

MEET MAYOR LINCOLN (PART 2)

In this episode, we pick up where we left off by talking to Mayor Lincoln. We get to know about his time in the military, favorite sports in school, and his proudest moment as a parent. This episode is hosted by Caroleta Washington and Choy Pangthong.



Camera batteries were changed out, microphone levels were adjusted, and we were ready to continue our conversation. We have a whole team behind the scenes making sure our show runs smoothly; including Duane Sanders on lighting, Megan Silva on audio, Ardon Aragon and Fadi Georgies on camera, and Anthony Villalobos as our producer.

TRANSCRIPT:

Caroleta: What is up, Stockton? We are back for part two. The conversation was so good we had to come back for more. We started off getting to know the mayor, but we jumped right into the deep end, getting into policies and programs. So we want to go back to getting to know more about you. So what's up?

Lincoln: What's up? Well, I'm here, so let's do this.

Choy: Let's do this. Right. I'm going go right into it. Like there's something that maybe we haven't asked that you want to share a little bit about yourself, that maybe the people don't know.

Caroleta: He thinks he's Steph Curry.

Choy: I'm like Curry. How was your game, first of all, how was your ball game like? How was your hand? Right. So what position would you play?

Lincoln: So in basketball, I played the three. It was a small forward. We had a pretty big lineup and I was always known for my jump shot and really my sweet spot was 15 foot range as well.

Choy: What were your numbers?

Lincoln: Oh man, I have to go back in the archive regarding stats, but.

Choy: I was going to fact check this. You know what? I'm going to.

Caroleta: Actually see the shots off scrolling down on the bottom of the screen.

Lincoln: So that was very one of the most consistent free throw shooters, though. In fact, I attended a basketball camp at Stagg when I was in high school and I competed in the free throw contest. I think I was in the summer of my freshman year against a senior, and ultimately it just came down to sudden death. Right. Who would miss the first shot? First? And I came in second place.

Caroleta: But I say, you're like Shaq.

Lincoln: Yeah. No, no, no. It was it was it was great. Super competitive. Came in second place, got the most outstanding camper trophy and stuff. And so it was pretty cool. But yeah, I love playing basketball, football as well. So in high school I was a tight end and wide receiver.

Choy: I could see the wide receiver, or the tight end, like Tyree's, like somebody was beefy.

Lincoln: That's today's generation tight end. Yeah, we're talking about. High school. So over 20 years ago.

Caroleta: What was your favorite, basketball or football?

Lincoln: Basketball is my favorite sport.

Caroleta: Do you watch it? All right. Are you like a consistent watcher? Because I know I play softball.

Lincoln: If I had if I had time to watch it consistently, I would.

Caroleta: Do you go to the high school games?

Lincoln: Fortunately, I do. I do go to the high school games. I don't have time to consistently watch pro basketball, but I do have time to go.

Choy: To high school. You have a team, high school games. Do you have a team that you root for?

Lincoln: I'm a Lakers fan. LeBron James. So Lakers fan. I like LeBron James, but my favorite basketball player is Magic Johnson. That the generation that.

Choy: Yeah, I grew up with. Yeah.

Lincoln: Yeah. The 92 Dream team and Johnson.

Caroleta: He's really magical.

Choy: That sounded like shots fired...

Caroleta: When I go to L.A., the first thing I go to is TGIF Fridays that he owns. Like, I'm trying to be, like, really in the mix. I go get my little drink at TGI Fridays. But this is about you.

Lincoln: I thank you for bringing that back full circle there.

Choy: Because you go off on her own all day. So, you know for me, right. I love you for that. Oh. So it's all okay. You played you were you play sports, right? Like what other things? Fishing is big around here. I know. Fishing is. Yeah, fishing is big.

Caroleta: Yeah. My fiancée fishes. I have. Yeah.

Choy: It's like. Like any other extracurricular activities outside of, you know, maybe school sports or anything. Like anything you partook in.

Caroleta: You go hunting in Lodi too.

Lincoln: You know, as a young man, I grew up in Stockton Parks and Rex, that's just the facts. Day camp's going to Oak Park, the swimming pool, the whole nine playing year round compared, you know, sports not only competitively see through a new team, but also just the winter, the summer, the fall leagues for parks and parks and recreation.

Caroleta: you only do sports? No outside we're like in farmland.

Lincoln: I never got into fishing, hunting, even though we have a big fishing community and a big boating community. I mean, e we have the delta, right? And so it's amazing. I never got to that, never really got into the outdoors as well, like camping and things of that nature.

Choy: have you gone camping though?

Lincoln: I've gone camping. Yeah, I've done it. But it's not something that like look forward to every season, not that there's anything wrong with it, but it's just not my thing.

Caroleta: He likes going glamping.

Choy: What is it? What is glamping?

Lincoln: Yeah. Can you clarify that?

Caroleta: Like we're not going in the dirty, we're going to be like in a cabin Where there is like water running and electricity.

Choy: Who goes camping cute? You have to be like, I'ma be dusty for the next two days.

Lincoln: I think we're getting off track. Can we bring this back to me?

Choy: Exactly. Thank you.

Caroleta: I'm not going camping. I mean, what camping? Like, did you like, isn't that like army? You were in the army, right?

Lincoln: And that's how I was in, say, I did a lot of a lot of, quote, unquote, camping in the Marine Corps. Yeah. As part of our training exercises and things of that nature.

Choy: can you tell us a little bit about your experience in Army and the Marines?

Lincoln: In the Marine Corps. So I was raised in an Army brat because my stepfather, my father, he raised me since I was five. He's been married to my mother for 37 years. But yeah, so I grew up in an army home for several years. Join the Marine Corps when I was 20 months before 9/11 took place. So this 9/11 here, you know, the whole world changed. I was actually in the military police academy getting ready to graduate. I was recruited to go work for the White House military office as a military police officer attached to Marine One, which is the president's helicopter. So that big green helicopter that the president flies on with the white top. Yeah, I was assigned to that. My job was to protect that presidential asset, the helicopter he had. The president has a Secret Service that protects him. So every wherever the president traveled, myself and other Marines, that story traveled, whether it was foreign or domestic. So once in a lifetime experience, incredible opportunity. I was blessed as a result of it. So that was my military first president, George W Bush.

Caroleta: How was that like? Did you get to, like, talk to him and he talked to you.

Choy: Did Secret Service even let you get close?

Lincoln: So I had I had three conversations with him, personal conversations with him. Two of them were at Camp David, which is the presidential retreat, and one of them was in the Oval Office with my wife, before I got out of the Marine Corps, there was an opportunity for my wife to go in and have a conversation with them, take a photo with him. And so that was a great, great experience and it was an honor to serve our country. Yeah.

Caroleta: So you protected the helicopter or him?

Lincoln: I protected the helicopter that he flew In because that's the presidential asset, right.

Choy: Have you ever seen passenger 57?

Caroleta: I don't pay attention.

Choy: It's not bad. Oh, I forget. What? Because I was I was thinking about the one the. With the Air Force One, the movie with Air Force One.

Caroleta: I don't pay attention to that.

Choy: Yeah, no, never mind.

Caroleta: So then after the military or after the Marine Corps, I keep calling in the military because I know they're different. Right?

Lincoln: Yeah, so the military consists of different. The United States military consists of several different branches. The Marine Corps is one of those branches of the military.

Caroleta: So after you did the Marine Corps and was in Marine One protecting the AC, and then you worked in Silicon Valley, right? How is that?

Lincoln: It was incredible experience in that was my first experience in the corporate world because ultimately I was the district manager for the private security company. So my job was to retain and grow the business. And so as a district manager, I had a dedicated business development manager and my I had a district support staff of 21 employees.

Lincoln: I had two district offices, one in San Jose on North First Street and one in San Mateo. And I had over 1300 employees that serviced our many clients in the Silicon Valley. So that was my role there. It was a corporate leadership executive type of role.

Choy: How was how was the transition? Right. So being, you know, being from the military to corporate America, like, was it was it a smooth transition? Was there anything that you struggled with? Was there anything that, you know, must have been like a new era? This is a new environment. So like, how did you handle that?

Caroleta: Is it less tense?

Lincoln: I think there's a different type of intensity. And in the corporate sector versus the military versus even government, where I'm leading now. But I'd say the principles, the discipline, the focus, the work ethic that I had in the military, I was able to apply that 100% to my role in my leadership capacity in corporate America. And then I transitioned, you know, after working in corporate America for eight years to a local nonprofit, a local church as their executive administrator that oversaw you know, the organization, the finances, the staff and the implementation of vision. And again, I was able to provide my apply my experience in the corporate sector and in the military to even that role. And then you fast forward. And today now I'm the mayor after doing that with the nonprofit, the local church for seven and a half years now, I'm the mayor of Stockton, and so I'm applying again all those previous experiences to the role that I have today. So for me, it's been about just constant development, constant growth and applying my experiences to that next opportunity.

Choy: Where what does that drive come from, Right? The motivation and to always grow and develop, right? Going from military to corporate America to nonprofit to now being a mayor, right? Like to drive that, you know that this is the path I'm going on. I mean, dedicated. Yeah.

Lincoln: The hard work was modeled for me through my stepfather. My father that raised me. He was one of the hardest He is one of the hardest working men that I knew. I didn't know anything different. Right. He always worked hard, even when we struggled and didn't, you know, felt like we didn't have enough money to make it to in the month. Right. We worked a little bit. He worked harder. He just model. He was that role model for me in what he did. And that's that was the seed for everything for me. And then we always gave back, always gave back at a young age. And I remember I was 16, 17 years old. On Saturdays I would go out to the California Youth Authority and I would encourage my peers that were incarcerated and just speak life into them because I where I didn't make some of those choices and I didn't find myself in that position. I feel like I could relate from a standpoint that my biological father, you know, made poor choices and wasn't a part of my life. And so there are some to I felt there was a nexus there. There was a connection there. Yeah. And that was formative in my life. So I would say if you look back over my different careers and my growth in my development over the years, there is a common denominator and that is it's been all about service. It's been all about what I can do to help somebody and make a visible difference in their life. In the environments that I find myself in.

Caroleta: Is that because of where you grew up?

Lincoln: Is because of those values that were instilled in me from your from from my stepfather, from my mother, and from also from those mentors in my childhood. Some of them were coaches, some of them were teachers that that spoke that life into me and encouraged me and said that I could accomplish things. I was the average student in high school and just in school in general.

Choy: What was what was your favorite subject?

Lincoln: PE.

Caroleta: I was the opposite, I was always failing PE. And I was playing sports which was crazy.

Lincoln: But when I, you know, I pursued my college, my higher education goals later on in life. So I was 28 when I first got my associate's degree. I was 35 when I got my bachelor's degree. I was 40 when I received my master's degree. So I didn't take the traditional route. But when I decided to pursue higher education, I was ready, I was committed, and I realized I did have what it takes to be successful. And now I was at 3.8 in above student throughout college.

Caroleta: We're going to take a break right now real quick, but we're going to come back. Okay. On the topic of being an adult in school and getting your AA at 28, right? 28.

Lincoln: 28.

Caroleta: So I'm the same way. I got my first at 28. I'm getting my second one. I'm 30, and then I'm going to move on to a four year. I'm not going to say the name because I'm a little nervous, so I can relate to you on that point. What made you go back to school at a younger or older age?

Lincoln: I had a young family, so my wife and I, we just had our second child, a daughter, and I wanted to be able to provide a different life for my family that I had was offered growing up and in the career that I was pursuing in the opportunities that I wanted to ultimately obtain and achieve, I needed to get I need to get my education. I needed to get an associate's degree in business. If I was going to be successful in the corporate sector, I needed to get my associates associate's degree in business. I needed to eventually get my bachelor's degree in business management, and then I needed to get my master's degree in executive leadership.

Choy: You got to level up.

Lincoln: I had to level up. Yeah. I remember my daughter was maybe 18 months old at the time when I first got my associates. My son was three and I remember there were nights I would fall asleep at the dinner table in like wake up at midnight or wake up the next morning because I was working on a paper. But my inspiration was for my kids.

Caroleta: Sounds like my life. I had my kids at 23. I have a right now they're seven and four, one turning four on Sunday, but I'm very much that's how my life is. I got to a point where I'm like, okay, well, I need to buckle down and find out what I need to do because I was very much average. And then I found this wonderful place and I started getting 4.0 every semester. So it's like, good to hear that I can relate to you in certain parts of where you're coming from. So thank you.

Lincoln: Absolutely.

Choy: What would you say would be your proudest moment as a parent?

Lincoln: My proudest moment as a parent is, well, let me back up. So I'm first generation in my family to graduate from. Okay. And but my so that was never modeled for me growing up in in And that's maybe why just because I wasn't exposed to it. It's maybe why I didn't achieve certain academic milestones in my in my childhood. But my proudest moment now as a father is my children being able to experience the journey. See, they went to that commencement ceremonies. They walked away from my commencement ceremony when I got my master's degree saying I want to go here. They're putting in the work themselves without me having to really push them because I, I model that for them and their mother model that work for them. And that's a that's a proud moment for me, that's one of the proudest moments for me.

Caroleta: So I like to say I got into this college last night and I told my daughter and she started jumping up and down for me. So I understand where you're coming from, where they actually feel proud for you and they see it. And that like, my daughter's like, I want to be a YouTuber like you. I'm like, I'm not a YouTuber. But yeah, I get what you say.

Lincoln: And what I tell my kids don't just want to be like me, be better than me. Yeah, because it's my job as your father. I had this conversation with my 16, soon to be 16 and 17 year old. Right now I tell them any opportunity I get, it's my job to give you everything that I have in the model as much as I can for you. Because my ceiling will be your platform and should be your platform for growth in life. Every generation should build upon the next. My parents, as best as they could provide for me with the tools and the resources that they were given. It's my job to take that to the next level. And I believe that honoring the work that they did and then do that, you know, pay it forward with my kids as well. Right. That's how we create legacy. That's how we create generational wealth and growth.

Choy: Yeah. I got a sense that, you know, you get a little emotional talking about, you know, the problem is right How what is that? What is that emotion and where does that come from?

Lincoln: It's genuine love, gratitude, humility, but recognizing the magnitude of the responsibility as a father. And that's why I spend so much time in these schools. Getting as much face time as I can with students is because I'm living that right now in my own household. And so I can connect with students in a way that some others can't connect. One is because my story as a child is probably not much different than theirs. And I want to share that with them. I want them to know that man, if he could struggle or if he's gone through things and he's where he's at, I could do the same thing. And I'm going to let them know that they could do it better than me. So the same message I tell my own children, my own students in my house, I share that message with other students throughout the city. Every opportunity I get.

Caroleta: That's beautiful. So California is a Democratic state, Right. We're just going to switch gears real quick. The California Democratic state, what made you run as a Republican in this Democratic state and what has affected your career, political career as a Republican?

Lincoln: What we need to understand about local politics and the governing structure for the city of Stockton is that it's nonpartisan. So that means nonpartisan means that when I'm running for office as mayor, if there's a councilmember that's running for council district to represent the city on that ballot, there's not an R or D or any other letter next to that name. Our responsibility as elected representatives for the city of Stockton is to make decisions that are in the best interests of the community that we were elected to serve. And so that's how I lead. I don't lead with a R or a D or any other letter next to my name. I lead with the interests of the people first. That's why I'm able to have conversations in different spaces with different factions, different organizations, different groups in the city is because I'm willing to set a table. I'm willing to have a conversation with you because I care about what this city looks like when I'm gone. Okay, So that means it's not about me. It's not about me. And what happens in look, we what happens in local politics when we allow partisan views and interests to come into play, it creates dysfunction walls of division. We need to be creating bridges in our community and tearing down walls so that our community of Stockton, that is has experienced a lot of trauma on so many different for decades and generations. We could we could begin to heal. And that's what I'm committed to, is that healing process while I'm mayor.

Caroleta: Would you think because you're able to sit down, like basically speak to both sides, let's say, and you don't look at all that. But like I say, you speak to both sides, Would that make you, like more moderate?

Lincoln: Absolutely. By definition, Absolutely. What you'll find is that when you actually sit down with a person or a group and have a conversation with them, you're going to find is that we have more in common.

Choy: Then, you know, it ain't about R&D

Lincoln: We just have to be willing to have that conversation and often times that political affiliation or that designation prevents us from even having the conversation in local politics. That's unacceptable, especially in local politics. Yes, unacceptable because all politics is local. And the biggest change that we can make in the biggest impact that our communities experience and have to live with are those decisions that are made locally because they affect them on a daily basis.

Choy: I feel I feel like just talking about this with you right now and, you know, you being open and being vulnerable and sharing some, you know, some of your stories. Right. I can get us I can go for me personally like I can get a sense of, you know, the drive and the passion that you have for politics and policy from your childhood. Right. From the values that were ingrained and embedded in you. Right. You know, and so like, can you say more about how, you know, your childhood or how you were raised play into maybe the decision-making policy aspect of your line of work?

Lincoln: I'll tell you that what I try to be intentional about all my life is embracing the the tough times and the challenging times in my childhood and even into my adulthood, embracing those because those challenging those tough times, those failures or setbacks I was intentional about. I try to be as intentional as I can about learning from them to make to make me better. Right? And to me, that's what it's been all about.

Caroleta: Yeah. You're going to change it a little bit. Not really that much, but like according to Bloomberg, right, the newest mayors are more diverse and younger. Do you think that plays a role into how you work in politics in Stockton?

Lincoln: I can say that I'm probably pretty diverse because I'm half Mexican and half black, younger. I'm 40, 42, so I probably fit that that description from that.

Choy: No, no Gray hair.

Lincoln: No gray hairs. Like the other are a few coming through on my chin, but but yeah.

Caroleta: Does it play a role like being younger and more diverse? Does it play a role in Stockton?

Lincoln: I believe it does play a role. It does play a role because I am a mayor that's representative of the community that he's been elected to serve. The average age of a Stocktonian is 39 years old. I'm 42. I was 40 when I took office. Okay. So we have a third of about 30% of our population is under the age of 18 years of age. I have two students of my own that are 17 and soon to be 16. Half of almost half, 46% of our community. English is the second language that they speak at home. I'm the grandson of a Mexican immigrant. That is the primary language spoken in my mother's home was Spanish, so I can relate to the community as a whole. So because I can relate, I make decisions that take those things into consideration because I want what's best for our community. The vision of our city right now is that Stockton will be the best city in America to live, raise a family and grow a business. And that's what I'm committed to.

Caroleta: That sounds like a tall mountain to climb

Lincoln: No, tank half full. Because I don't climb that mountain by myself. We climb the mountain together, right? Like when I was in the Marine Corps, we say we had the term of take that mountain. We don't take that mountain by ourselves. We don't overcome that challenge, that obstacle by ourselves. We do it together. There's no nationality, we don't look at race. We don't look at age. We don't look at your socioeconomic status, What we know is that we have this mission together. We have this goal that, you know, that we want to accomplish. And we're going to take that mount together. And ultimately, if we stick together, we stay together. We're going to get there.

Caroleta: I wish we learned that in school that teamwork more types of. But do you think like the diversity and your youth, Do you think I lost my train of thought? Oh, do you think you're being held to a different standard because you're using your diversity? Do you think that the community expects more out of you?

Lincoln: I think the community expects a lot out of me because I'm the mayor, because the mayor that out this community should expect. Right. They voted for me. So I don't think me personally, I don't think because of my ethnicity or my age that the community expects more out of me. I just think because I'm the mayor, they expect me to make decisions that are in the best interests of the entire community. And so, you know, you get back to the whole partisan issue of the are in and whether you voted for me or not based off of party lines, I'm your mayor. The majority of the people of this city said, hey, we want to take a shot with Kevin Lincoln to be the mayor when I took office. I don't just serve the majority of those people who voted for me. I serve all 322,000 people in this community, whether you voted for me or not, that's what it's about. And we're going to work hard to deliver for the people.

Caroleta: Last question, What should the people in Stockton know more about you that they wouldn't expect to know?

Lincoln: That sometimes I get hangry.

Choy: Hey, what do you think? You said hangry. HANGRY, hangry.

Lincoln: Like if I don't eat then, you know, I might get a little hangry, so it might be time for me to eat something, give me some chocolate. I like it. I like dark chocolate, milk chocolate.

Choy: Yeah. So would that be like your guilty pleasure. Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate.

Lincoln: And cookies.

Caroleta: You get a whole batch.

Choy: Yo, yo, yo, I heard that Stockton, Yo, yo, Want something done? Get the chocolate.

Lincoln: And I'll share it with everyone.

Caroleta: Thank you for listening to 209 talk. That is the end of our first episode.

Choy: This is the end of our show.

Caroleta: Thank you for that. That's the end of 209 Talk. Thank you for everyone that is listening and make sure you tune in at 93.5, watch us on YouTube. And that is the end of our show. Thank you for listening.

Outro: 209 talk has been a production of KWDC 93.5 LPFM, Delta College Radio. This program is made possible by listeners like you. Programing is produced by the students, staff and faculty of San Joaquin Delta College's Digital Media Department. It is supported by the Delta College Department of Arts Humanities and Multimedia, the Career Technical, Education and Workforce Development Office and the State of California.
