

## **ILOHI Interview with Pat Miller**

Tuesday January 21, 2020

Indianapolis, Indiana

Interview by Dr. Michella M. Marino and Ben Baumann

Transcribed by Ben Baumann

MP3 File, Sony

Pat Miller=PM

Michella Marino=MM

Ben Baumann=BB

Copyright ILOHI/Indiana State Library

---

(Getting recorder set up...)

MM: [0:00:00] Alright, well, I will get us started here with a lead in and just say that my name is Michella Marino, and this is Ben Baumann and today's date is Tuesday January 21, 2020. And we are interviewing Patricia Miller. We are at her office in Indianapolis, Indiana.

BB: So, to begin we wanted to discuss your childhood a bit.

PM: Ok.

BB: For the record could you tell us when and where you were born?

PM: I was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio 1936. When I was about three years old my parents moved to Indianapolis. So, I have been here since.

BB: And what were your parent's names?

PM: My father was Richard, and my mother was Rachel.

BB: Ok.

PM: Miller (Laughs).

BB: And could you...

PM: By the way, my maiden name was Miller, I married a Miller so it is Miller, M-I-L-L-E-R. So, ok.

MM: Funny.

BB: Could you tell us about your childhood a bit?

PM: [0:01:00] I grew up in a small community Cumberland, which is Southeast of here. There were a lot of us kids around. We walked to elementary school, which was two blocks away, regardless of weather. When we weren't in school, we were out on our bicycles a lot and was an interesting community, primarily an old German community. But some of the more elderly people would be out on their porches, we were real careful whether our parents new where we were or not. And if we did anything we shouldn't have done my parents knew by the time we got home. Because someone would have called them. But, we had essentially a community

supervision. There was a creek not too far from us Buck Creek, we'd go down there and fish, which no longer has fish, but grew up in a stable home. My mother was one of eight children. And so, we had lots of aunts and uncles, cousins. But anyway, my childhood was essentially always in the same community...Went to Cumberland grade school, which is no more. Warren Central High School and then Methodist Hospital School of Nursing and Indiana University so.

BB: [0:02:00] Wow.

PM: That kind of brings me to where are I guess.

BB: That's great.

MM: And you said, did you have lots of siblings?

PM: No, I had one brother.

MM: One brother ok.

BB: Let's see, what understanding if any did you have about your family's politics, sort of political beliefs as a child?

PM: Ok. I guess the first thing I remember my parents owned a restaurant. It was closed during the war, but in the Dewey-Truman race my parent's restaurant opened up as a voting place, so I remember very well all of that and have out, everybody had thought that Dewey had won and then the next morning Truman had won, but that's probably my first recollection of the political arena, which of course was a long time ago. My parents were strong Republicans, I'm a Republican, as it turns out my brother was a strong Democrat. And so at some place along the line my mother asked that we not discuss religion or politics. Because...And we said were not fighting, were just discussing, but she thought it sounded more like arguing. So she asked that we not do that.

BB: Right.

MM: [0:03:00] Ok. Well, you just mentioned the various schools that you went to, but how did you decide to go into nursing?

PM: Well, my mother was a registered nurse, but it was kind of, I thought a call. I was a senior in high school. I sung in the church choir and that was Christmas Eve service. As a chorist to sing I felt this call to be a nurse so that kind of how that happened.

MM: And then you said you went to Methodist Hospital School of Nursing?

PM: Uhuh. Which is the old three-year diploma program, which is no longer. A lot of things I did are no longer. (Laughs)

MM: (Laughs) And did you also go to IU later as well?

PM: Yes, I did.

MM: Ok, was that for a masters or?

PM: [0:04:00] It was a bachelors and Bachelor of Science and so I got credit for my school of nursing. Spent three years getting a bachelor's degree.

MM: As you matured from high school and into college, even in your early career. In what ways did your awareness of politics evolve?

PM: Well, I think I've always been aware of politics. And I can remember early wondering how did people get involved in...How did you get to work election day at the polls? And so my first election was with Nixon and Kennedy. My husband and I hadn't been married long. We lived in an apartment, but we moved when we built a home and moved, a Republican called and asked if I would volunteer to go door to door in my neighborhood just for the Republican Party. And I did and then the next step was well would you be a precinct committee man? Then I was a vice ward chairman ward chairman, Warren Township chairman, and ultimately a Marion County Republican vice chairman. When John Sweezy was out a while I was [0:05:00] the first I guess acting female county chairman, but it was only temporary until we could elect the new chairman.

MM: Ok. As you got married and then had kids, what were your career aspirations? Did you want to continue nursing? Or what did that look like for you?

PM: I my last employment as a nurse was for a cardiologist. And my daughter was born in December and my last day on the job, if you will, was the day my daughter was born. I worked for a cardiologist, and he kept saying, (unintelligible) never early (intelligible) never like which means firstborn or never early. So, work as long as you can. Well, she came early and so I was supposed to be at work, but instead I was at the hospital having a baby but but anyway, then I was a stay-at-home mom, that was always my, always my priority. I never worked while the children were growing up. But I did do things like I was room mother, PTA president with the Warren township school board spent eight years on the school board [0:06:00] was the first woman ever elected to the Warren township school board, first woman president of the orange township school board. And when my children graduated from school, I decided parents needed to be on the school board. So, I didn't run. But I had friends who asked me to run for the House of Representatives, which I did, and was elected to the House. And I was in the House nine months when Charlie Bosma died. And I was selected to replace Charlie. So was in the senate a little over 33 years.

MM: Can you just briefly tell me how that process works that they asked you then to run for his seat? Or were you appointed or how does that work?

PM: Well, first of all, I had people who asked me to run for the House of Representatives. But then when Charlie died, I guess I'd say it was my choice to run for the Senate seat. And there were about 12, 15 of us, one of whom was Charlie's widow, which made it hard. But I had worked so hard to become a member of the House that the committeeman who did the selecting knew me. And so, I was selected to replace him. And they call those electric caucus elections or something like that.

MM: [0:07:00] Okay. Well, I think we'll come back to that in just a second but want to get a few more details here.

BB: Yeah. So, I guess turning towards your immediate family. Can you tell us a little bit about your family and when you got married?

PM: Okay. Well, as I said, my mother was a registered nurse. She was one of eight children. So, she was, and she grew up on a farm. They worked really hard during the depression and everything. And then she met my dad who was a patient, and he had surgery on his nose. And so anyway, they fell in love and got married. My dad was from Ohio mother was from here, Westfield. Her family lived in Westfield. And in those days, you couldn't be a student nurse and be married. So, they eloped and got married before she graduated from nursing. And then, during the war, my dad worked at Allison's. But after the war ended, they opened their restaurant and spent years running a restaurant, which was a lot of hard work. They worked hard. My mother was the cook. My dad's family was he had a brother and a sister who were living he had a sister that died as an infant. My dad's parents were divorced. My dad's mother lived with us until she died. [0:08:00] She had pancreatic cancer and my mom; the nurse took care of her in our home for as long as she was ill. So, I don't know what all you want to know. But holidays we primarily spent with my mother's family, she and her seven siblings and our cousins. And so, we had close relationships with our cousins in those days.

BB: Sure. And when did you get married? Exactly. 1960. Long before you were born. Yes. A little bit. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I know. I mean, what type of restaurant did your parents right? [0:09:00] It was a small cafe. They were open from six in the morning till four in the afternoon. So, it was just breakfasts and lunches for all these served.

BB: And when were your children born?

PM: My daughter was born in 1961. December of 61. My son was born in February of 63.

BB: And what were their names?

PM: Her name is Tamra. His name is Matthew.

MM: Your husband's Kenneth, is that right?

PM: Right. And he's a dentist. Our son is a dentist and worked with my husband until my husband retired and our son has a dental practice. Our daughter's a dental hygienist and she works for her brother, and they love working together. It's amazing. She lives in West Lafayette

and drives down. She comes she works Mondays and Tuesdays, Monday night she stays all night with us so she didn't have to drive back and forth. Her husband's on the staff at Purdue.

[0:010:00] All, well the four of us my husband myself, well my husband went to undergrad in Purdue. My son and daughter all graduated from IU, and she married this person on the Purdue staff. So anyway.

MM: (Laughs) Is that difficult for your family?

PM: Well, no, no, not really. It's more of kind of a family.

BB: Yeah, sure.

PM: And we only time we ever have conflict is the IU-Purdue game. And my daughter is faithful to IU in those games. But otherwise, she roots for Purdue, my daughters', oldest child is a boy. He just graduated from Purdue, has a degree in accounting and is going through the test to become a CPA. Her daughter is at Ball State, she's getting a degree in speech therapy. My son has two daughters. The oldest daughter is a ballet and Spanish major. She just spent time in Spain this past year as an exchange student. And their younger daughter is [0:11:00] learning how to do makeup and all this cosmetic stuff and everything. So, she's about to graduate from whatever that schools called (unintelligible) or something. But anyway, so that's my family. We're very devoted to our family, our family's top priority. We travel a lot, take our kids and grandkids with us. Took them to Iceland and Alaska. And you know, cruises it's a fun, fun life. Good Life.

BB: Yeah, absolutely.

MM: Great.

BB: Did your family have any influence on your politics at all? Or?

PM: Well, I suppose since my parents were strong.

BB: What about like your husband or children?

PM: Well, when my husband when we got married? Well, I don't think he had much choice about what he was gonna be.

BB: Fair enough. Yeah. (Laughs)

MM: (Laughs)

PM: So, now he was a republican when we got married, and he was also a Christian. I wouldn't have married him otherwise.

BB: Right.

PM: But now he was a Republican. And so, at any rate, I'm a strong Republican. And my children, in law children, and grandchildren, are all Republicans, at least that's what they say. You know, it is a confidential voting situation. But they do know where grandma is. And so anyway, yeah. [0:12:00]

MM: Well, you mentioned a few minutes ago that that some people came to you and asked you to run for the House. So can you tell me how you became more seriously involved in politics or what led exactly to you coming into the House.

PM: Okay, so it was kind of a twofold situation. I became very involved in politics. I was a precinct committeeman vice, or vice for general return. And that was sort of this going this way. And my I was raising our children. I was room mother, PTA president, and ran for the school board. So, the school board is not a political office. But these sort of dovetails, so when they sort of came together. My interest in the general assembly was because of my activity on the school board. So, I ran for the General Assembly because of education. But nine months later, when I

got to the Senate, they found out I was a nurse, [0:13:00] I got directed towards health. And so, I did spend some time on the Education Committee, and actually was on the House Education Committee, with the bob or prime time prime time, with the issue of the number of students in a classroom. But those two sort of pair, they didn't exactly parallel, but they sort of piqued my interest in running for the General Assembly. At the same time, my kids were graduating going on to college and so other people that were involved in politics, Warren township politics, primarily. Larry Buell, who had been county treasurer, and was in the House, Dick Payne, Lee Richardson, a lot of the influential Warren township people, Russ Brown, from Lawrence Township. But primarily, it was my interest to go to the House because I wanted to be involved in education decisions. But these folks were very instrumental in helping me make that decision.

MM: [0:14:00] You know, you're making a clear connection between nursing and education and how those came together. Were there particular experiences that shaped your political outlook, or what made you feel like you had to get involved in that particular way?

PM: I think I grew into it. I'd never intent. I mean, it was never my goal to do this. That first woman who called and asked me to go door to door, and then the next step, and the next step, I just, like I said, I grew into it. It was never, you know, when I was 20, I didn't say, one day, I want to be a senator. When I was 20, I wanted to get married, have kids, and then it just developed. I mean, I don't know what all you've been involved in. But you know, how did you get to where you are, you do one thing and then it grows and becomes something else. Something else so it was not. It was not something I had longed to do. I grew into it and became extremely committed to it. [0:15:00] But like I said, it was all the other experiences That I built on. So, I built on school board, I built on the political arena, getting to know a lot of people. I mean, Dick Lugar, you know, I was there when Dick Lugar was first elected mayor. Lots of people that I knew in politics, which kind of, I guess, inspired me to want to do more, because these were excellent people. These were people that were working hard. You know, Bill Hudnut was a good friend, all these people that were doing so much for our community. And I think, I was president of PTA maybe when I first met Bill Hudnut, I don't remember exactly, but I knew Dick Lugar before that. And so, getting to know those people in politics, politicians, sort of inspired me to do more to, but I had sort of a natural inclination [0:16:00] to want to do those things because I saw how I wanted to fix education or deal with health care, or whatever it was, but my primary goal in those years was raising our family. And I didn't want to do anything that would take me away from being with our children. Once they went off to college, then then I ran for the House and then the Senate.

MM: Ok.

BB: Do you remember at all perhaps like the particular moment that you decide, okay, I definitely want to do this and get involved in politics. Was there like a specific thing that that really made you want to start?

PM: Well, I guess, motivation was people asking me to do things. Sure. The first person asked me, and then the second person said, well, would you do this? A little bit more and a little bit more? I think I think I came into it. As I said earlier, I just kind of grew into it.

BB: Right.

PM: I there wasn't my childhood dream. It was something that I was exposed to, and then all of a sudden, yeah, I'd like to do that. And then the next step came along, and I yes, I do that.

BB: [0:17:00] Right. Yeah, ok. And throughout the different elections that you took part in, what did your political campaigns emphasize most?

PM: My personal campaigns?

BB: Mhm.

PM: Well, I think honesty and integrity, and then always education, things that were important to the community, my campaigns always centered around what was important to the community.

BB: Right.

PM: And the fact that I was a Republican, a lot of the constituencies were strong Republicans, the Republican Party philosophy of limited government, local control, government closest to the people is, is is the best. And those were things that I used in my campaign, which are the traditional Republican political things. But I talked a lot about ethics and honor and being available, you know, people want you to be available. So that was something I emphasized a lot. And then I was available. I was always available by phone calls [0:18:00] stopping me in the grocery. That was always a part of my, my campaign.

BB: What was it? What did it feel like the first day that you officially became part of the state legislature?

PM: That I really didn't know what I was getting into. (Everyone laughs) You know, you think you know what it's like, but to get there and find out first of all, there was much more to it than I had imagined. Much more reading much more learning, much more time. I mean, I used to tell people that 24/7 job because constituencies want you there all the time, and phone calls could come anytime literally. And one of the things...just lost my train of thought, but it was about how much time people wanted you...now know where I wanted to go. So, for legislators who were from Gary or Fort Wayne, when they were in Indianapolis, they were in Indianapolis, but for those of us who represented Indianapolis, we were still here. [0:19:00] So we not only had all the work to do at the State House, our constituents still wanted us there. So, Franklin township Republican Club, Warren Township Republican club, Perry Township Republican Club every Monday morning in Perry township leadership meeting. So, when I was at the General Assembly, I wasn't away where that was all. I was still living here and still had to be a part of my community. So, in many ways, I think those of us in Indianapolis area and the surrounding areas. People expected a lot more from us because we were here, if you're from some other city farther away, they don't expect you to be around all the time. But here they do, and I think they probably still do.

BB: So how did your feelings change after each reelection?

PM: I don't know that they changed. I would always say I was grateful.



BB: Sure.

PM: I was grateful. The campaigns were always...actually I don't know, funds the right word. But it was good to be with [0:20:00] constituents. It was good to go door to door, was good to talk to people and be out and around. And I was always able to have a number of volunteers, who if I was going door to door, they would go door to door, if there was a date, I couldn't go door to door, they would go door to door. And so, all of that was really good. And I had people that helped me put together my mailings that went out not the mailing list, which I had, but just what would go on the postcard and those kinds of things.

BB: Right.

MM: For that very first election, you were, you know, you won, and you're going into the statehouse, what did you find? Or what were you thinking, as you literally walked in that first day?

PM: Well, I guess I was as a thrill, you know, it was a very exciting, anticipating a lot of what would be going on, you know, to have a parking place at the statehouse, and be able to walk right in the door. And so that was really kind of exciting, having to see the sign getting to know, my colleagues in the house, [0:21:00] I think there were about freshmen in the house when I went in now that included some of the Democrats have, there are a lot of us that were new. And so just building relationships, and I can remember some of the legislators in the house who helped me, I get to know how to do things. For example, Ray Richardson from Greenfield area, told me to always sign all my letters in blue, I still sign everything in blue. So, people know, I did it, I did I use his felt tip pen, but telling me things like that, you know, when you're, when people are questioning you, and you step back from the mic a little bit and think before you respond, and things like that, that were very helpful. And I you know, when freshmen came into the Senate, I told them all the things that I did, that they needed to do, like, I always sent letters to people on the honor roll, the schools would give me the list. So, I did a lot of constituent work. But that first day was just [0:22:00] just being there being sworn in, was a was really important. You know, it was a big deal. It was a big deal. And then, because I was in this special selection or election to replace Charlie Bosma, when I was sworn in, I was the only one sworn in. Because it hadn't just been a general election. It was 1983, there was no election for the House of Representatives. And I remember my parents being there with me when I was sworn in. And that was, you know, my dad was always so proud of me. And they, they were both very proud of me, but for them to be there. And was really an important thing. And was very, very important to them. I mean, in many ways they were prime more thrilled than I was I mean, they were just so excited, and so pleased to be able to be there. And we've always had a close-knit family, growing up with my parents, and now with our children and grandchildren, children.

MM: Well, you just talked a little bit about, you know, Richardson and others mentor you [0:23:00] as you came in, but how did you learn the actual ins and outs of how the General Assembly worked and the processes that went with it?

PM: Well, they did have kind of an orientation, but it was really just learned from experience, you just, you know, you'll learn how to do things. You'll first of all, you just go to committee



hearings, and all of that. And then you get involved in conference committees, and you just learn by doing it, you know, it's like, roller skating or whatever, somebody can tell you how to do it, but you really just got to get in there and you make a few mistakes. But nevertheless, I would tell people, you just got to learn by doing it and learn the process. Learn the detail. Bob Orr was governor. And he did a great job with freshmen legislators. He generally had freshmen legislators carry his legislation, which I was thrilled. The Bob Orr bill I carried was to put computers in all of the schools. [0:24:00] I mean, this was 19. I was elected in November of 82. This was January, February, March 83. And so, this was a big deal. Computers hadn't been in schools. And so, we worked hard through that legislation, because one of the issues was, will this apply to private schools as well as public schools? And we sort of went back and forth on that. But anyway, and I remember speaking to Bob Daley, who was speaker about, you know, how we're going to do this and so on. But anyway, that was one of the early legislative...pieces of legislation I carried, that I remember well.

MM: Yeah. You mentioned again, Richardson and some others, but were there any other political mentors or any female mentors that sort of helped you out in that first year?

PM: Off the top of my head, I'm not thinking of females. But John Sweezy was a Marion County Republican chairman. And John was always very interesting. Because he was sort of running the party, but one of the things that I remember John saying [0:25:00] all through the years he was county chairman is our job is to elect good people and then let them do their job. And he didn't try once we were elected, he didn't try to influence or tell us what to do. He just wanted us to when he would, when he would get involved was if we weren't doing our job. Or if we were in conflict with other Republicans, he might try to pull us together. We did used to have luncheons with all the Marion County legislators to just talk about Marion County issues. We worked with Fort Wayne because the county chairman and Fort Wayne was closed. And so if there were usually big city issues that applied to say Fort Wayne, in Indianapolis, we would work together.

MM: Ok, you talked a lot about being very available for your constituents, in what ways did they communicate with you? Or how did you know what they needed?

PM: Phone calls, emails, text, letters, [0:26:00] personal contact, got people here, this was my church, people at church Sunday morning telling me what they thought what was kind of ironic is there were people. They didn't understand the difference between the Federal Government and Indiana government, they would say, well, you're home from Washington, I, well, I'm here, I'm here. But I didn't want to put them down, but often run into people at the grocery or wherever I'm shopping that recognize me and would stop and talk to me. But any way to communicate, that's how people communicate it. And I used to tell them, I don't care how they communicate as long as they do. And a lot of legislators didn't pay any attention to those form postcards, or whatever form letters, I did. And I used to tell people, I would rather you do a personal letter or personal card. But if, if you have to do a form letter, or you won't do anything, do the form letter, because I wanted them to communicate, [0:27:00] I wanted to know where they were, and particularly on some of the tough issues. And occasionally, the tough issues weren't what I would consider to be tough issues. I give you an example. Like we do, budgets and things that are lots and lots of money. But one year, the key issue for constituents was whether you could hunt and kill morning

dubs. And so, I'm just telling you, things that grab constituents, and particularly southern Indiana with hunters, I mean, the legislation was to prevent it. And people just came out from everywhere that they...so it didn't pass, you know. And then there was local nation service. I don't, you're probably too young to remember that issue. But you want to hear this?

MM: Yeah, absolutely.

PM: Okay. Local major service. Telephone companies wanted to go to where you paid for your local service, just like you did long distance. So how long you spoke, etc., was all a part of your charge? Well, people hated that idea. [0:28:00] Realtors, senior citizens, anybody that use their phone a lot didn't want it. So, we had literally hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of calls, grocery stores, drugstores put up signs in their facility. If you don't want local measured service, call your legislator, and the phones would ring just like that, literally. And so, we pass laws, we didn't pass it, you could use it. We passed law to prohibit local measures service. And that came up a few times. But it was always defeated because the public didn't want local major service. And so, as a legislator, I felt I felt that I needed to support my constituents. And so other legislators felt the same way. Now I can give you another one.

MM: Yeah.

PM: Mitch Daniels, when he became president wanted to change how we do time, he wanted us to move our clocks from daylight savings time, you know what, where we are now. Indiana and Arizona were the only two states [0:29:00] that stayed the same year-round. And I did a survey and Mike in my district, and people here didn't want it. They did not want to change time. So, I can tell you, all the governors people came to talk to me, you know, to do this. I voted no, I voted no, because the people and Senate District 32 said, we don't want this and somebody who wanted it called me and said, why did you vote no? And I said, because my constituents don't want it. And she said, okay, that's good enough. But those are the kinds of things where you listen to the people who send you and often the issues aren't controversial at all. Mostly, the ones that are controversial, are ones that are very personal to people. I rarely had people call me about the budget. Now occasionally schoolteachers would say we want more money or something like that. But the budget wasn't the big issue and other issues that were big issues weren't, [0:30:00] it was what impacted people personally, is when they got involved, and when they really wanted you to listen, and when they wanted you to vote the way they wanted you to vote. And so, I tried to always do that. Another thing I would tell constituents is often, I would always tell them, if you don't share your position with me, somebody else will. And so often it is the minority that communicates with you. And there's this huge silent majority out there, that's not telling you anything, and I said, you've got it, if you want me to know where you are, you've got to tell me because you can't assume somebody else is speaking on your behalf. So that's one of the things as legislators, you have to kind of weed through and look at and see, not only who you're hearing from, but who you're not hearing from.

MM: Was it ever, you know, if people are coming up to you at church and in the grocery store, and you're getting letters and phone calls, did that ever feel overwhelming to you, or that you couldn't get away from it?

PM: No. And if you ever feel that way, you better get out of it. [0:31:00] That's what I've, you either have to love it and want to do it and want to be available and want to talk to people, or you need to do something else. You cannot be an effective legislator, or maybe any public office holder, if you're not willing to meet and talk with people, and I still get people stopping me in the grocery store or wherever I am. And they'll say, aren't you pat Miller? Yes. And then they'll say, are you still on the General Assembly? I mean, some of them don't know, I didn't run again. And some of them will stop and tell me what they want on a position or, and I'm my philosophy was always to help them. So, if someone would call about a chuck hole, or some city problem, I never said what called the mayor's office, I always said, okay, we'll take care of it. And then I would have my secretary, or somebody get in touch with the mayor's office, because it's very difficult for constituents to work through the process. And it was often difficult for me to work through the process to get whatever it was they wanted. And so, I always felt whatever they asked me to do, I should do, even if it wasn't relative to [0:32:00] state issues. And so, if it was a federal issue, I often called mostly Lugar's office because he was living incumbent. If we had a problem, somebody with their Medicare or something, I would always communicate with Lugar's office to try to go through those hoops for constituents because it's a very difficult situation, they don't know who to call, they don't know what to say they don't know how to get through it. So, I always felt, I always felt that's what I wanted to do. And I always signed my own letters, even my husband, we were driving, I had this board thing I put on my lap, and I'd be writing as we go along. And he is a Why don't you use a stamp. I didn't want to use a stamp, my signatures probably with about \$1.98. Because I've done all mine for 34 years, I signed every letter myself. But I thought that was important. The other thing it did it let me see names of people I'm signing letters for. So, it was an honor roll. If I then I saw a grandparent or somebody said, I just signed a letter for your grandson [0:33:00] or whatever gave me the ability to not only firsthand communicate with them, but then be able to be aware when I was talking to their family, about whatever it was I had just done. And I used to have people say, my granddaughter got your letter, and we read it at Thanksgiving family gathering or something. I mean, well, this stuff, this is what's important to people, those letters were more important to those people than how I voted on the budget. And I don't know if you've gotten this field from other legislators, but I can tell you, your constituent work means a world to the people you represent. They want to know you care about them. And even if you can't fix their problem, if you listen to it, if you listen to it. [0:34:00]

MM: Can you tell us a little bit about the regular interaction amongst assembly members, whether that's formal or informal? What that look like?

PM: Well, first of all, it's very professional. When we're on the floor of the Senate, which I'm not anymore but when you're on the floor of the Senate is always very respectful, is always call each other's senator, we don't call anybody by first name on the floor of the Senate. Very respectful. When we we're went on the floor, we had amazing friendships. And I said amazing, because it's kind of like, you're all in it together. You're all in the same boat together, Republicans and Democrats. And many of my good friends were Democrats worked well with a number of Democrats had a lot of close friends in the Republican caucus, some of whom were very liberal. I've always been very conservative, who were very liberal. Larry Borst was one, he and I were

very good friends. He was very liberal, but there were times he would tell me how to get something passed, and then he'd vote no. [0:35:00] (Laughs) Well, because, you know, he sort of took pride in being the person to help you along. And so I appreciate it, that sort of thing. He's also the one who would yell at me if I did? No, one time he did. I voted for a budget. He didn't like it. He couldn't believe it. He turned around and scolded me. But anyway, that was okay. We had the I don't know how to describe the relationship except that that you have so much common responsibilities, all the legislation was common, we all had to consider it, we all had to vote on it. So, you build camaraderie. And I used to tell people and still do, you know, you don't ever ruin friendships, because you're your biggest enemy on this bill, [0:36:00] maybe your best friend on the next one. So, you're always working together. And so, we always had that respect for each other. And always maintain friendships beyond issues. We tried not to make issues personal, but to keep the moment or the issue the issue. And so, I think that was really an important thing. Some and some of the legislators would go out a lot at night and have dinner, I generally would just go on home, so I didn't have some of those kinds of relationships. But I did build a strong relationships with a number of people. For example, Senator Beverley Gard from Greenfield, she and I got to be really good friends. In fact, we're still good friends. We still have lunch together. Connie Lawson who was there. So, it's Connie Lawson, Teresa Lubbers. Becky Skillman, Bev and myself are good friends. And we still get together periodically for lunch or something. So there are those kinds of close relationships, but all of our relationships, I thought, at least from my point of view, were good, healthy relationships.

MM: Well, I know you were only in the house a year. But looking back from your time in the Senate, and then when you were in the house, were there any differences between how each chamber operated?

PM: Gosh. [0:37:00] Yes. In fact, I used to say, when I was first in the Senate, I was house trained. It took me three years to get over that. But I don't know if you've been around there. But this Senate is very formal. The House is very casual. The kinds of things that go on in the House. Now I just go How could they do that. But some of the cheering and they used to hang House members would take a close pen and hang on the jacket of somebody else. But it was just a completely different atmosphere totally and completely. So, when I left the House and went to the Senate, I had to adjust to this very formal situation. However, I became a real believer that that was the better.

MM: Can you walk me through the process of generating a bill? What did that look like from beginning to end?

PM: Sometimes there were issues you work long and hard with over the summer. And in the fall, others were not so difficult. So, one of the bills [0:38:00] that I worked on early on that was extremely difficult was when HIV aids first became an issue was probably 1984. It was a brand-new disease. Nobody knew anything about it. We needed to do legislation. I spent a whole summer working on that. And we had about a dozen different issues in their criminal offenses if someone deliberately spread the disease, how you deal with contamination. I remember one of the issues with the dentist was I wanted to use the word moist dealing with sponges, and they wanted to use the word wet. They finally convinced me that moist wasn't the best term. But we

dealt with everything dealing with that. And it was a difficult issue worked a lot with the gay community because they were very much opposed to mandatory testing. So, all these things got answered in the interim and then [0:39:00] working that bill through the Senate first senate bill nine, I remember that number. And then to the house was very difficult because there was so much first of all misunderstanding about the disease. I worked a long time with a physician who was with communicable diseases at Indiana University. Deutsch was her last name; I still remember all this. But anyway, those were tougher issues because the issue itself was difficult. And dealing with it was difficult. But we got a good bill passed and I know it was good because it's rarely been amended ever since. So, some of those taken off a lot of time, a lot of effort, learning there was a great deal of learning about the disease and how it was communicated, how it was transferred from individual to individual, and others are very, very simple. Somebody calls you and wants you to do something. One that I introduced, you may not remember it but Jeff George was a football player with Warren Central High School quarterback played pro ball. [0:40:00] His dad David George called me one day and said he'd been working out at a at an athletic facility, and somebody there died because they didn't have a defibrillator. He suggested we mandate defibrillators at all these facilities. So, at his request, I introduced the bill. And that was kind of a no brainer. I mean, there are some things that don't take a lot of preparation. And don't take a lot of selling somebody on the issue, because it's pretty well understood people understand the need for it. So, when you say putting a bill together, it just depends. Some of it is you go to call somebody else say, would you draft a bill that does this. And that's just the way it is. And others you have to pick it apart, pick it apart, pick it apart, juggle words, change words. And those Actually, I thrived on those more than the easy ones I used to say, anybody can pass easy. It's passing things that are hard, that are [0:41:00] kind of, for me, sort of built the adrenaline and sort of that I enjoyed a lot.

MM: How did you garner support for the difficult bills? How did you know rally people to the cause, if you will?

PM: Word of mouth? Meaning sometimes meeting with a legislator one on one, first of all, you'd find out who was kind of with you? And then you'd find out who was not sure. And then those who were very much opposed. So, you'd have to spend a lot of time individually with those people, and explain to them and answer their questions was always important. I've had many little meetings where I bring three or four people together at the talk about it. And sometimes it was bringing lobbyists together to talk to lobbyists about it and I did that a lot. I used to say, gonna lock you in a room and don't come out until you get agreement. But if lobbyists were with like that, I would always try to force them to come to an agreement. And usually, they did. And in fact, [0:42:00] after I had not run again, right after I was no longer in the sun, I got a call from somebody and said, we need you down here. We're trying to work out a compromise language on telehealth, and we need you here. Well, they what they knew is I just said, okay, here's how it is. But anyway, so it just, it just depends. And frankly, it depends on the legislators, different legislators have different modus operandi.

MM: Mhm, What does the public not know about how the General Assembly operates?

PM: What I think they're not aware of is how difficult it is, how many hours how much studying how much learning, you know, they've got this perception, well, you go down the lobbyists buy you lunch, spend a couple hours. And it's not that way, I often would go in the statehouse seven or eight in the morning and still be there at nine or 10, at night working, reading bills marking up bills. And often there were just two or three of us around working that late. [0:43:00] But for me, I had to do it that way. I had to I had I would mark up a bill, I'd circle words, I'd circle code sites and mark what they were. I did great detail, some didn't. So once again, is back to who you are. But for me, I think constituents were not aware of how much time and how much learning and how intense some of that work is, and that it isn't a nine to five with three hours off for lunch is a seven to nine, working hard. And often I didn't have lunch. Most of the time I'd be at my desk for lunch.

BB: What would you say was the most controversial legislative issue that you had to deal with during your time in the assembly?

PM: Well, you know what part of it depends on how far back you row. But if you want to go back to just my last year or two, in the General Assembly, I carried the mass transit bill. And that was extremely controversial. [0:44:00] The mayors in the general area, Central Indiana really wanted mass transit, but they also wanted light rail. And the Chamber of Commerce wanted it, constituents didn't want it and particularly my constituents, because I had like Franklin Township, which is not one of the more populated townships. So that was hard to work through because a lot of legislators were opposed to it. In the final analysis, I had to drop light rail because it was never going to pass with light rail. But we did get it passed and worked with Jerry Torr was the sponsor in the house. I was the one in the Senate. But that one was in my most recent years. That was probably the most controversial that I can think of right now.

MM: Sure.

PM: May not be the most controversial, but it was definitely controversial.

MM: Do you have one from the earlier years?

PM: HIV aids bill was controversial. [0:45:00] I carried a couple of ethics bill which were ethics bill, which were pretty stringent. And some of the legislators really didn't like that. So, one of the things in the bill I put through was that you couldn't be a lobbyist for a year after you left the General Assembly. There were a lot of those things that were in that bill. And there was just legislators who just didn't think it was necessary. But for the public perception of General Assembly, I thought we had to pass an ethics bill. So, I did that it wasn't that it was so controversial. What we did was really needed to be done. But some of the attitudes about the bill were not what they might have been.

BB: How would you describe committee work?

PM: I was a committee chair for I don't know how many years, okay, maybe as many as 30 years, but the last 25 were health. So first of all, the committees for me, was a lot of work early on. So, I had to read all the bills that were assigned to my committee. There was a lot of bills in health. [0:46:00] And then I had to, if I was interested in the issue, then I had to take my new



look at what it did. And generally, I'd always want to amend it, I would sit and go over with LSA, and markup, the bill, do this, and this, do this and that, and then get amendments prepared for committees, and the Committee on Health generally was long hearing lots of testimony. So, for me, and then I was also on the Finance Committee, Budget Committee, those took a lot of effort to just look at it, hear testimony. But particularly in health, there was always a lot of testimony. And so, it just, I'm trying to think if I ever had a committee hearing, that was kind of easy. Most of my committee's required a lot of work, and a lot of thought.

BB: What would you say was your proudest moment?

PM: Having my grandchildren come down and introduce them in the senate. [0:47:00] I don't know. Those are family things, right? I never thought much about where pride was, I used to say and still say, you can get a lot more done if you don't care who gets credit for it, because a lot of people have some ego involved. And if you don't get your ego involved in the legislation, you can be much more effective. Let somebody else take credit. You just get the work done. And I was always interested in getting the work done. When I when I announced there wasn't going to run again, people said, well, what do you think you'll miss most the people? And I said, actually, the influence? Because what I loved most was having influence on legislation, actually setting direction for the future of the state. To me, that was the most important part. And those people are still my friends. But it is the actual doing the work. Coming with right language of how to deal with things was what was really important to me. [0:48:00]

BB: Sure. What about some of the challenges he faced? What was the biggest hurdle you had to overcome?

PM: I've got to think about that. Because I don't think of any things I did as hurdle. Some of may have been kind of hard, but I'd never. I don't know that I ever thought about hurdles. Okay. I'm not thinking of her.

BB: That's okay.

PM: They're probably lots of them. I'm just not sure. Yeah. Ask the people who worked with me. They'll say, they'll say I was a hurdle. (Everyone laughs)

BB: Let's see. So, it sounds like working with the democrats was a common thing. Did you ever have trouble working with the other side at all, or? [0:49:00]

PM: No more than with some of my own colleagues, but there were legislators, Democrats particularly were harder to get along with than others. Vi Simpson and I worked very well together. Cathy Smith and I worked well together. And the ones who are there now, we worked well together. You're going to talk to Charlie Brown, Charlie Brown, and I started out like this. We both elected to the House in 1982. I went to the Senate in September of 83. So, I was in the House nine months, that he was chairman of the House health. And I was chairman of the Senate Health. And it took a little while, but Charlie and I developed great friendships. We're still great friends. And I would tell people that Charlie was so far left, and I was so far right, we would meet. But we worked very well together on a lot of bills and the Healthy Indiana Plan was one and if you want to talk about where there's some real pride in what we did, the Healthy Indiana



Plan that Charlie and I worked together on [0:50:00] really was a great thing. Mitch Daniels was very supportive of it. But, so I guess I'd use Charlie as an example of who I worked well within the Democratic Caucus. Yeah.

MM: Tell us a little bit more about the healthy Indiana plan while we're...

PM: Well. I actually put in a bill that it goes way back when Evan Bayh was Governor and Chris Bailey was the head of the Department of Health. I wanted to just do something to provide health insurance for those who couldn't afford it and, and Chris Bailey, Head of Department of Health said, why don't we study it and see what we need to do. And so, we did a three-year study on how you address the issue with people and we never did get that resolved. But when Mitch Daniels became governor, [0:51:00] I put language in the bill that said I wanted the administration to come with legislation for the General Assembly of how to address health care for the working poor, because the very poor have Medicaid, though people who have money have health insurance. So, at any rate, Mitch (unintelligible), really hurtled and did a lot of that work with the governor in the interim. And so, we had a rough draft of a bill. And, I worked really, really hard on it with the administration in the Senate, and then it went to the House. And of course, Charlie worked hard, and he and I worked hard together. But a significant part of it is how were we going to pay for the Healthy Indiana Plan. And the issue was cigarette tax and Charlie always support I mean, Charlie would have put a \$5 cigarette tax once, because he has no use for smoking and tobacco. But at any rate, we've got all that worked out in the final analysis, to put the tax in the bill taxes can only pass in the House, [0:52:00] a House bill. So, we had to move all that work out was Senate bill into a House bill, because we had to put the money in with the bill. So, but it went well. The tax was an issue. The magic number was it couldn't go the total tax on cigarettes, couldn't go over dollars. So, I think we ended up with a 98 and a half cents total tax on cigarettes. But we got it done. And the final analysis, Mitch Daniels is very pleased with the bill, Charlie and I of course, we're really pretty pleased we did this little press conference with Governor, Charlie, and myself to sort of unveil that Healthy Indiana Plan. And then Mike Pence built on that. And so, Mike Pence and I worked together some, Seema Verna who is now at the Feds with it, you know who Seema is, she's the head of CMS, who was here worked with [0:53:00] Mike Pence. But anyway, Mike Pence built on the first part of the Healthy Indiana Plan. And we at one point we might have call it Healthy Indiana Plan 2 or something but we that never stuck. It was always just Healthy Indiana Plan. But we enlarged the healthy Indiana plan, which is a great thing for the state of Indiana, and which I think would be good for the country.

BB: And for the Healthy Indiana Plan and I guess other legislation you worked on, how crucial was it to work with the other side?

PM: Crucial. Because most of my career in the Senate, the Senate was controlled by Republicans and the House was controlled by Democrats. So, to have not had a good relationship across the aisles not across the aisle, but across the hall.

BB: Yeah.

PM: Would have essentially been a bad thing for the state of Indiana. We had to learn to get along. So, the finance people in the House Ways and Means and the Senate Finance those people had to work together. [0:54:00] You know, it didn't matter what we were crafting, it had to be across the house. And so, in my final days, we had, the House and the Senate both had the supermajority. And so, and I often told people, sometime, I when I look back, the easiest time was when we had 26 Republicans in the Senate, because there could be nobody flaking off, we all had to sort of march to the same drum, because it took 26 votes to do to pass anything. When you get up to 34, or whatever the magic number is, then people want to start going a little here and a little there. That was a that was actually a good time. Good time.

BB: So, I guess in your opinion, what would you say is the most important work of the Indiana General Assembly?

PM: To take care of Hoosiers and give the Hoosiers as much freedom on their own as they can so do for people what they can't do for themselves? [0:55:00] Streets and roads, and my goodness, other things that you know, that you can't do for yourself and then leave you alone with everything else. That's how I think we need to govern. And unfortunately, we start meddling some but that's what I think. And so, for me, that was probably one of the most important, important things to do.

BB: So, I guess now sort of diving into more specific legislative issues throughout your career. You already talked about the healthy Indiana Plan. We know through research, you really were involved a lot with health care, right, coauthored a bill expanded Medicaid coverage for pregnant women children. What were your overall goals for health care in the State of Indiana?

PM: To provide health care for those who couldn't help themselves, but not to go beyond that? Right. And, frankly, I think there has been abuse of Medicaid by consumers and health care providers. You know, I think there are people who are getting Medicaid, [0:56:00] that have resources that they have in some way and other places and so that, that I used to occasionally have somebody call and say, my sister in law's getting Medicaid and I can tell you she's got a car and she's got money. She shouldn't be on it. So, I know there were people out there that shouldn't have been on it. Sure, but that kind of fraud is what bothered me most but making sure that the people who needed it got it. And so, for me, that was a key job.

BB: So yeah, another topic, it seemed like, throughout your career, I guess really just sort of the modern era in general, there were lots of debates going on with subjects like abortion and the LGBTQ community. Can you describe the varying thoughts in the General Assembly about those topics?

PM: It's, [0:57:00] well, I'm very pro-life. There are a lot of people down there who were very pro-choice. And those are issues you can't compromise on, you know, you can compromise a budget a certain dollar amount, those issues can't be compromised. And so, I would tell my constituents that, that I'm pro-life, you're lobbying me cannot get me to change my position? Because that's a moral issue for me that you can vote me out of office, but I'm going to vote pro-life. And I did. And usually, people would accept that once in a while I get some pushback, and well, how can you say that, but that's the way I honestly felt. So that's how I honestly shared it

with them. And then a few years back, we had a bill, I can't remember what it was called, was so controversial. Dealing with LBGTQ.

MM: The RIFRA. Yes, yeah. So, I thought that was the thing that we needed [0:58:00] to do. I supported it. There was so much pushback from that, that they ended up amending that, which I thought we should have stayed with it the way we passed it. But that's one.

BB: Sure. Let's see, I also saw that there was a lot of debate regarding sort of the regulation of lobbying in state government. Can you describe what was going on and your role in that?

PM: Well, I told you earlier, I was very involved with the ethics bill. First of all, I think we need lobbyists, because they are the experts.

BB: Sure.

PM: But I did get very concerned on the number of lobbyists in the whole gambling area. It seemed like there was so many people paid to lobby on behalf of gambling, that was a concern for me. But generally, all the lobbyists are experts, whether doctors would come down and testify on health care issues. Attorneys would talk about some of the things, prosecutors would come and talk about the laws and what we needed to do in the whole area of prosecution of criminals. [0:59:00] So generally, those people were the experts. And they were they were helpful. But what bothered me was if I saw some people that I thought were walking on the line, and to me walking the line was they weren't doing anything illegal, but they were getting real close to where that line that was bothersome.

BB: Okay. Did it change a lot from when you first started? Versus near the end of your career?

PM: A lot of things changed a lot.

BB: Sure.

PM: Yeah. And so, I think I think probably it did one. It seemed like there were a lot more lobbyist around now, right than there were when I started.

BB: Oh okay.

PM: And media is different. The media is different than when I started. There was one person I remember the name was Moose Roberts, they called him, but he was with the print media. And he knew the General Assembly so well. He knew issues, not an inch deep, but a mile deep. [1:00:00] And so his coverage was excellent. And so, I'm not faulting the press. No, I'm just saying they're things that were so different than Sure.

BB: Let's see. Another bill that looked interesting. Was there is one regarding the ability to seize weapons from a dangerous individual, I believe it was in 2005. Could you explain more about that topic, and what the debate

PM: Was that bill I was on or?

BB: Yeah, I think Yeah, you were involved with that appears?

PM: Okay. Well, maybe I'm not sure what, Jake Laird bill.

BB: Okay.

PM: Jake Laird was a law enforcement officer in Beech Grove. I represented all of Beech Grove and he was killed by an individually mentally ill. And so, we pass legislation to say someone who's mentally ill cannot have a weapon, essentially forbidding them to get a weapon. So that could be something you're talking about.

BB: Yeah.

PM: Which I wholeheartedly supported. It needs to happen. I don't carry I have a permit to carry. I don't carry but I'm very strong on Second Amendment rights. [1:01:00] But there are folks who shouldn't have guns. They're dangerous to themselves and they're dangerous to us. Other people. And so, I think that's how you have to make your decision. But I'm not at all for restricting arms for law abiding citizens,

BB: Right? I guess one of the things that was really interesting to read about your background was how much you were invested in sort of trying to protect children of the state, for example, anti-bullying legislation, or perhaps, there was a bill that you introduced to help build a big children's home. Why was this work so important to you?

PM: Because children can't speak for themselves and children of everyone in the in the world, I guess, in the community, they should be protected, and cared for and loved, especially cared for and loves, some are in horrible situations that you wouldn't wish on anyone. [1:02:00] And I think we needed to do as much as we possibly could. For children. There were other issues you didn't mention that I was involved in for children. And I just can't think of any, any group of people who needs more help.

BB: Right.

PM: Foster kids, you know, I was, the only time I ever remember the health committees sort of crying, was we had a group of foster kids come and testify about how when they turned 18, they lost everything, no health care and all of this stuff. And we were they really had us in tears. And so, we wanted to do something for them. Definitely. And I remember, you know how the Senate is, and up above the floor. Somebody, I don't remember who it was, we walked around, he said, When I saw what was going on in that committee, I knew we'd be given this legislation. But those kids need help. I mean, they need help. And one of the things I hate is, when there's a situation of child abuse with a parent, they yanked the child out of the home, [1:03:00] they ought to be yanking that abusive parent out of the home, because now you've got a child who's been horribly treated, and you're yanking them out and putting them in another environment. I think. I think that's a terrible thing to do. It ought to be that guilty party that's yanked out of there. But we've never gotten to that.

BB: Was there a specific bill that you worked hardest on in regard to that topic?

PM: All of them.

BB: Yeah.

PM: I don't I don't remember right now.

BB: Sure.

PM: But there's more of the I just don't remember. It doesn't mean we're not out there.

BB: My next question is about when Obama was elected in 2008, as President, I saw that you coauthored a committee report congratulating him as a Republican, is that something that's commonly done? [1:04:00]

PM: It is. It's pretty routine to do that.

BB: Sure, okay. Yeah. Interesting.

PM: I wonder if they did one for Trump? (Laughs)

BB: I have no idea. (Laughs)

PM: Probably not.

BB: Let's see, I also noticed during your time there was some debate about displaying the 10 commandments. What was sort of the role of religion in the General Assembly? What, how did that play out?

PM: Well, not well, but I thought the 10 Commandments were extremely important. But the issue was the 10 Commandments were posted outside the statehouse in the yard. And when they did some grand landscaping, they moved them, and they never brought them back. And nobody seemed to know where they were. But I had a number of constituents who were very interested in the fact that those 10 commandments should have been brought back to where they were. And so, I got really heavily involved with that.

BB: Sure.

PM: [1:05:00] And, 10 commandments. I don't know they seem almost to prevail even above religious because there's so basic to what people believe and how they perform. And frankly, if you go through those 10 commandments, many of them are legislation, you can't kill, you know, you can't steal all of those things are, if people did what they're supposed to do, we wouldn't have to pass so many bills. Now, obviously, things like adultery. We know we could get into some of those, but a lot of the 10 commandments are just basic, how are you gonna treat people?

BB: Right. So, what was the pushback then against that?

PM: Well, (laughs) there are a lot of people who just don't think any sort of, quote, religion should be in government. Sure. But having said that. [1:06:00] The house was sued for having prayer in the House. The Senate was never sued. But I absolutely adamantly believe we should start every session of the General Assembly with prayer. We've had all kinds of people pray. A lot of different religions, we had come in and pray in the Senate. But Judeo-Christian just really is what we are as a country. And I think, to start the day with prayer, they do that in Washington,

DC all the time. They have a chaplain, you know, Marshall was the chaplain for years and years even did a movie of his life. But to me, that's just it's not a controversial thing. It's just the way we should do things. So, I was very supportive of doing that. And the house won their, their lawsuit [1:07:00], by the way, so they do great. They did go back to doing prayer.

BB: Interesting. What impact did your religious police have on your legislative career?

PM: It was the basis pretty much for what I believe in what I did, and, and it was the basis for, I hope, how I treated other people, right. Although I was very stern, but I hope it was that. But I it was it was a key foundation for what I believe. So that had impact on on how I performed it had an impact on what I wanted for health care about taking care of people and had impact on how I felt about crime or environment. I mean, basically, it's the underwriting support of my life.

BB: How common would you say religion was really important to the legislative body?

PM: I think with a lot of legislators, it was very important. A number of them were not so outspoken, but in their personal lives. [1:08:00] And I'm talking to Republicans and Democrats was very important to their lives about what they did. You know, we have the governor's prayer breakfast. There's the mayor's prayer breakfast. There are a lot of things where we come together with great speakers and get together for prayer and worship. We have to begin with I think Indiana may have been the first...I'm not 100% Sure. Capitol building with a chapel, we have a chapel its nondenominational. You can't walk in there and say, there's a cross or there's a, whatever, it is that we do have, and every maybe Thursday, it might have been Thursday, every Thursday, noon time is some kind of a little worship service in there. You can hear him playing the piano and singing. And I know because the Senate Finance Committee met right next door. And if we were still meeting at noon, you could hear them start. Start that, but that was something that we thought was a good thing to do. And very important. And we do have someone who's a chaplain around the state house, Matt. Anyway.

BB: [1:09:00] Sure. Okay. Did you have any regrets as a legislator?

PM: That well that we didn't do more for children? You know, every once in a while, something will come up and I say, I wish I'd have filed a bill to do that. But you can't do it all. I used to file about 30 bills, I may have been one of the ones that filed the most legislation, couldn't get it all passed, couldn't even work at all. But, tried to get toe in the door to do some of those things that I guess I would say I'm grateful for the privilege that I had.

BB: Yeah.

PM: And you know, not many people would have that privilege. And so, I take the responsibility, very important. It wasn't something to be just enjoyed as something to work, something to do spend a lot of time trying to do the very best. And I think I did most of the time do my very best or what I was trying to do. So, I guess if I had no regrets, I couldn't do better, [1:10:00]

BB: Right.

PM: I wasn't capable of doing better.



MM: When did you leave the General Assembly?

PM: 2016 I didn't run in 2016. So, I was there until December of 2016.

MM: Did you just feel like it was time to retire or what changed for you?

PM: I've been there 34 years. My husband had been retired for a few years. My children obviously were getting older my grandchildren were growing up. I was gonna...I'd already missed a lot of time with my family. You know? There were times when I couldn't go on vacation one year, we went into spatialization were there till like the end of June. And my family was someplace in Kentucky on a lake with the riverboat or with not a riverboat where we had boats houseboats. And so, I just thought it was time. I thought 34 years is a long time. And if you can do math, you know, I'm 83 years old, so I so I work till I was 80 I mean I was in the senate till I was 80 [1:11:00] and the saying is there. You can Leave three ways from the from the General Assembly. Actually, from anything, one you can be carried out feet first because you die in office, you are carried out because the voters throw you out. Or you can walk out on your own. And I want to walk out on my own. But that's a long time.

BB: Yeah.

PM: That's a long time.

MM: How would you summarize your time overall in the General Assembly?

PM: First of all, it was a great experience and a great privilege. I think that when I was there, we did a lot of good things, many of which I was involved in. But even beyond the ones I was personally involved in, I thought we did a lot of good things I had, I guess I would say pride isn't a good word. But I had pride in what the general assembly was doing. I had pride in my colleagues because they took it serious. I had pride in the ethics of what my colleagues, [1:12:00] some of my colleagues were extremely ethical, very. I mean, you never had to question them. You never had to question their word. And I think, for legislators, the only thing we had was our word. And if we weren't good to what we said, then we essentially lost all ability to be effective in the General Assembly. So, my word was good. People knew no was no. They knew Yes. Was Yes. But they really knew no was no, I generally didn't wishy washy. People generally didn't have to wonder what I was going to do. And I always tried to be honest with people if I was going to be a no vote, I told them, I was a no vote. Some people didn't like to do that. But I always did. I wanted to be straight with people. So, I don't know if that's a good answer to your question, but it's an answer.

MM: I mean 34 years is a long time to cover, but do you have a favorite story or anecdote that sticks out to you?

PM: Gosh. [1:13:00] Geez, I'd have to. I need to think about that a little while.

MM: Okay. What lessons did you learn?

PM: Well, I learned, I'll tell you. When I retired, they gave me this big reception over the Columbia Club. And I told you about Charlie Brown. They put Charlie Brown up to bringing me



a gift, but it was a bikini bathing suit. So that was pretty far out, as a beach hat, thongs, and I guess flip flops, flip flops in this bikini bathing suit. (Everyone laughs).

MM: That's funny.

PM: It was, but we had lots of lots of anecdotal stories. I mean, lots of fun things. A lot of you have to laugh in that situation. I had death threats, which were not pleasant. But anyway, but there was a lot of fun associated with it.

MM: Well, what lessons if any, did you learn during your...

PM: Hard work. Hard work, studying hard, reading, getting to know what you're talking about. [1:14:00] My goal was always to know more about a subject I was working on than anybody else. My goal was always to never have anybody asked me a question I couldn't answer. So, when I was studying something, I would think of every question someone could answer, ask me, and then I'd come with it, figure out the answer. So, I learned diligence, I already had it. But I learned more intensity in working and studying and knowing your subject, knowing how to work with people, knowing where to go to get answers.

MM: What advice would you give to future legislators or even current folks in office?

PM: Take your job very seriously. Work hard and represent your constituents.

BB: How would you say the state has changed over time?

PM: It has changed. It's just different. It's just different. [1:15:00] I don't know that it's better or worse. It's just different.

BB: Right.

MM: What makes it different to you?

PM: Well, in many cases is the personalities. I mean, if I walked into the Senate Republican caucus right now, I'd be out of place because there are so many new people that have come in, then the attitude has changed. And it's not. It's not that it's a bad attitude. It's just different attitude, different relationships, different getting along. New governor, you know, it's just changed.

BB: Sure, during your time as legislator, do you think that Indiana citizens were engaged enough in the work of the General Assembly?

PM: I think, generally constituents are not engaged enough in government at all. I don't think they're engaged enough with the General Assembly. I don't think they speak often enough to the city. I don't think they I think if constituents would really say something to Washington, DC some of this stuff could stop.

BB: Sure.

PM: Because I just think people aren't, people aren't listening to what people want them to hear, because people aren't saying it.

BB: Right.

PM: They're saying it to you and me, and they'll come up to me and tell me, but they're not going to call somebody that's quote in the position to do that. And I think that I think this country was built on, essentially, the backbone of the people who came here. I mean, we were a strong country. People who came here, were courageous, and strong, and they, they represented what they believe well, and that's how we ended up with what I think is a wonderful government and a wonderful system, people now are less involved. And I particularly see this with younger people. And it doesn't matter if it's government, or my Rotary Club, [1:17:00] or PTA or any, they're just not as engaged. You know, it's much, much harder to get volunteers now, whether it's for the Republican Party, or Kiwanis, or Rotary, or my church, getting people to do more. We don't have the volunteerism today that we had. And we don't have people engaged in things that we had. And I think, I think the country needs this, that pendulum needs to swing back. And we need to have more public influence in government. And in all the other kinds of areas where normally we've counted on volunteerism to play a key part in our functioning.

MM: What do you think has caused that shift?

PM: Well, there's a lot of things. One is maybe the way we've raised our children, we wanted to give them the best. [1:18:00] And so they haven't had to work as hard. Growing up, you know, I worked in the summers to, to make money, I worked as a waitress, to make money to help pay for my going to school to college, and nurses training. Some people are working hard. Now they have to, but in many cases, families have enough resources to help their children. That may be one thing, but I don't think we've had enough influence in educating them about how important volunteerism is, how important it is to be involved at your school, [1:19:00] how important it is to go meet with the teacher. If it's parent day at the school, we just need to help people understand how significant that role is and how significant all these volunteer organizations are, whether it's Red Cross, or Kiwanis, or Rotary or PTA, all those things. People just need to know; this is an important thing. And I need to get more involved. But for some reason, they don't feel it like we did. And when I say we did, you may not feel it like we did. I don't know.

BB: What if any enduring qualities do Hoosiers still have or hold dear?

PM: I think they still love their country. And I think they hold it dear. I'm just not sure they're expressing it the way we did. But I think the American people and our, our wonderful people, [1:20:00] I think there is an American spirit that maybe we don't appreciate enough. But if you think about 911 and the attitudes that this country had, you can think of other things, disaster. You know, there's disaster relief, and there's blood. I mean, people have outpouring of help is enormous. And so, on the one hand, I said voluntourism isn't but when there is a need, the American people are very, very generous, and they're very...

MM: Resilient.

PM: Right. And so, we don't have a high percentage of people who vote. And I think that may be because they're satisfied with what they have. But I will tell you, if there was ever an attempt to take the vote away, it'd be a different story. So, I think the American people have a character that

maybe it's hard for me to describe, but is a profound, [1:21:00] positive kind of inner strength that we have.

MM: Do you think there's a uniquely Hoosier aspect to that too?

PM: I do. We're Hoosiers. And we have there are things here that we do that are very important in coding our little accent. Well, I mean, we do have a Hoosier accent. And people that aren't from here will call me on it sometime. But I think we do. I think we're proud of our state. I think we think we're doing it best. And we are.

MM: Okay, well, we asked a lot of questions here today.

PM: Yes.

MM: But you know with such a long an illustrious career, we can't get to everything. Is there anything that we haven't asked that you would like to go on record about or talk through?

PM: Geez. I didn't know what to expect so I didn't, I hadn't given any thought to what I might want to say. I guess I would just like people to appreciate what they have to appreciate this state [1:22:00] and this country. And to be grateful for what we have. I have been to Africa a few times and I have said a few times that people here ought to go to Africa or some of the countries, third world is like. We have so many things we take for granted, water, sewers, electricity, roads, and in spite of the chuck holes, when you are in a country that has no roads, no water, no sewers, no electricity, and no way to build infrastructure and they can't build an economy without infrastructure, and they can't do infrastructure without some kind of economy. It's, we just have it so good here, I wish people appreciated it more and that's why I say people should go to Africa for a while or somewhere else, because we have it so good and we just need to love it more.

MM: Is there anything else you have Ben?

BB: No.

MM: Well, thank you so much for taking time. I know you are very busy woman.

PM: I'm glad to do that.