I didn't really understand exactly how bad it was when I woke up. I was, I just remember feel... I felt so blessed that I was even awake and I knew that I was surrounded. My family, my friends. I felt, well this is, this is... I kinda like this a little bit. Right. I got all these just people just giving me hugs all the time. My family. And then I start to realize that, Oh my God, I can't remember these words and I didn't even know, uh, how much I would ultimately remember or forget. I didn't know anything about the recovery. But o-over time, and I tell this about almost everybody that's hit the same way that I was, is people wake up, they feel there's a miracle that they're even alive. And then over time you start to realize you're not the same person that you were before.

Bob: [10:13](#) You know? And that's when the depression kicks in. And so, uh, with, without exception, everybody is that has this kind of change in your life. And that takes a long time for people that are w-wounded like this to, to really kind of give in and accept the reality that you're not going to be exactly the same, you were. So if you... if you can find some way to find a different path, then I think that's the really the true way to recover, uh, in terms of the, the mental impact of both the wounds and the... and the invisible wounds that you might have. That's the one. It took me a long time to finally give rid of this idea that I can just return and be the, the anchor of World News Tonight and, you know, be the Peter Jennings again. I had to finally realize that, you know what, what I'm going to concentrate on is telling the stories without having required to have live memorized words because I knew that was my weakness.

Bob: [11:12](#) I had a phasia, it was the hit to the left part of the brain. And that's a loss of words. So I lost languages, I lost my vocabulary. I couldn't even remember the name of t-two of my four kids when I woke up. Not... I couldn't remember the name of a single country in the world. All of this was completely lost. And if you, you look back the video back down, it just almost, I would say embarrassed, but it was just shocking that how little that I could speak. And when I met you, that was only about 13 months no, probably about six, seven, uh, m-months after I woke up. So I, I, I would like to go back and dig up the old, you know, raw video from that and see how bad it was. But you spoke perfectly. I remember that part (laughs).

Paul: [11:52](#) I don't know about that. I mean you've been, you've been, you, you, you, you the-there's the old Hemingway line stronger at the broken places. And I don't know if anybody embodies that more than you. Like the world is better off. The veterans

community is infinitely better off because you're on this new path. Because yo-your life got shot into a totally different direction and now, you know, you are in many ways like a Bob hope of our generation.

Bob: [12:18](#) (Laughs).

Paul: [12:18](#) And you're really helping.

Bob: [12:18](#) But I don't, not nearly as fun.

Paul: [12:19](#) So, you know, they're a couple guys and girls that have really galvanized the public behind us in a way that we never could have. Right. No veteran could have done it. It had to be someone from, you know, from the civilian world. And you became like a translator. I know you used to, I don't know if you do still speak Chinese.

Bob: [12:36](#) Yeah, I, I, I... first of all, I was... I lived there 30 years ago and I'd lost a lot of it cause I didn't... I didn't think I was going to return to China but in 1989 after witnessing the gentleman square massacre. And then I came back about 11 years later, I started to learn a little bit more again and then I lost more of it. And I just... I've started having babies and just doing, pursuing this, this other career in journalism. So I didn't really go back and I kind of thought I'd give up on China. So I lost a lot of it that way. And then when I was hit in the left part of my head, I lost so much of the vocabulary of China. So I can understand a lot when I go there and I can make my points and get around town. But it's certainly not as good as it used to be.

Paul: [13:12](#) And then you got the vocabulary in the military, which is much weirder. And tough to (laughs) fit in. And probably Chinese and all the acronym.

Bob: [13:18](#) Yeah.

Paul: [13:18](#) And say, and saying you remember the words.

Bob: [13:20](#) All the words are just three letters. Yeah, exactly.

Paul: [13:22](#) And everybody we interview is an iconic, important, in-inspiring American that shaped what America was, what it is and what it will be. And I think you really fit into that category. Especially because your story of overcoming adversity is going to be one that so many people can relate to and will be motivated by.

Especially around veterans. I, I wanted to talk to someone who

could help us understand all the different pieces of veterans day and I think you're the perfect person to do that. But the show is also, you know, uh, for a lot who are independent, who don't have a political home, who are being frustrated with the atmosphere in this country. You know, the politics of this country. And so the question I ask everybody, we don't have to talk about politics specifically, but is there something that makes you angry, Bob Woodruff? What makes you angry?

Bob: [14:10](#) Well, I mean I, I think I, I, I have anger about the fact that I did not duck when that... when the IED exploded. I'm pretty furious about that. I feel, I feel... and, and it, it kind of gets back to that more seriously is that, uh, I, I, I have anger at myself for making some of the decisions that I did in life. And o... and one of the big ones on that was to go into dangerous places and take those kinds of risks when I had four little kids at home. Um, and that makes my anger at myself. I think you're probably asking me what's my anger about others or those anger angers about other things-

Paul: [14:53](#) [crosstalk 00:14:53].

Bob: [14:53](#) ... happening in the world. Um, so there's always disappointment and there's frustration and then there's anger and I'm not really a, I don't really don't get angry about many things. I really don't.

Bob: [15:06](#) I get frustration and I've got certain, you know, criti-criticism to make about some things. But, you know, I think in terms of anger, I still, it eats away at me, uh, about some of the decisions I made. And that, that had some kind of impact on my kids. The only thing that saved that is that the only thing that makes... does not make me quite as angry as one, I'm still able to be a pretty decent father. And I think, and I've told this story before, is that one of my kids who's got deafness and, and she came up to Lee and my wife and told her when I still had rocks in my head and I showed a shattered scapula on my back and she came home and says, you know, "Dad looks like he's not really recovering." And, and Lee said, no, no, no he's recovering. Don't worry about it.

Bob: [15:50](#) She says, uh, you know he's, he's, he's got all these rocks in him still. She goes, no, those are going to come out. And then he said, you know, but I have to tell you, mom, that I think... I think dad loves me more now than he did before. So when you get moments like that, the anger it dissolves a little bit and then you realize that maybe there is another path you can be on. And

maybe there are some good things about it. Sometimes I do say the only good thing t... that... that happened by getting blown up was having to... I guess give my kids a different perspective in life and also to have a mission like the one that we've got to... to, to make sure that, that we are so, uh, not favored, but we're so lucky in the sense that we have so much around us to help us in the... in the, uh, recovery that the others will get the same. That's, that's the goal. So-

Paul: [16:39](#) Thank you for sharing that, man. That, that was really, really powerful. And when you, when you say you have rocks in your head, do you literally mean pieces of rocks? Right?

Bob: [16:49](#) (Laughs) Yeah.

Paul: [16:53](#) That were in your head from the fire.

Bob: [16:53](#) Yeah.

Paul: [16:53](#) Scrambled in your body.

Bob: [16:53](#) It-

Paul: [16:54](#) Continued to work itself out of your body. Right?

Bob: [16:56](#) Right. Yeah, yeah, that's, that's, that's what I was told. And you can look at it in the x-ray's, you know, there is, there is that, you know, I had great doctors that you... they removed the skull when I was in Ballade still. And, um, so the brain could breathe and then they put it back on four months later and, uh, and my headaches went away when they put the skull back on. And it kind of looked a lot better than having a part of your skull missing. So yeah, it's there, there were rocks in there and, and there's still little things. There's apparently one little rock that's still, you know, buried in there in my neck someplace. But, um, I, I don't really care anymore.

Paul: [17:30](#) And yo... and, uh, i-it's all adding to the complexity and bionic man, that is Bob Woodruff now, right? The, the stronger, powerful, more resilient, (laughs) uh, than ever before. But you, you, you talked... I got to ask you, because so many folks who are listening are thinking about raising kids in these times. You've been all around the world, you're traveling all around the world doing projects, um, any insights as a parent. You know, you've been a great... you and Lee... but just by your example, have been a great role model for me and for my wife.

- Bob: [17:57](#) All right.
- Paul: [17:58](#) And we love you dearly. Because of the way you parent by example and meeting your kids. They're so impressive. But any, any advice for, for parents or just people who are around young people in a... in a very difficult time in America?
- Bob: [18:11](#) Yeah, I don't, I don't need to... listen I hate to give advice to anybody about parenting. I'm going to feel like we're pretty blessed that the, that the kids had been, uh, fairly good. One is I, I... there's always this mixture between discipline and freedom for the kids so they can make all these mistakes now while you're still around to ultimately fix it. Because there's someday they won't be around you to fix it. So it's good to get them out of their system. So le... give them the chance to take some Duma, make some mistakes and all that and the other hand gets some really good, you know, you know, rules that they have to follow, you know, on the extreme ends of it. I think there's one thing that I do tell parents or that, you know, I think people always have this worry that they don't s... have a, you know, former dinner every night and you're home every day and you're always by their side. Don't travel because you had to raise your kids and all this guilt then comes in.
- Bob: [19:05](#) I think, you know, there's been studies that shown, it is the, the health of your kids is not based on you physically being there. It's really ultimately what you do when you are next to them. So you get on the road, as long as the kids A have good quality time with you, it doesn't have to be number of hours. It really, the amount of, of skills they learn out of it and is... the excitement they get out of it, the happiness they get out of it, they would... they would like to have a parent that's more... has better stories to tell. But the number one thing, if they have a parent who's happy for the right reason, that they love what they're doing. Then I think the kids are happy.
- Paul: [19:51](#) Hmm.
- Bob: [19:51](#) And I don't think they have longterm problems if they have a parent that's like that. So don't feel about traveling. Now this might be, cause I tell myself this cause I travel all the time, but I like that study, you know. But that's, that's what I, I think we've experienced pretty well cause I've got a wife that travels a lot too. So that's been pretty good.
- Paul: [20:07](#) So it takes me to the next core question that I ask of every guest, Bob Woodruff, what makes you happy?

Bob: [20:12](#) Kids? My kids. I... they've told them many times though, if you really want to make me happy, have some babies yourselves. I want to be a grand parent, you know, that'd be good. You know, I'm almost, uh, like 58 years old now and I'd, I'd love to have, uh, grandkids someday. And I'm, I'm 58 yeah, yeah, yeah, I know. I'm older than you, man.

Paul: [20:31](#) You look pretty good.

Bob: [20:32](#) I just have more hair. That's all.

Paul: [20:33](#) You look pretty good for a guy at 58 now.

Bob: [20:33](#) (Laughs).

Paul: [20:36](#) You're handsome to start with but you look pretty good for 58, you know?

Bob: [20:40](#) Yeah. Everyone th... everyone thought this too. I know. Ah, I know this is your podcast, but you don't have any hair on your head, you know?

Paul: [20:45](#) I do.

Bob: [20:45](#) And that's, yeah, so just want to make sure people ever knew that. But I also know that when I was hit in the head, they peeled all my ski... my s-skin off the top of my skull, took the skull off, put, you know, taped the skin back on while there's the part that's missing. Then they came back, peeled the skin down again and put this, the new skull on, and then they put the hair... the skin on that and my hair grew back on that. And then I was like, why is that? (Laughs) Why couldn't you take your skin off your head? And there's still hair when it comes back, but that's not fair. Uh, so yeah.

Paul: [21:16](#) It's not fair. But so that you know that it's fair, do you go through that shit and you can still, you know, you deserve to have a good head of hair, man. Anderson Cooper's got nothing on you or whoever else to say to this. Right?

Bob: [21:24](#) Ah, I know. You... it's, it's-

Paul: [21:26](#) Um, since we're coming up on, on veteran's day and I want to be mindful of your time. You've got a lot of group projects going on. What's, what's your message or reflection on veteran's day? People listen to all over the country of the world. Uh, you know,

the parade is going to happen in New York. There's now going to be a lot of controversy around it because Trump is coming. But you know, you've, you've been pulled into this world and welcomed into this world and now you're, I, I brought up the, the issue earlier about, you know, speaking Chinese because you become a translator for us in many ways.

Bob: [21:53](#)

Hardly. (Laughs).

Paul: [21:53](#)

So, so what do you think people should know about or think about when they think about veteran's day coming up?

Bob: [22:01](#)

Yeah, I, I think people... and I've said this before, is that I think sometimes think when you see the parade and the veterans marching down the street that, "Oh, those are from those old previous wars." You know, those are the ones th, uh, that have fought in the wars that are now over. Yeah, you know, more than anybody else that these wars are still happening and there could be bigger ones that are y-yet to come. And it's going to be... once again, the veterans who are, uh, those are service members are going to go out and... and protect ourselves. You know, this is the world that are... there are no drafts. So I think in some ways that's always a great thing. But it's also separated the civilian world away from the military. So it's great to look at them walking down the streets. But remember they are still serving and there are many, uh, more others to go co-come. You know, it's amazing. You know, 9/11 we remember that so well. But now there's those who have joined the military that were born after that day on 9/11/1988. I mean 19, uh, 2001.

Paul: [22:59](#)

Yeah.

Bob: [23:00](#)

By the way, 9/11/1988 is when I married my wife.

Paul: [23:03](#)

Really?

Bob: [23:03](#)

Yeah, (laughs). That was 9/11/88 yeah. So we celebrated-

Paul: [23:06](#)

The idea is coming together in your head if, if it was from somewhere.

Bob: [23:10](#)

Yeah, we celebrated for 12 years and we stopped after that.

Paul: [23:12](#)

But you sound like, you know, I mean how, how do you maybe... because my, my, my niece was born on 9, 10/11 she was born the day before. And I was kind of, you know, thinking about it as we, the day was coming, we're saying, boy, if she's born on that

day, what's it going to be like? And for us it's been wonderful because it gives us, you know, real reflection and happiness and, and understanding of how... what life is all about. Right. And so we do a celebration of life dinner on 9/11 and we celebrate my niece. But what, what is that like now for you guys to have that as your, as your anniversary?

Bob: [23:44](#) Well we... I know, we, we celebrate it and it's come, it's come back now, although I have to tell the honest truth, Paul.

Paul: [23:50](#) Yeah.

Bob: [23:50](#) A couple of times we forgot-

Paul: [23:52](#) (Laughs).

Bob: [23:52](#) ... that that day was our, you know, our anniversary. So, you know, I think sometimes you're so busy and it's been after... this has been 31 years now. We just had our 34th, fir... 31st, um, this year. So it's been a long time. Sometimes you forget those anniversaries. I know I'm not supposed to say that, but the good news is my wife forgot a couple of times too. So it wasn't... it's not just me that's done that. But yeah, now, it feels... it feels special. And, and the fact that it is 9/11 that it's a, a, in some ways it's a... it's... it's, it's, it's really giving honor to those who have served, but more, especially those who were lost on that day.

Bob: [24:35](#) You know, I think we've got so many friends. The fact that we live in New York, we have friends who have friends that were lost. I, I didn't lose a close friend of mine that day. I just remember what happened that day. You know exactly that moment when it happened and I know exactly what we did after that. We were... I was li... reporting, I was living in London with ABC back then and on that day we're actually in the office and somebody from The Rim c-called me. He says, you see that plane just hit that building and that plane just hit that in, in New York. I said, really? So it came out and looked at it. We thought it was a Ces-Cessna or something. And then the other one right there on TV hit the other one. And we all looked at each other and we said, Oh my God, this is Osama bin Laden. We've been covering him for a couple of years.

Bob: [25:14](#) So literally less than five hours later I was on the last remaining BA flight from London to Islamabad in Pakistan. That's where we went for the next month, we stayed there trying to get an Afghanistan report and finally were able in October 7th of, uh,

of that, of that, that m-m-month, you know, 2001 we were finally able to get in to report what's happening in Afghanistan. And then it was that and there was a rock. So all of this, you know, I was covering international news, I wanted to cover conflicts and then suddenly it became our own difficult time in the history of America.

Paul: [25:50](#) And, I wanted to ask you this very topic that you're saying. Now you're doing some really cool stuff. Can you talk about what you're working on now and what you're going to be doing in, in the future here?

Bob: [25:59](#) Well this... actually, it's a really cool and I expect, I just got back from about four months on the road in six different countries. We're going to do a... we're doing a series on the new Disney plus, which is a, this is going to be part of the nat-national geographic part of this, which is Disney's new Netflix essentially. So this is all going to be streaming and it's going to be this, uh, you know, six countries where I bring in my 28 year old son to show him these countries that I've reported on and some places that I've reported around.

Bob: [26:31](#) But those that are generally been these hard news stories about somewhats, you know, sad and depressing elements. And they were, they were war cupboards. They were, um, you know, environmental problems, all sorts of starvation and drought and all of that and show, you know, these countries are not f... entirely disastrous. You know, these countries are unique and fascinating and the people are really very much like us. And so you need to see parts of this world that are not just that little pinch, you know, that you see on the news. You know, you got to see the whole story. And I just haven't had a chance to tell those stories because this is not new news. You know, those are ones that have been there forever and that's the ordinary lives of people. But it's incredibly exciting stuff to do.

Paul: [27:12](#) That you can do with your son. That is-

Bob: [27:14](#) I can do that with my son, you know, um, because here's the thing, one reason too is my son wants to, he wants to get into production, so he's, this is his love too, so yeah, he's doing great.

Paul: [27:26](#) Down to the last question that I'll ask you is the one I ask of all our guests, when you were growing up, and you grew up in Michigan? Is it true?

Bob: [27:32](#) I did, yeah.

Paul: [27:33](#) You grew in Michigan and, and, uh, I hope that maybe you can coach the Wolverines. I don't know if you-

Bob: [27:40](#) Oh, hell yeah, man.

Paul: [27:40](#) Yeah.

Bob: [27:40](#) I, I went to, I went to university of Michigan for law school.

Paul: [27:43](#) No wonder they've been vigor at it.

Bob: [27:46](#) Yeah. You know, there?

Paul: [27:46](#) Yeah.

Bob: [27:47](#) Yeah. Sometimes it's shocking, you, you know, the ones they win and the ones they lose, you know, you just can never really expect the results, uh, uh, uh, I-lately. It had a lot of bad year-years, you know. Um, but now they're, they're coming back and I think one of these days we'll get the national championship again.

Paul: [28:04](#) I, I, yeah, I would love to see it, man. And I hope that you can make it happen. When you were growing up in Michigan, Bob was your, what was your first car?

Bob: [28:11](#) I don't even think I want to tell you because it's almost embarrassing. It was a blue Pinto. (Laughs).

Paul: [28:16](#) Amazing. Uh-

Bob: [28:20](#) I mean, at least it... at least it was a manual shifts. Right? So that makes it a little bit more machismo rent then. You know-

Paul: [28:25](#) You know-

Bob: [28:25](#) ... listen it... it was, it was dirt cheap. I had to buy it. So, you know, I, I, I did what I can and I mean-

Paul: [28:30](#) How did you pay for it?

Bob: [28:32](#) I, Oh God, I can't remember.

Paul: [28:32](#) And what color was it?

Bob: [28:33](#) I-It... B... It was blue.

Paul: [28:35](#) Blue?

Bob: [28:36](#) Yeah. But I think it was actually not, it wasn't dark blue is almost a little bit like the s... the suit I'm wearing right now.

Paul: [28:42](#) [crosstalk 00:28:42].

Bob: [28:42](#) Uh, as you can see. Yeah, yeah.

Paul: [28:44](#) Navy blue.

Bob: [28:45](#) Right. Like Navy blue and that was the car and I think it was a, sometimes it would work, sometimes it wouldn't. Uh, but it was, it was, that was my first car man. And it was, it was awesome. It's like, you know, there, I was heading off to college and I had a car to run and to, to drive and cause I was going all the way, eight, you know, nine hour drive from our house in Michigan to, to get out there. But that was, what was your car? What was your first one?

Paul: [29:09](#) My first car was a OZO Beale Cutlass Supreme.

Bob: [29:13](#) Uh, sweet.

Paul: [29:14](#) I think we, I think we actually talked about it a couple of weeks ago in the episode with uh, Samantha B. Like, didn't we have the same car, Roy? He's nodding his head.

Bob: [29:22](#) Yes.

Paul: [29:22](#) Samantha B and, and I turned out to have the same first car.

Bob: [29:25](#) Wow.

Paul: [29:26](#) I told the whole story of starting from how I got it from an old guy named Irvin.

Bob: [29:30](#) (Laughs).

Paul: [29:32](#) [inaudible 00:29:32] who was legendary ice-skater in the time.

Bob: [29:35](#) Has anybody you've interviewed and you asked this question? They've said when they're 16 year old, their first one was the Ferrari or all terrible-

Paul: [29:42](#) No.

Bob: [29:42](#) ... embarrassing cars.

Paul: [29:43](#) We, uh, we had a Hummer.

Bob: [29:46](#) Oh, that's pretty cool.

Paul: [29:47](#) You had some interesting answers. I think someone else had a Pinto too. I'll have to go back and look. (Laughs) It might've been like Ron Perlman from San Francisco.

Bob: [29:54](#) All right. It's a man.

Paul: [29:56](#) There was a Pinto before. We'll check the archives. So, you can go back.

Bob: [29:59](#) Right.

Paul: [30:00](#) Uh, but before we end Bob and I'm really grateful for your time here. Especially with so much going on this week. You were, you were, you were doing interviews all day. You met with the legendary Ernie and asked this. Right?

Bob: [30:10](#) Yeah, yeah. He's great. [crosstalk 00:30:10] right? Yeah. Fox man, he's been there around for... he's been around for a long time.

Paul: [30:13](#) I was like... I was like 16 years old. Um, but you really, you and Lee do an incredible amount of work this whole week, raising money, raising awareness, and you're still doing your day job. It's, it's, you know, it's nighttime here at ABC, but we always give all of our guests a, a gift bag. And so I present to you the giving of the gifts. Uh, we have new righteous media bags and there are three elements.

Bob: [30:34](#) Wow. What-

Paul: [30:35](#) It is American made, uh, by veterans, uh, angry Americans merchandise and it's in blue and gray.

Bob: [30:44](#) Wow. Look at this.

Paul: [30:49](#) And-

Bob: [30:49](#) Oh, what's this?

Paul: [30:49](#) And then-

Bob: [30:49](#) Ah, alcohol.

Paul: [30:49](#) Yes.

Bob: [30:49](#) Love it.

Paul: [30:49](#) Some Fort Hamilton whiskey that you in Lee can enjoy.

Bob: [30:51](#) Whiskey.

Paul: [30:52](#) And then here is the last question of the show.

Bob: [30:55](#) Uh, something-

Paul: [30:56](#) This is, this is a, this is another kind of personality question. Learn a little bit more about, we've asked every single guest since we started the show.

Bob: [31:01](#) Uh-huh.

Paul: [31:01](#) Because we started around Easter. There are three colors of peeps, Bob Woodruff. What color do you prefer?

Bob: [31:07](#) (Laughs).

Paul: [31:07](#) Yellow, blue or pink? And why?

Bob: [31:11](#) Just like a, a blue state, a red state and a, and a yellow state. Is that what you got here?

Paul: [31:15](#) What do you want?

Bob: [31:16](#) That you're doing here? Uh, okay, so what am I supposed to base this on? which comes in... which color? Um-

Paul: [31:21](#) Whatever. Which one do you prefer?

Bob: [31:23](#) Uh, I kinda like, I don't know. I like blue. Maybe it looks, this looks a little bit like my Pinto. Um, yeah.

Paul: [31:29](#) That a theme. We've got the-

Bob: [31:30](#) Right.

Paul: [31:30](#) ... blue peeps, the blue shirt, the blue suit.

Bob: [31:33](#) But I like yellow too though. Hmm. And I like red. Well see, the problem with the red one is it's actually pink so it makes a little bit ou-out of my own, you know, insecurity. You know about being too feminish that I ought to get the pink one out. Right? And so now the blue and the yellow.

Paul: [31:48](#) You're organizing them on the table now.

Bob: [31:51](#) No, but I... all right. But is this, is this like a test because-

Paul: [31:52](#) No it's, it's-

Bob: [31:53](#) But here's the thing.

Paul: [31:53](#) ... a question I ask of all our guests.

Bob: [31:55](#) Okay. But-

Paul: [31:55](#) Whatever you wanted to go.

Bob: [31:56](#) What people can't see though is the, th-the-

Paul: [31:58](#) That's what you-

Bob: [31:58](#) ... pink and the blue on are, are about half the size of the yellow ones. So if I like the yellow ones, I get more. So is this a test? All right.

Paul: [32:05](#) No.

Bob: [32:05](#) So, so I like the yellow one because it's got mass.

Paul: [32:07](#) The yellows are kind of like a double wide, you know there's like two side by side, two column when these-

Bob: [32:12](#) Correct.

Paul: [32:12](#) When these are individual people.

Bob: [32:13](#) Right. Right.

Paul: [32:14](#) If you drink a lot of the, the Fort Hamilton whiskey, then maybe your choice may change.

Bob: [32:18](#) Yeah, whiskey and sugar I don't... don't put those together usually.

Paul: [32:20](#) (Laughs).

Bob: [32:20](#) And then there's a letter to me.

Paul: [32:22](#) There's a note in there for you and maybe it we'll bring us, so to, to the end, which is, I just want to thank you for being an incredible American. You are a great inspiration to more people than you'll ever know. I'm honored to consider you a friend and a role model and I just love you man. And I think you're an incredible American that represents the best of what this country is all about. And you're an inspiration for our children, um, and you give a lot of people hope and, and you're an incredible human being and I'm honored and thankful to know you.

Bob: [32:52](#) Well I don't, I don't think I can take that because it's coming from a man that has done way more than I have. I have to say that. It from the very beginning. So, I mean this is quite a hug we're doing right now.

Paul: [33:02](#) Is it?

Bob: [33:02](#) And, uh, you know-

Paul: [33:03](#) Cause it feels like we're standing around a table and then ABC.

Bob: [33:06](#) we'll do this like, because, because really what we should is not say this on this. We should just call each other's wives and tell these stories to them and see how amazing we are. You know that-

Paul: [33:12](#) I think that will [crosstalk 00:33:12].

Bob: [33:12](#) ... that's the way that's the be the thing to do.

Paul: [33:14](#) I think it would be fab if had Lauren and, and Lee do their own podcast because they're much more charming, funny and smart than either of us.

Bob: [33:21](#) This is true.

Paul: [33:21](#) (Laughs).

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Bob: [33:22](#) Oh wait, has Lee on this with you?

Paul: [33:25](#) No, I would like to have Lee doing this.

Bob: [33:26](#) Yeah, she's the best man.

Paul: [33:27](#) All right. Sure.

Bob: [33:27](#) She could probably do that.

Paul: [33:30](#) We'll pull her over.

Bob: [33:31](#) Yeah, yeah. Bob Woodruff, you're an incredible person. Thank you for joining us on angry Americans. I wish you, uh, very happy and productive veterans day, veterans month. And we're really excited to folks who want to watch you on this new journey with your son. They're going to continue to be inspired, but thank you for joining for us in the show for all you do my friend.

Bob: [33:44](#) Thanks Paul. You're the best man.

Paul: [33:47](#) And we are out from ABC. Uh, that is the end. Thank you.