

Thank you, Andrew, for those very kind words. Not just kind words to me, but also the reminder that we often forget...I think we're all of us reeling from what happened on September 11th, in one way or another, and this incomprehensible complexity of what's happened worldwide. And to put what we're talking about tonight in context with that, the words that you spoke have a real meaning. It is about innocence, and it begins in a sense with probably the strongest metaphor we can find, aside from the child, and that's the animal.

I'm gonna read you something from Sally, my friend Sally. "They have taught me the value of life, the really important things in life. It isn't money, it isn't material possessions, it isn't successful careers. It's all about accepting each other for what we are - for loving, for sharing, for appreciating our differences and learning how to live together with those differences. Could I as a human possibly be any more different from a bear? Yet the bears and I share a world which seems so impossible for us humans to share with each other."

Idaho. Let me tell you a little bit about Idaho first because you probably don't even know what we're talking about when we talk about bears in Idaho. Idaho is a state that sits somewhere between Washington and Oregon on the west and Montana and Wyoming on the east and Colorado on the south. It's a state known for potatoes. It's a state known for ore. It's a state known for timber. It's a state known for cattle. It's a state known for Sun Valley, for skiing. It's a state known for hunters. And somewhere between the hunters and the forest fires, you'll find the bears.

Now the black bear is not particularly an endangered species, but it is a species which is under the gun, so to speak. Some years ago, a young woman by the name of Sally Maughan was a...she ran a travel agency. And she took care of squirrels and coyotes and animals - birds, stuff like that. And somebody asked her if she would look after a bear. Her image of a bear was a 1500-pound monster with claws and huge fangs and stuff like that, that we all look at. And somebody dropped a 4-month cub on her door step. She was the only person in the neighborhood that had room enough for a bear. She didn't know what she was getting into. And over the next months she became attached to Ruggles, which was really her opening to bears. And she took care of this little creature. She didn't know quite what to do with it; she decided formula might be a good thing, so she got some formula. And as the bear grew a little bit, she started to mix it with food of some kind, which...she'd give him dry dog food or fruit or something. She got one bear, and of course then somebody else came by and said, "There's another bear." And by this time she had grown very attached to little Ruggles, and she went to a bear conference. She figured she needed to find something out about bears. And so she did, and she heard of a man by the name of John Beecham, who worked with the Fish and Game Department of Idaho. He had quite a reputation as being one of the few men who knew about behavior in bears, and so she made contact with him. She had to make a choice at some point. Do I move forward with this thing, or do I drop it? And she decided to move forward with it. Ruggles had meant a lot to her. So, with a little help and support she could get from John Beecham and the fish and game society, she began to develop - not develop, take care of bears. And let it be known that those bears that were lost in forest fires, whose mothers were killed by hunters or run over by logging trucks, that there was a place for these bears. A rehabilitation center.

Now she had to make another decision and that was, Do I look after these animals as if they're my pets, my loved ones, the people I look after, do I harbor them, have a proprietary attitude toward them, do I take care of them, or do I open the door to freedom to these bears? And she decided the latter. So she began to develop a program in which she would look after bears who had been orphaned, were motherless, didn't have their siblings or what have you. They came from various parts of the state, then various parts of Oregon, and various parts of Yellowstone National Park, various parts of California, even from Michigan, and places like that. She began to take in bears, baby bears, and look after them. Feeding them up to six bottles of milk a day. She had four bears, figure 40 pounds of dog food, dry dog food. Figure 8-gallon buckets, two 8-gallon buckets of fruit. And this all cost enormous amounts of money; she ran a travel agency, she didn't have money. And at some point she got in touch with Victor, at WSPA in London, and they took an interest - Victor Watkins; he's the director of the Liberty Campaign - and they began to correspond about building a sanctuary for Sally. They decided they should come aboard, and WSPA came in and helped her build a place for the bears to be. That's in Boise, Idaho. That's what the WSPA did.

[David is running a slide show now.] Now again here she is feeding the bears one of the six bottles they're going to get during the day. Now she's having a conference with the bears, obviously. Talking about, Guys, what are we going to have to eat tomorrow? Well, dog food is a little dry, how about some fruit, I don't know. This is where you'll find Sally in the compound. She's amazing with these animals. They really respond to her. It's one of the things that I think, one of the first impressions you get when you walk in there is the ease with which she deals with animals and it's not a controlling kind of thing. It's a genuine ease with which she deals with the animals. There's the apples. Thanks, David, I can see that. [audience laughs] Incredible grasp of the obvious. I've not been through this show before so...those are apples, guys. And there's a bear, eating an apple. Now this is another great, interesting point. As this thing develops and WSPA is now involved, and supporting what Sally's doing, one of the aims of both WSPA and the program that Sally is developing, the rehabilitation program, is education. And so it becomes very important that children are introduced to these animals. And of course, we have more problems with bears than children do. So, what they did was they built these one-way mirrors, glass mirrors here, for the children to come in and watch the animals' behavior. But invariably the bears would be up here, looking down on the children. [he laughs] That's what they did with me, you know, they climbed up [few words unclear]

Now, about four years ago, I got in the mail...there was a time when I did get a few letters, and among the mail that I got was a letter from a Sally Maughan. Actually, a package, and with that was a brochure about this rehabilitation center in Idaho. I get a lot of things like that, from people that have causes and concerns and...that you'd love to respond to but you simply can't, you don't have time, but there was something about this that she had sent. I said, I gotta put this one aside, so I put it in a file some place. I think part of it was that I had three children living in Idaho. They were up in the northern part of Idaho, and I thought to myself, Gee, they're so close. What a wonderful experience for them involved in 4-H clubs and they took care of birds of prey and they had sheep and goats and so forth and were always part of the state fair and that kind of thing. But they'd rarely get involved with the animals of the wild, except for the birds of prey. So I put it aside, thinking, next time I go to Idaho, I will bring my kids down to see Sally.

And, I don't know, three years later, I get a call from WSPA, saying that in a conversation with Sally, they were talking with her and she said, "You know the music I play for the bears" - guys, I'm really sorry about this because some of you may hate it - but "the music I play for the bears is your music". My music. And it seems to quiet them. I said, "You should have seen some of the audiences then." But I think it was meant as a compliment in this case. I've been on the other side of that picture, too.

Anyway, she had mentioned how, I don't know, how much that music had meant to her and that she had followed the Starsky and Hutch legacy, and you know, that was one of her favorites, you know. Anyway, and would I be part of the scheme? Would I go out to Idaho in December for a denning, putting the bears into hibernation for the winter, the cubs. And I said sure. She said, "Great, we're gonna make it a surprise, we're not gonna tell her." So all these plans were made for me to go out to Idaho, and Sally was not gonna know about it. Meanwhile, this being the energetic little group it is, went out and organized some national television coverage and press coverage and so forth, but didn't say anything about the fact that I was coming. But who cares, really, but you know, they made arrangements for that kind of thing. And we'll show it to you on videotape here later if you want to see it because it was really amazing. I took off with a couple of the people from the London office, out to Boise, through Seattle to Boise. She was being interviewed I think by ABC or NBC, I can't remember which, for one of the evening news programs. Because her work has now--it's not just work that she does in her community, but the work that she has done is now being used as a kind of prototype for rehabilitation of bears worldwide. So you'll find that things she does applied in Ecuador's spectacled bear, or the brown bear in Turkey, the famed dancing bears that declawed and defanged and tied up and noose in their nose, and the dogs, four dogs...they're staked to the ground and four dogs attack them. This is a betable kind of deal. Anyway, these bears are now being put into sanctuaries now and given new life. But a lot of the things that are being developed out of Idaho, what Sally is doing, is being applied for bears, grown bears and also bears that are baby bears. So anyway, she's become quite a cause célèbre, in that sense. And certainly fish and game people, people like John Beecham - who is one of the foremost men in the area of bears, study of bears, in the world. He and Sally worked very closely together.

Anyway, so I'm going out there and this was all hush-hush, and I go out and she's in the middle of an interview and I walked out past her house, past the barn and into the gate and, "Hey, how ya doin'?" She looks at me like, um, Who's this guy, is this from next door, or what, I mean I'm in the middle of an interview." And the closer I get to her, she begins to recognize, and it was the most charming, wonderful moment of recognition. And that was my introduction to Sally Maughan in person; four years later after she had initially sent off this brochure on what she was doing, we meet. And then she spent the morning with me going through, showing me, telling me about bears. I mean, I'm a complete neophyte, I had no idea what these animals were all about. They're not something that you--it's like anything you don't know, it's like you walk up to them, you don't quite know what to do and how to touch them, their claws are sharp and they strike out at you. But they don't mean it, but they do, but they don't. You know, you're not quite sure, but little by little as you relax, they relax. And pretty soon you're walking around the compound with about 14 bears in there because today's the day they're gonna take 3 of those bears and den them. So they're a little bit wary and skittish because they know the doctors are there; they can sense, almost sense the needles - because they will be drugged. So, one of the first things we do is we bring out the medical people. If you take a look, they're now loading...a drug to put him to sleep, actually. And then they go to sleep. And now we're putting tags on the ears. They're tagged, obviously. And measured. Measurements are very important. These animals, by the way, these bears are counterparts; the ones that live in the wild are not nearly as well cared for as these bears are. They really have it over a large majority of the bears that go into hibernation at this stage. They're stronger, they have more fat; it's important. More bears. I like the blonde. There we go! They were loaded into little cartons, cases, and those cases are now shifted onto the truck - in this case, they're shifted onto a snowmobile, but first loaded onto a truck and they drove about 3 1/2, 4 hours away from Boise, up into about the 6,000-foot level of the mountains - preparing to take about a 7-mile snowmobile trip up a logging trail up to the denning area.

So now we look upon the snowboard, I mean snowmobile, away we go. It's really quite beautiful, I mean the trip for the scenery is worth it, worth the trip itself. Unfortunately, those snowmobiles are not real-- those bears are not real stable, so it must have been a half a dozen times one or the other of those cases fell into a snowbank and they had to right them. But it was a wonderful trip. Now before the bear is denned, they were given a drug, but they've now come around. And so these poles are used to stick them again. Poor babies, you know, they get these needles twice. Just before they get denned, they stick them again. And then the most important thing is to put the collar, the radio collar, which goes on before they're finally denned. This will pay off in the springtime when they're released so they can follow them, follow the bear. Aside from this, they also do some things like, they put a ring of barbed wire around a tree so that if the bear comes by and scrapes the tree, fur will come off and they can test the DNA. So DNA-testing happens before the bear is released, and then can be matched up later as they pick up pieces of hair, pieces of fur. One more shot. And then - this part I was not prepared for. These bears are really not very light. And you carry them about 100 meters up a hill. There you go! You're smiling now, aren't you? This was not a pleasant task. And there's the den. And these things are probably about 1 foot high. And you stick the bear-- Actually, John Beecham is brilliant at this. You shove the bear into every nook and-- the tiniest cranny of this hole in the ground. And then shove the other one in next to it. Then you take pine branches and boughs and so forth and cover the hole over, and shovel snow over. And then what happens is two-three days later, or a day later, the bear will wake up from the drugs and not know where he is, or she is, fight their way out of the den, look around, walk around a little bit and then go back in the hole. And that apparently is exactly what happens. I asked about it, what happens when these bears wake up...from the drugs. Like I usually did. [he laughed] Walk around a little bit, look around, go back in the hole again. Anyway, that's what they did. They sleep, just like the storybooks say, they sleep for months. I slept for years. [audience laughed through this whole bit]

Now this is apparently, I understand from Sally that the bears now prefer the log dens...you know, Holiday Inn. They seem to like these man-made dens here more than the natural dens. The one that I was involved with, we put into...it was a natural den. I couldn't believe that there were two bears in that place. But they like these. That's about the size of it right there. You get a bear and a man in there, and then two bears. It's amazing. And in the spring this is how they come out. There are two-- I was planning to go out in May for what they call the spring release, in which cubs are also released in the springtime. They're released in the winter into hibernation and then come out naturally in the spring. But there's also a spring release for those bears that don't go into hibernation are released in the spring. That's why there's no snow on the ground. We are following our bears appropriately, and they track them. I talked to Sally tonight actually, I called her just to see what the state of affairs were there, and she said to me, she said that she now has six bears. Two were from Wyoming [tape cuts out for a few seconds] was killed by another bear. There have been 80 bears so far that she has released into freedom, and once they come out in the springtime they are tracked by radio so they're accounted for. Generally speaking, these bears, once they're released, have because of the way Sally raises them, she does not mother them to death - so they have a healthy respect and fear of human beings. And with the radio collars, they are also not game for the hunter. These bears are generally probably more safe than other bears are. Here we have one little cub playing up in a tree. I wanted to go see one of those spring releases, I really wanted to see that but I just couldn't do it.

Xmas Message:

On behalf of all the staff at the DSAC may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and after the tragic event in New York, let's hope that our combined strength and spirit will bring peace and happiness throughout the World in the New Year.

