

Interview with Anthony Holmes

[00:00:00] **Anthony Holmes** My name is Anthony Holmes. And I'm speaking today about what happened to me.

[00:00:10] **Amanda Rivkin** And can you tell us about the day that you were taken and what happened to you when the police had you in their custody?

[00:00:15] **Anthony Holmes** Police came to my house about 2:30, 3:30, between 2 and 3:30 that in the morning. Kicked the doors in. They come in hollering, told everybody to get down on the floor and this. I was in the bedroom. My kids went on the floor because you know, it startled them, they got scared. They hollering around screaming. So the police tried to start pointing the guns toward them. So I jumped up and came out the room. I said, hold it, I'm the one y'all want, my kids ain't got nothing to do with this. So they throw me on the floor. They say, nigger, get down on the floor and you better not move. Put the shotgun against my head. Burge put a knee on my back and handcuffed me and started taking me out.

[00:01:07] **Anthony Holmes** In the process, my wife at the time, she had asked them where was they taking me. They said they were taking me to 61st and Racine. Which they didn't. They took me to Burnside on 90th and Cottage. So they was trying to find me, my wife and [indiscernible] a friend of mine. But they never found me. My wife didn't anyway. They took me to Burnside, took me up the stairs, took me to this room, sit me in a chair. And Burge say we got something for you. And so when he went out, went out and got a box. Well, actually, it was a paper bag with a box in it. The box had a generator and some wires handing out of it. I didn't know what it was at the time, but, I noticed it had a set of wires coming out the front and a set of the wires coming out the back and had a the little thing that you turn the side of.

[00:02:11] **Anthony Holmes** He plugged it into the wall and then came towards me. Meanwhile, I'm handcuffed with my hands behind my back and got handcuffs on my ankles. And I'm in a chair. So he told me, he said, man, he say, look, why don't you tell me about this case. What is you talking about? What is you talking about? [indiscernible] He yelled. Slapped me out the chair. And then picked me up and put me back in the chair. Came over with a plastic bag. I'm looking like he crazy [indiscernible] because I ain't never had this did to me before. He said, you gonna tell us, we want to know.

[00:03:07] **Anthony Holmes** So they out a wire on my ankles and a wire behind my back on the handcuffs and took the plastic bag and put it over my head. He said, you better not bite it, bite through. And I bit through it. They put another one on me, I couldn't bite through that. And then they started electrocuting me. I heard the sound of the generator being turned. You know, I guess that was the wheel of the hand on it. In the process, I laid down, started shaking. I felt needles in my body, like a thousand needles going through it. And I went out the chair. That went on for some hours and hours at a time, I don't know how long it was. I know I almost died about three or four times. At least I felt like I was dying. Last time he laid there and did me like that, I in turn thought I was dead. I said, I'm ready. I was gone. Then he lifted me up off the floor and forced that back in me and that's how I came to.

[00:04:13] **Anthony Holmes** Put me back in the chair. [indiscernible] We gotta ask you some questions about what happened. I told them, I said, I don't know what you talking about. He said, you know what I'm talking about. He did that and we went through that thing over and over again. I don't know how many times, I don't know how many times I passed out. I know when it was all said and done, that last time, I didn't know what time of day it was because the room didn't have a window. I remember an officer came in there asking them why was I making all that noise and what they was doing. And I'm looking at him—I thought he was a white officer too but he wasn't, I found that out later on, but I didn't know it at the time. He left. So I thought he left. Like I said, I didn't really get a good chance, I couldn't see him hardly cause I was still too devastated from what they was doing to me. Decided come up there and told me they want a statement from me, and all this. I ain't giving no statement. And like I said, they start the machine again. They did that for a few hours more. I don't know how many hours it was.

[00:05:31] **Anthony Holmes** All I know is what I was going through, screaming painful. I ain't never experienced nothing like that before. I'm used to police beating me up or something like that. That's understandable because what I was and what I was doing. So, you know, you get beat up, that ain't no problem. You accept that. But to be shocked. Suffocated. No. Like I said, finally broke me down. I say anything you want to hear. I said, you want me to say I killed the president? I'll say that, too. I didn't care. Because I felt I was never gonna live no way.

[00:06:11] **Anthony Holmes** And they broke me. Yeah. They took me downstairs to see the state's attorney. State's attorney came in. The state's attorney gonna come in and ask you some questions, you better not ask for no lawyer. You do, we gonna take you back upstairs and do the same thing to you. I just looked down. He never did come and talk to

me though. He say he did but he didn't. They stood over by the door and they talked to him and he talked to them. They came to whatever conclusion they came to. They just all laughed about it. Then he left.

[00:06:53] **Anthony Holmes** Then from that time on, they took me and put me in lock up. Then my aunt and a friend of mine came to see me. I thought they took me to 85th and Green, to the police station over there so they could book me. That's where I thought I was when they came to see me. And she said no. She said we came to see you at 85th. Now, I don't find this out until after I got out some years later. A lot of years later. But they took me to 85th and Green to book me and then they took me back to Burnside, and while I'm in Burnside that's when I get my visit. But I didn't know. They came to see me, they told me that they found me. I could hardly stand up to talk. I was messed up. So from that time on, they took me to 85th and Green.

[00:07:57] **Anthony Holmes** And that's when I went to bond court. I happened to see a PD there that I know him and his partner. They came over and asked me what happened. I told them I got arrested for a murder. Some murder at the time. And I had been tortured. So they say, well, don't worry about it, keep your mouth shut, don't say nothing else. So I say, OK. So they say, do you want us to take the case? I say yeah, but my family went and got a lawyer for me too. And they was the one take the case. But I told them, y'all can take the robberies, but I wan't them to take the murder. So they said OK.

[00:08:43] **Anthony Holmes** And in the process, I went to court. And they finally took me over to branch 66 over on 61st and Racine where the murder court at. And they throw the murder, the murder that I later on got convicted of, they throwed that murder out. And that's when they was torturing me on another murder. So when I got to court on that and finally got to 26th Street [Cook County Criminal Court], they come up with some more cases and all this other stuff. Anyway, they dropped the murder. They had no probable cause on branch 66, and send me over, reindicted me on the murder they gave me when I was there. But when I went and got indicted, they dropped that murder, the one I got probable cause on. But they convicted me on the murder I got no probable cause on.

[00:09:47] **Anthony Holmes** You know, like I say, I was surprised anyway they did it like that. So, I looked up and I'm going to court for the murder I got to no probable cause on. And the sad part is is that when I went to court on it, they brought a lady in, she supposed to identify me. She say, I ain't ever seen that man before in my life. And they gave her to my lawyer now. But my lawyer say we can't use her because we ain't got to prove that you, you know, that you innocent, I mean, that you was there. We got to prove

that you wasn't there. And she's saying that you wasn't there. So therefore, we can't use her. So I say, OK.

[00:10:25] **Anthony Holmes** So anyway, we went to court. And all they had was the statement that the police had got. That's what they bond me over on. In the first place, got me an indictment on it. And then they got me bonded over on it. The other murder, they dropped that one. And so they throwed it out of court. Then when I went to Garippo, and that's where I went to court at. But all the time I'm going to court, ain't no witnesses. Now I supposed they had some witnesses the guys who will be my rappies, which is partners in crime in other words. And they had like 4 or 5 or 6 of them I think it was. But anyway, we supposedly all did the murder because they gave me murder and conspiracy.

[00:11:16] **Anthony Holmes** When I looked up, they ain't brought nobody in. So my lawyer knew that I had at the time, they called all them in and had all of us down there. And each one of them told me, we never was together no particular time. And far as the case itself, they couldn't use them. So when we went to court, they never did bring any of them up there. I'm the only guy convicted on the case and got sent to the penitentiary 20 to 75 years. So, in 1976, I get a [indiscernible] reversal. And they through the murder out and they throw the conspiracy out. So the state re-indicted me. Not for conspiracy but accountability. Because they said that I supposedly know about the murder. And I knew nothing about it. And, you know, cause the accountability mean that whoever committed the murder, if you had any knowledge of it, then you responsible for it. And they never proved I was responsible for it. I didn't know nothing about the murder.

[00:12:35] **Anthony Holmes** Then they try to say that the guys, that we had got together and planned to kill this guy because he's testifying against my brother-in-law. But the sad part about that was, they ended up bringing my wife in at the time and ended up bringing my brother-in-law to testify to the fact that we was related or this was my reason for doing this. And when the guy got killed, I was in the jail. But they still, you know, it didn't matter. But anyway, they want to overturned my decision. In 1976, they overturned it and gave me the 20 to 75 year stand on accountability. So from '73 all the way to '04. I got out for a minute and caught a drug case. And, well I caught a drug case and I was like, OK, I did that. But I ain't tripping on that one. The only thing I'm tripping on is the fact that the murder that they gave me. So I still had that going. So when I went back, they gave me 14 years. I had to do seven years, it was three years and something. So I did that. You know, started going to parole board again. So from '04 to... No, no, no. Not '04... I made parole ten years later, so... Made the parole... So I came back...

[00:14:31] **Anthony Holmes** Anyway, when I started doing my—I came home in '04, that's why I got '04 mixed up in there. But I started going to board from '78... let's see... 3-4-7... From '79...And the. Yeah. Oh,. From '04. I started going to parole board in '03 and I made parole in '04. '74, '75, '76, '78, '79, '80... '82, '84. '84 when I made parole, that's what I made parole.

[00:15:47] **Anthony Holmes** And I came back in '84. So I started going back to parole board from... Cause I did 13 years in the 'Ville [Stateville?]...

[00:16:25] **Anthony Holmes** It's been so long. And I did all them years. But I finally, what I'm saying, I finally got out in '04, came home, and before I got out in '03, they, you know, they started, Governor Ryan, he pardoned all those guys back in '02, I think it was '02 or '03, Ryan pardoned those guys on death row. And he said the system is corrupt. Cause they start hearing about the Wilson brothers, they got tortured. And the medical examiner at the county, at the hospital they had wouldn't except them and they taken to the hospital. And that's how the story broke. But from all that time, what happened with us, we laid there and everybody that got caught up during that period of time, they came out to see you. So Flint [Taylor] and... Flint came to see me and an investigator came to see me. Also, the special prosecutor came to see me. I told them what had happened to me, and that's all I could do.

[00:17:38] **Anthony Holmes** But in the process I was going to the parole board and I was tell them what had happened. But they didn't believe me. So. Not to change the subject, but I had a parole hearing. Mr. Brooks in '03. He had promised my auntie that he was gonna help me make parole because he sit on the hearings and heard what had happened. I said, I been telling y'all this ever since I've been in here. I said, but y'all don't want to hear what I had to say. I said now all of a sudden you see what I'm talking about? This is what [indiscernible]. And he says, so I'mma help you. But instead of helping me, he promised my auntie, and she passed in the process. She passed in '04 or '03. Because I went to the board in the end of '02 and she passed in '03 because that's when she was supposed to came to the hearing I was at.

[00:18:45] **Anthony Holmes** And Mr. Brooks say she's your auntie so I'm gonna help you, you're gonna get out on parole this time. So he asked me three things. The three things he asked me was: what was I gonna do when I got out, my institutional conduct when I was in prison for. And I said, I told him. And I said everything else was in the files. So he said, OK. So the interview was nice. And he says I'm gonna help you get out. So in the

process, she passed. And I went in front of the parole board in '03. I'm sitting there waiting for her to come and she didn't show up. And so another lady on the parole board, she decided to help me. She said, baby, look, this is what I'm gonna do. I'm gonna get in touch with your auntie and find out why she didn't make it. I'm postponing your hearing until later on. I said, OK.

[00:19:40] **Anthony Holmes** So she went out. She checked. Found out she had passed. And they told me and I called that night and they told me she had passed. So I went to Mr. Brooks and I explained to him, I don't mind you telling me that you will help me. You know, I mean, you didn't. I'm used to that. Cause, you know, since I been locked up I ain't about to believe it without seeing it all this time. I said, now, the sad thing is that you told my auntie that you was gonna help me and you didn't. Now she done passed. I said, but I trust that from now, the people that you hear when they come in front of you, that you speak to them and not lie to they family. I said, if you ain't gonna help me just say you ain't gonna help me, because we're used to that, we expect that. But to say that you will help me and you didn't help and got my family hoping that I come home and I don't come home. That's a let down.

[00:20:41] **Anthony Holmes** I say, so I just pray that you don't, you know, do the next people that you meet on the hearings like you did me, and you lied. So that November... That's when I went to the board... No, December. He called me up there in November and told me. He said, look, he say, I thought you shafting me, I thought you getting all slick on me. I said, no, why would you think that? I said, everything you asked me, I answered. Whatever you asked me. You asked me three things. One was what I was going to do when I got out, where was I gonna stay, and my institutional conduct. And that's what I told you. And the sad part is, you know, you didn't even read it. I mean, you could've check my transcript, you know what I'm saying, because it's right there in front of me. You know, everything about me is in that folder you get. So if there's any question that you need to ask me, you should ask me. But you didn't because you weren't concerned about what I was saying.

[00:21:44] **Anthony Holmes** So. He apologized and said he gonna help me again. Like I said, a lady that was there, she definitely helped me. And she talked to all the rest of them and that's how I end up making parole. So Flint done came to see me. I talked to him. I explained what happened. So when I got out, I went to St. Leonard's house for a minute. That's where I went when I got out of the penitentiary. And that's where I kind of adjusted. Got myself ready because I still was a nervous wreck. I still was messed up in the head. I still is.

[00:22:25] **Anthony Holmes** You know, we have times. You have spasms. I call spasms when you have pain. You know, you get to suffering and thinking about what's going to happened to you. And the sad part about it all is when you realize that there's nothing you can do. You know, so you just take it and you roll with the punch. And I could of came out, you know, full of craziness and all type of thing like some of the guys do and some of them feel. I know how they feel. But the point is, I got to many people behind me, pushing me, you know, to help myself. And I had to help myself in order to help them. So, I got myself together. But it is was a long haul.

[00:23:08] **Anthony Holmes** The people that I used to work for, one of the main jobs I had, I worked for [indiscernible]. I working for them. I had a supervisor named Rick. He in turn, when I was supposed to go to court to testify against Burge, he called me. I went to come into his office because I had to get the day off. So he said, well, what's going on? I told him, I said, ain't nothing wrong, I just needed to get this day, I need to go to court. And so in the process, I was tell him about it and I broke down. And, you know, cause it was just, it's hard on me at times, you know, and it's hard to control. So I explained to him what had happened, what the police had did, the changes I went through, what they was probably hoping when I went to jail that somebody kill me because what I was.

[00:24:00] **Anthony Holmes** And I survived all of that because of the fact, like I tell you, those footsteps in the sand. It was two footsteps going into the penitentiary and only one coming out and that was God carrying me out. But. I also tell you this, I think Burge was really trying to get me killed when I was in there, because the fact that when you're a stool pigeon, then you get killed. That's the law. And ain't nobody gonna trust you. And plus by me being a [indiscernible] chief and all that, that didn't look good. You know what I'm saying? But the only thing that kept me from being killed or hurt was the fact that they said, man who was you telling on for you to come to the penitentiary? Ain't nobody in the penitentiary but you. So you couldn't have been telling on nobody because you the only one here. And we know you didn't do it. You know what I'm saying? I said, yeah, but they think I did it. They said, yeah we know, but ain't nothing happening. You know, your word good as gold. You know, and the people that was love me, even my brother-in-law was in there. He know I didn't have anything to do with it but still, you know, ain't nothing he could say because they never did call him to court.

[00:25:13] **Anthony Holmes** But that's the only thing that kept me alive, I think, because the fact that I didn't have my rappies in there with me. Couldn't nobody say that I told on them because I didn't. All I did was gave them a statement that was made up and they

did what they want to do with it. They hooked me up and they broke me. And that's what hurt me the most, because I couldn't control the fact what they did to me. I didn't have no control over that. And that's what hurts. Because see, when somebody have you in a position where you can't do nothing, you just got to accept what they do to you, then ain't nothing you can do. It took me a long time to get to where I am now. Because see, I believe an eye for an eye, and that's the bottom line. But I also believe in this here: if God had wanted me to die, I would've died then. But I didn't. I didn't die in the penitentiary. So that was telling me something.

[00:26:17] Another thing made me kinda change too a little bit was my grandson coming to see me. And he said this once, he said granddad, I'm not leaving you. He said, because I want you to come home with us. I said, I can't come home with you. I said, because they got me on something I didn't do and I gotta wait for the courts to clear me for it. And hopefully they will one day. I said, now if you stay here with me and don't leave, then what's going to happen is you gonna get your father upset with you because you created a situation here and you shouldn't do that. And he won't bring you back to see me no more. So why don't you go ahead home with your daddy. And that way he'll bring you back to see me again. He looked at me. I said, you do want to come back and see me again don't you? He said, yeah granddad I wanna see you. I said, OK go home with your father then. I said, you gonna do that for me? He said, OK granddad. He gave me a hug and went up the steps.

[00:27:15] **Anthony Holmes** And that right there kind of turned me a little bit because I didn't realize the people I had touched by me being caught up like I did. I lost a family like that and my grandkids, they come to see me and stuff, and they all show me they love me. But I couldn't give them the love back in return because I was in the penitentiary. So that turned me around and made me realize that, I said, hey there's more involved in this than just you. I tried to be as straight as I could as best as I could. And when I came home, who's the first persons I seen? And I went to the rest of my family and stuff like that. My wife, we had got divorced and stuff so that was gone. My friend that was with me through the whole bit. She stuck by me. She's my wife now.

[00:28:14] **Anthony Holmes** But, like I say, it affected a whole lot of people that was involved with me. Family-wise. Lost family. One's that still alive, it touched them all. And there's no feeling like the feeling I had when I came home. I came home in '04 too. But I wasn't ready to come home. You know, cause I got caught with another case. Bad I did that. I ain't gonna say I didn't do it, but I never did nothing to put to me in the penitentiary

for no murder. And I didn't do that murder. My thing is, if I do something, you catch me, I ain't got no problem with it. But don't put nothing on me that I didn't do.

[00:28:58] **Anthony Holmes** And like I was telling you about Rick, my supervisor at the time. He tell me, he said, look, it's like this here, you know, all these years you been sufferin', dealing with Burge and dealing with what he did to you and and all that there. You know, he said, I don't know how you stood it. I couldn't've did that, I'd've killed myself. I said, I couldn't do that. That's one thing, I ain't think about doing that. He say, remember this: just like he had you all them years, suffering and going through them changes, and remember the torture that he did to you an how he did you? You in a position now to do him the same way. See, now he got to worry about you. Because I know he wanted to kill me. You know, I knew he wished he had killed me but he didn't. So that's how I got my revenge. Because now he had to walk in my footsteps, even if it's just for a day. He had to walk in my footsteps for one day. That's all right.

[00:29:57] **Anthony Holmes** He got the four and a half years. We didn't get him for the torture. We got him for... What they call it.... Some words. When he lied on the stand. Perjury and obstruction of justice. And we got him for that. That's better than nothing. And the judge done believe me. The jury believe me. You know, and his lawyers talking about well we got you, we conspired all this stuff when we was in the penitentiary. You know, to get from under the cases and stuff like that. And seeing the penitentiary, you know, we don't even talk about stuff like this here.

[00:30:38] **Anthony Holmes** It was a guy in my cell. We called him 4-4. And when the John Conroy wrote House of Screams he ended up talking to 4-4. And 4-4 told him that Burge had told him that he gone do him just like he did Satan [Anthony Holmes' nickname] and Cochise [Roger Collins]. Satan is me and Cochise is my other rappie. And he told Flint and them this, and he told John Conroy this. So John Conroy wrote in the House of Screams. He sent it to me. He said he gone send me a copy of it and I'm sitting in Dixon Penitentiary and I'm reading it and my cousin is in my cell at the time.

[00:31:29] **Anthony Holmes** I said, man who is... what's 4-4's name name [Melvin Jones]... Wilson I think it was? No not Wilson. I can't think 4-4's real name. Man... He dead now. But anyway, my cousin told me his name. And when he told me his name, I said, oh, that's 4-4, yeah. I said, OK. Like I said, he was my cellie for a whole year. Jones, that's his name. If I'm not mistaken it's Jones. Cause me and Flint done talked about it.

[00:32:25] **Amanda Rivkin** Melvin Jones.

[00:32:27] **Anthony Holmes** Yep. So. And all the time he was in the cell with me, I didn't know he was even arrested by Burge. The circumstances [indiscernible] and I didn't even know. If I'd have known then what I know later on that I could've had 4-4 and we couldn't done something earlier. I could've gotten in touch with Flint and them then. But I didn't because I didn't know. So. But. As it all turnout, it worked out all right.

[00:33:00] **Anthony Holmes** Like I say, when I went to court against Burge, he was sitting up there in the cafeteria and me and one of the marshals took me to eat. I come down the steps, I see him. I didn't look at him. And they asked me, did you see him, I said, I see him. So I told them, yeah that's him. He got all red, food fell out of his mouth. You know, I know he wish I was dead right then. I guess he thought I was gonna come out like a dope fiend or an alcoholic or something, you know what I'm saying. Or maybe I wouldn't even come out. [indiscernible]

[00:33:48] **Anthony Holmes** But for him to see me in the flesh. And I'm healthy. I don't drink or nothing, you know, no drugs and I live a straight life the best I can. And when he seen me, it blew his mind. Because he never did figure, you know, older than him, but I'm in better shape than him. You know, and all that time I did, still, I'm in better shape than him. I ain't got no cancers or nothing like that. I had my knees injured because I was in a couple accidents since I been home, from the job and stuff. But through it all, you know, I'm carrying on, I'm here. And my family and them, you know, they better than what they was.

[00:34:38] **Anthony Holmes** I lost my daughter once I came home, she died two years ago. And she told me one time, she said, daddy, she said, you know, I remember everything you used to do when you was at home with us. I said, what you mean you remember everything I used to do. What'd I used to do? She say, you took us to Adventure Land, the whole nine yards, every place they had a carnival, Galaxy World in Rockford. Wherever they were going to have fun, I took them. And she remember now and I'm looking at how you remember all this cause I didn't even remember, which I hadn't until she was telling me about it. She says, I remember. That kind of broke me down because, you know, look at your kids and they growed up without you and they remember some of the things you used to do for them. And you know... It's just... I love to have people that care about you, don't nobody else care about you, they do.

[00:35:40] **Anthony Holmes** So all in all. If I came alone, like I say, that was my adjustment. Like I say, I went to St. Leonard's House when I first come home. I took anger

management, I took a drug program, all of that. They put me in a drug program even though I never took no drugs. They say, you taking up a space somebody else can have. I say, they told me I had to take this. No, you good, you just go on back over there. I say, OK. So I'm supposed to stay there six month. I stayed there like 60 days or 90 days and moved out to Joliet. That's what I did. I finally got a decent job. It was hard. Lotta times you think about doing stuff you used to do, but it's not for you no more.

[00:36:32] **Anthony Holmes** It's hard to come home and re-enter back the way, you know, things used to be. People, you know, you seen you don't know no more, but they still want you to do the same things you used to do you don't do now. So I said, man, I'm not about that no more. I'm gone. Man, we love you. I said, I love y'all too, but I'm gone. When you see me, you see a ghost. I come to see you, you know, if you have a birthday party or married, I come there for a minute, I'm gone. You know, I don't drink or nothing so I don't know what I'm gonna hang out at a party for. I said, man, I'm not into that no more. As far as hanging out, I can't do that. So everybody I hang out with, really the ones I do hang out with, the few that I do hang out with, it's the ones that's involved in this. Because, them the only ones I seen. I can relate to them because they can relate to me and we relate to each other and try to hold each other strong and keep at it, to stay out and make an example.

[00:37:27] **Anthony Holmes** Because see, it's so hard when you come out to try to do with. I don't care how much education. You be out on account of hook ups. You got a at work to say because you're not yourself no more. You don't have no control. You know, you can lay there and, you know, you can talk about this thing like we do. But it helps us to break the barriers down because we so close and been through so much. And when people don't believe you, that hurts. You start, you know, bouncing off the wall, you know, and then you got to do the time and stuff that you doing. You know, and you ain't got no control no more. But the only thing you can say is, hey, you know, I'm here, I made it here and what's the reason I'm still here?

[00:38:17] **Anthony Holmes** Like I say, you know, God done carried me a long ways. And, like I said, I been through three accidents. I got ran by a truck. I got hit by two cars. Truck was the last one. And never a doubt, I ain't supposed to be here. But I am. The van did a flip and then rolled. Just went straight down a ravine, up the side of the ravine and through a wire fence into a cornfield. If there had been an obstacle in the way or the van had've rolled or flipped out, I wouldn't be here. Totalled the van. I walked away from it. Only thing I got is my knees messed up. Pain in the back every now and then, but other

than that, I'm here. You know, there's so much we go through each day. And no matter how you try to explain it, you can't.

[00:39:11] **Anthony Holmes** But see, my whole thing is, even when I testified against Burge and he got that time, that helped me a little bit. That relieved some of the tension inside of me. But it still ain't wiped it out. It's just like when guys in Vietnam, they go over there, they go through changes, and they see so much. And they go through so much. And then expect them to come home and they don't debrief them or nothing, they just put them back out here. So when they're crazy, they wonder why they act like that. You know, they stressed out. And people don't understand that, hey, we got feelings, too. Yeah, we endured it. And only way we endured is because the fact that we strong, to pass through it. But what about the ones didn't pass through? What about the ones they killed out there that never did get a chance to go to trial. See what I'm saying?

[00:40:00] And the reparations was all good, but that ain't helping us none, because the little money they gave us wasn't nothing. But the thing of it is, it's more than just money that need help. We need help here, brain-wise because at times you get, so... You know, like I tell my wife and them now, I said, you know, y'all might think I don't care about you all the times because I go off to myself and want to be alone. It ain't like that. It's just the fact that I'm used to dealing with stress myself, so I shut everything down and I push everything away from me. It's not that I don't love you or care about you. It's just that that's the way it is. These my times. I have to regroup to find myself before I do something stupid or crazy. Every night I pray that I don't do nothing stupid or crazy. I hope that I got enough people around me to keep me from doing stupid stuff. You know, cause a lot of times, you know, it don't take make to trip out because just spur of the moment, brush you the wrong way or push you the wrong way and you trip out. But what I try to do is when situations like that is, I look beyond. You know, people could talk crazy to me. I laugh it off. You know, I might hate about it, but I'mma laugh and walk off because they don't know what I know.

[00:41:18] **Anthony Holmes** There's a demon inside of all of us. And when he get loose, ain't no stopping it. And the sad part is that we don't want to get loose. So we try to control it and keep it hid. And I guess it'll always be like that until one day we can get loose and we either get killed or kill ourselves. But 'til that time come, our goal is to try to make it better than what it is. Try to keep it down, get control of it, and hold on to it, and that way we would never get loose. And so, when we run into the obstacles in our road and path and stuff, that's how we deal with it. You know, now some people may have a

different way of explaining or some people may have a different way of doing it. But this is how I do it because I feel what people feel, I see what people see.

[00:42:11] **Anthony Holmes** And like I say, I coulda came out and been a crank or whatever, did something stupid went right back to jail. But that ain't gonna solve my problem cause I'm going back to jail or anything like that. I could've been upset because my wife left me and all that there. But I understand. I'm in jail. You know, life goes on. It don't stop cause one person ain't no longer there. The only thing I was concerned about mostly was my kids, and they all good. I checked them out and seen them. I'm OK. But, to say I'm really okay, I'm not because I'll never be okay again. Because what he did to me. And I'm pretty sure the majority of people that he electrocuted or shocked, mock executions, and all that stuff like he did with DC [Darrell Cannon] and them, you know. Like I say, it took me a long time to get this level I'm at. That I'm grateful to be here to where I can get to this level I'm at.

[00:43:11] **Anthony Holmes** I hope that when people hear this and they look at it, I hope they get to understanding about us. You know what I'm saying, because each one of us got a different story to tell. And some of it's in depth and some of it's not in depth because it's hard to get it out. And when you run back with me, my whole problem was, every time I try to tell somebody about this, they immediately think I was crazy. I went to the county jail, tell me, well nigga, you know, you get on over in that line. I said, man, I been electrocuted, I been beat up. You know, I'm saying. I said I been suffocated. Not till you get your ass over in that line. I said, OK. But one thing about it, I ain't got them handcuffs on now. So you have to kill me to put your hands on me now. But they didn't, you know, and I went on and got in the line. So I just quit talking about it. And them some of the things that, the harshest we had to go through and still have to go through, you know. And every day we walk the street, you get flashbacks, you get things.

[00:44:12] **Anthony Holmes** I don't worry about police no more. I ain't never worried about the police anyway. But I know one thing for sure. I pray I never have to have them put a handcuff on me because I'm not gonna let them put a handcuff on me. But I'm not gonna to do nothing to cause them put a handcuff on me either. So that's what I'm afraid of. And I just hope, you know, they don't bug me the wrong way or touch me the wrong way because I know that I'm in control, but I don't know how long I can stay under control like that. Because that ain't me and I ain't gonna put myself in that position no more. And then I have to look at all my friends, do I join all them and anybody that's been supporting us. I say, man I just can't, you know, like I had to tell DC when his brother got killed. I explained to him, I said D, I said man, I know your brother gone. I know you know it's a

crazy situation. But the thing about it is there's a bigger picture than just that. I say, you here. You could have been in jail when it happened to him, but you here. So therefore, let the police do their job. Don't even trip about it. Cause things gonna be all right. You just keep the faith and do what you gotta do. But don't let him or the devil get to you as easy as he tried and got to us before.

[00:45:34] **Anthony Holmes** Because, like I said, that demon inside you, it's gone always be there. But the key to that demon is you've got to control it yourself. You can't let nobody else control it. Can't let anybody push your button and you go off. I'm not saying it won't happen. What I'm saying is try to control it when it do happen. Because if you don't, then the first thing they'll say is, yeah, see, that's what I'm talking about, ain't nothing change with them guys. But we ain't like that. We just like anybody else. It's just that we went through some changes and been through some changes that ain't nobody else went through. And only ones can relate to what we go through is the guys that come from Vietnam and the wars that's in the past. Them the ones can speak on us or feel what we feel because, see, it's like they come home. It's sad when you think about them, they come home, they go over there and fight for us, get blown apart, come back with legs missing, arms missing, hands missing, half the brain gone or whatever. They got to solicit aid. And before it wasn't like that. They came home, they took care of them, the VA, all of that. But they gotta solicit for help now.

[00:46:44] **Anthony Holmes** So the sad part is we didn't go to Vietnam, but we went to Vietnam here, you know, through the changes we been through. And the sad part is we ain't never got no help. They ain't even tried to give us no help. So that's why our program is so important to us because somebody got to break that wall down and reach out and touch us. Because if they don't, all the guys that come through, that flow through from there, that been through this torture stuff, to our families and whatever. All them been through the same thing, and they gone continue to go through the same thing. And the guys that come home now from the penitentiary, you know, got them small cases, but what a lot of people don't understand is them small cases breaks their life up. It breaks your family up and all of that. And then when you come home, you get nothing. And if they give you 50 dollars, you lucky cause they used to give you 100, 200 dollars when you left. And you know, you at least had your job to go to. You don't get none of that. You lucky if you get bus fare.

[00:47:48] **Anthony Holmes** It's just a bitter pill. And I know that's a big ramble I'm speaking on, but it's all pertaining to us. And we see it, we deal with it, you know what I'm saying. Our families try to help us as best they can, but the family, you know, they can

only do so much. You know, you can only ask so much. And then, people like us, we don't want to ask for nothing because we know the strain they going through and we know what we've been through. So why would put our burden on somebody else. And that's the key. And I think that's what gets most of us, because we try and reach out and do so much and we can't. So little we can do. We get a job, the jobs are cheap jobs. You know, they aren't worth two cent, but at least they put a little money in our pocket and we can pay our bill. And that's what counts. It's all about surviving. It's not living, it's about surviving.

[00:48:45] **Anthony Holmes** And then, you know, the really put the icing on the cake is when you can help your family a little bit. And that's what you do. I don't care if it's \$20. You give a family member 19 dollars of that money. So you keep a little bit just enough for you to get by. If you can't get by then what's going to happen is you end up catching a case for something you shouldn't have been doing. But the thing is not to do that. So you try to go around and do the best you can with the cheap jobs you get. And you work them cheap jobs you might be four or five jobs you working at one time. I done worked three jobs since I been home. But, you know, at the end of the week, when you see the check, you say, OK, it's more than I made in the penitentiary. So at least I can, you know, help somebody. And that's what you do because it's all about helping each other. Helping those that's been through the same thing you been through and basically helping your family to survive now that you back. You relieve a little burden.

[00:49:52] **Anthony Holmes** And the little money we get, y'all do what you want with it. I get a check every week. I get one check our of four weeks of work because I could never pay them back what they deserve, you know, for being there for me. But I try. So... All in all, we do what we do. We've got to do it. And our job is to stay out here and let our families know we love them and let the people know what's going on with us. You know, and that's how we survive.

[00:50:36] **Amanda Rivkin** Thank you so much.

[00:50:38] **Anthony Holmes** You're welcome.