

Michael Eure Show – Episode 34: The Mississippi Byrd

INTRODUCTION: Hello, this is Michael Eure, and I'd like to invite you to the Michael Eure Show, featuring student hosts and very special guests talking about a variety of interesting topics. You can find us on the Eagle Stream YouTube channel.

MICHAEL EURE: Good afternoon, and welcome to the Michael Eure Show. Our very special guest today is Mr. Shedrick Byrd, and he's the author of "The Mississippi Byrd." So, Shedrick, take a minute and tell us a little about yourself.

SHEDRICK BYRD: Well, thank you, Michael, for having me on your show. I'll start off with I was born in Mississippi, and I spent 13 years in Mississippi, and my family moved to Gary, Indiana. I spent four years in Gary, finished high school and moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan. I spent two years in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and then I joined the U.S. Navy. And in 1978, I retired from the Navy and went to work for the Newport News Shipbuilding Company. And after three years there, I applied for and was accepted into civil service, and I spent 19 years in spent, civil service and retired in 2000.

Not hearing you.

EURE: Thank you for being my co-host. I do that sometimes, but I keep moving. But you talked about your growing up in Mississippi and then moving several times. What was that like adjusting and making new friends and all of that, from Mississippi to, until you get to the Navy?

BYRD: Well, I guess it was my personality. It didn't move me too much. You know, I made friends quickly; I was that kind of a guy. My mama always said I was very hyper, so it was easy for me to transition. But growing up in Mississippi, you know, it's a rural part of my book, growing up in Mississippi, you've got cotton chopping and cotton picking and hog slaughtering, the whole rural thing, you know, that the people do in the South. And it got, they came out with the cotton gin, a cotton picker and took the jobs away from all of us who were hand pickers, hand cotton pickers. So, we had to look further for work. So, my family moved to Gary, Indiana, where the steel mills were, and that's, that was the reason we moved to Gary.

EURE: Yeah, when I think of Gary, Indiana, I think about the Jackson 5 for some reason.

BYRD: Yeah, I was a little bit before the Jackson 5.

EURE: OK, and, and, and then what made you decide to join the Navy?

BYRD: Well, it's a funny thing, but I was living in Ann Arbor with my aunt and oldest brother, and he hadn't been too long gotten home from the Korean War. And one day I got a letter from the U.S. Army, and so, it was a draft notice. And I showed it to my brother, and he said, "Wow." He said, "That's a draft notice, and the Army's gonna come and get you in a couple of weeks." And I said, "What are you talking about?" He said, "Well, they're gonna come and take you into the Army." And he said that, "You better, you're not Army material. You better go down and try to join the Air Force."

So, I went down and tried to join the Air Force, and they had waiting list and you couldn't get in for several months. So, I, I came back home, I'm skipping and happy and told my brother, "I can't go into the Air Force for a few months." He said, "You better go down and talk to the naval recruiter because the Army's gonna come and get you in a couple of weeks." So, I went down and talked to the naval recruiter, and he said he could take me the next day. So, that is history, the rest is history.

EURE: That's fascinating. I didn't know that they would come and get you.

BYRD: Oh, yeah. If you didn't bother, if you didn't go yourself, they would come get you.

EURE: So, tell us about that experience. Did you get to travel around the world? Or what was that whole Navy experience like in the beginning? This is gonna take a while, so let me interrupt you for one minute for the audience, to let you know, if you have any questions or comments, you can put them in the chat, and we will, we will answer them, you know, throughout the show. Go ahead, Shedrick.

BYRD: OK. Yeah, fortunately, I was in the Navy, but I didn't do a whole lot of sailing, but I've been around the world, practically, you know, on those six-month cruises here and there. And the biggest part of my career was here in Norfolk. I was stationed here from '62, except for three years, '64 to '67, I was stationed in Sasebo, Japan, on a small ship of the Gaussian ship. And then I came back to Norfolk after three years there, and they, they sent me to, I got stationed at Anti-submarine Warfare Force staff, and then, they sent me from there, after three years, to Fighter Squadron 74, and Fighter Squadron 74 embarked on board the Forrestal and then the USS America. And on the USS America, we made a, a cruise, 10-month cruise to Vietnam. And when I got, came back from Vietnam, I got orders to the 5th

Naval District here in Norfolk, and I spent six years on the staff of the 5th Naval District and retired from the Navy in 1978.

EURE: And Norfolk is a wonderful place. But we have a question in the chat now about your book.

BYRD: OK.

EURE: It's from Dr. Chris O'Riordon-Adjah. He's the department head for Engineering at Wake Tech. He wants to know when was the book published, and which part of your life is covered in the book – or all of it.

BYRD: Yes, the book was published in 2004, and now, it covers most of my life. I would say that it covered my social life up until I joined the Navy. That's the, the, it's, it covered my life up until the, the Navy. And then, from there, it covered my career, the rest of my career. My social life and then my career, starting with the Navy, and that's the beyond part of the book.

EURE: Now, did you used to play pool in your early years?

BYRD: Yes. When I was in Gary, Indiana, I guess I'm blessed with talent because I didn't practice it. But for some reason, I was a good pool shooter, and I was considered the best young pool shooter in the city of Gary, Indiana. And I, I, you know, and I hustled, I made me a hustle. Living in the ghetto, I just wanna make this little analogy here, living in the ghetto, if you don't have a, a talent, a reputation, you, you gonna be the prey. So, you either have to be a pimp, a drug pusher, a prostitute or a thug. You have to have a reputation, and my reputation was shooting pool. So, I was set free for being able to shoot pool, so that was my hustle.

EURE: That sounds very interesting. Did you do that in bars, pool halls, where were you when you were doing that?

BYRD: Yeah, we had a major pool hall on Broadway there in Gary, Indiana, one of the main Black pool halls in the area. And they had a number of pool halls, but that was one of the bigger ones and, and a major one, I believe. And I became friendly with the rack-man there, and he saw me shooting pool, and he starts backing me. So, the way he had it set up was that, if I win, he would take half of the winnings. If I lose, he'd take the whole thing, and it'd

be on him. And I moved from place to place shooting pool. Most of it was minor stuff, though.

Every now and then, I had big games, but most of it was small stuff. You know, we shoot for a quarter – rotation for a quarter, eight-ball for a quarter, nine-ball for a quarter – but then they had the, they had the pool hustlers. Most of them were from Chicago, and they had their sticks and they moved around, and that's how they made their living. So, I used to hustle the pool hustlers because I was young and they didn't think I could shoot pool. And I probably couldn't beat them, but I'll shoot them, brother. But I could psych them out and end up winning money from them most of the time, and they'd get upset, and then the thugs would come in and protect me.

EURE: Well, I don't play pool that well, but I know math is involved and angles, so you had to be smart to be able to play. And we have another question for you. OK, this is from, I don't know. This says, "Brother-in-law, when did you discover you had a talent for writing?"

BYRD: I guess it goes back to, I was in the Navy, this was in 1967. I had just come back from Japan, and I was assigned to Anti-submarine Warfare Force, and that's another story, but that was the start of my career right there. But anyhow, I got a job with the Virginian-Pilot newspaper as a wire room chief. And I had this old editor, South Carolina, the North Carolina editor would come down. I had, I worked from 5 to midnight in, in the wire room, and every night, he would come down about 8 o'clock, and I would have my lunch by then, and he would come down and share his lunch, I mean have his lunch, and he we would share stories and everything. And he saw a grammar book on my desk – I studied grammar – and he saw a grammar book on my desk, and he looked at me and said, "You ever thought about writing?" I said, "No, sir." He said, "I bet you'd make a good writer." I said, "Yes, no sire, I'm not interested." He said, well, during those days, Admiral Zumwalt was changing and revolutionizing the Navy, he was changing uniforms and doing all kind, kinds of stuff. And now, he said, "Why don't you write an article about Admiral Zumwalt?" And, and I did and brought it back to him, and he was, boy, he was taking that article all over the mail room, showing it to other writers and stuff. He said, "We're gonna publish this as soon as I get back." He was getting ready to go on vacation for a couple days, and he says, "Soon as I get back."

By the time he got back, The Los Angeles Times had published a story about Zumwalt. May not have been as good as my story, but yeah, published. They had published a story about Zumwalt that was a front-page story. So, therefore, it killed my story. When you get a front page like that, it kills your story. So, it killed my story. So, he, he came back – I'm trying to

make this as short as possible – but he came back, and he said, “Why do you not want to be a writer?” I said, “Well, I don’t relish going on the police beat.” Back in those days, you know, we see it today on film, but back in those days, you go on the police beat, you see them beating up Black people and everything. You gotta write a story about it. I didn’t relish that. So, I thought I didn’t relish going on the police beat. He said, “Well, everybody at the plant, whether they be journeymen or, or the interns, they have to go to the police beat for six months. I said, “No, I’m not interested.”

About two weeks later, he came back and said, “You like sports, don't you?” I said, “Yes, sir.” He said, “How would you like to be the sports writer?” He said, I said, “No, sir.” He said, “Why not?” I said, “I don’t, I like my job that I got. I don’t want to move.” He said, “Well, if you don’t do well, the boys on the desk up there, they’ll help you. If you don’t do well as a sports writer, then you can always come back to the wire room.” And I had nothing to lose, so I said OK. So, and that’s how I got into writing stuff, starting with sports correspondent.

EURE: And in the military, I know you worked with HR.

BYRD: Yes.

EURE: How was that com, and I’m, I want to really get to how you transitioned to civilian life from the military, and did that really help you.

BYRD: Well, I can tell you that very quickly. I was stationed at Com, Com 5, the 5th Naval District here in Norfolk on the naval base. And that’s like the mayor’s office for the Navy for a 50-mile mile radius. It’s like the mayor’s office, and I was the human resources, they created a billet, there was race relations going on those days, and I was in race relations. And now they created a billet, human resources, and I had just made E-7, and they put me in that billet, and, and it was dealing with the community, you know, with the mayor’s office and United Way, all of these organizations. So, it was like I was a civilian anyhow during those six years that I was at the 5th Naval District. And so, transferring to civilian life was a piece of cake.

EURE: Good. Yeah, because we know Norfolk is run by the Navy. And then you went to Norfolk State. What, what was that like?

BYRD: When I was at Norfolk State, I was an old student, you know, and going to night school. And, you know, I’ve always been, you know, jovial and just had a good time going to school and was, you could talk to the professors because I was as old as most of them or

older. So, you know, it just kind of enjoyed life going those days, and I, I wasn't afraid to ask questions about certain things that I had, didn't understand or something. So, I felt pretty good, really.

So, I spent 10 years in total going to school, night, taking night classes really.

EURE: Oh, that's wonderful. And that's something that all colleges need to do. We have to cater to all of the generations that are interested in college, especially now when we're going through transitions with jobs, too.

BYRD: Yeah.

EURE: Now tell us, I mean, it's a lot of stuff, you know, to ask you, but we're not going to deal with the [indecipherable]. We wanna go to your public relations position with the CIAA. How did that come about?

BYRD: Well, very interesting. I had just gotten, well, no, I had got, I was at Com 5, I told you, I was working with the community when my ship came back with my fighters from my, from Vietnam. I was stationed, I was living on the base, I was living at the chief's quarters on the base, and this was 1966. One night up there, and a knock came on my door, my barracks door, and I opened the door, and it was the commissioner for the CIAA and the supervisor of officials and the supervisor of officials and I was stationed together. We played basketball together, you know, and he did some coaching, and we, so we knew each other and we had some experience. And I guess he had told the commission about me being a writer for the, the Virginian-Pilot.

So, they came to visit me. We sat down and had a chat, and the commissioner asked me if I would be a, that would be the public relations for, do public relations for them. And I said, "Well, how much you gonna pay me?" And he said, "Well, we don't have money. You know, our funds are very low." And he said it would be a part-time position, you know. I, I said, "Well, you have to give me something, don't you?" Well, he and Danny, Danny Dawson was the supervisor, and he and the commissioner talked for a few minutes. And so, they came up with the idea that they could offer me \$100 a month, plus all my expensive for visiting the various schools in the conference and everything.

And so, that, I, that was in '76, and I, I, I the first thing that I did that, they didn't know how to get their halftime scores on the radio and during those times. And so, anyhow, I, the first thing I did was called all of the sports information directors from, I think we had 12 schools,

together for a two-and-a-half-day conference at Elizabeth City State University. So, I called them together, and I had the, the writers from Norfolk, the sports writers from Norfolk that I knew and some of the guys from North Carolina that I knew to do the conference for me, you know, talk to the people and train, tell them how they could get their information into the press and everything. And found out that it wasn't as hard as they thought it was, and it didn't have to look like they thought it should and so forth and so on.

So that was the start of it, and then I went on to work for them for about a year and a half, maybe, as a part time, and then I retired in '78, and they didn't have a full-time position ready, and, and Bob Norman, the commissioner, told me, asked me if I would stay with them for, until July, and, and I told him no. I said, "I got too many responsibilities. I need a full-time job. You know, having retired from the Navy, I needed a full-time job, so I can't wait until July." So, that's when I went to work the Newport News Shipyard.

EURE: OK. Thank you. And the CIAA, for people who may not know, is the oldest conference of historically Black colleges and universities in the United States. It's quite popular now.

BYRD: The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

EURE: Athletics, what did I say? Well, the Central Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

BYRD: Yeah.

EURE: Now, tell us a little bit about some of the civic organizations. So, now we can talk about Omega Psi Phi a little bit, and tell us what you do with them and what, what do they do.

BYRD: OK, civic organizations. Well, let me tell you, the first thing that I did, let me go back to the Navy. The first thing I did when I got my job on the naval base, that being the mayor's office, I had quite a bit of clout there in the job that I was in, so I opened the base up for social activities for Black civilians because, at that time, you know, they had all of these, the Navy used to host foreign ships, and they had these big parties and everything, but you never saw a Black face. So, I talked to the admiral, and he didn't realize it, but then we did a quota system, that anytime a foreign ship would come in and they were gonna host them, you had to have at least 10 black people. You know, these were people like the heads of colleges and the head of the Black bank and, and principles of high schools and so forth and so on. That, those were the quality of people that we would invite to those functions because this was, most of those functions was for O6 officers and captains and admirals

and so forth. So, I bridged, wanted to bridge that gap and also offer an opportunity for people like, you know, Black people who were in, and I can't think of the organization right now, Stop. Stop Organization, to come out and do their wares, especially during Black History Month. And they'd come out and do their wares, and we had a Black mayor, had him to come out and speak, you know, knowing Black history, doing Martin Luther King's birthday and so forth.

So, so I kind of opened that up, and also, they didn't have Black products in the Navy Exchange, and I worked with the, it happened to be an O6 Black captain that was in the exchange. We got together, and we started, we got Black products in the, in the Navy Exchange there in Norfolk.

So, those were a few things that I did. I worked with the United Way as a civilian side, and I was on their allocation panel, and I think I was the first Black on the United Way allocation panel here locally in Norfolk, and I was able to get in the Black community organizations some monies. They, at the time, they, they were, you know, they weren't getting a whole lot of money, but I, I was showing them how to. I would go out to the community centers and show them how to write a proposal, you know, instead of, our community organizations, they seem to wanna beg for money. And I said, "No, you demand money. You don't beg for it from the allocation panel. You tell us what you want and what you need, and you demand it."

So, I did that, and I guess there's a number of things, too many to probably talk about now, but you wanted to know how I got into the fraternity, Omega Psi Phi.

EURE: Yes.

BYRD: Well, I was, you know in an organization with one of the Q's, they called him Mr. Q, Charles Quinlan. We were good friends, and he brought me in. He sponsored me for coming into in '90, 1990. He sponsored me for coming in to the organization, and once we got in the organization, one of the biggest things that I did, I guess, was me and another frat brother put, kicked off the Black Male Academy for young, Black males, and we did programs like etiquette and so forth and so on. And other than that, I just told jokes with the guys.

EURE: OK. Well, I asked about that because one of your fraternity brothers, Derek, introduced you or the idea of me having you. And you're together in the American Legion or some other type of organization?

BYRD: Yeah, I'm, I'm a American Legion, member of the American Legion Post 5 here in Norfolk. It's the oldest Black post in the American Legion in, in Norfolk, in Norfolk. And so, I've been with them for about 20 years or some 25 years.

EURE: Wonderful. And tell us about, recently you donated some money to Norfolk State, didn't, didn't you?

BYRD: Yes. Well, I started an endowment for athletics. My wife has an endowment for education at Norfolk State, but I wanted to do one for athletics. So, I, we donated \$10,000 this year for, to start the endowment. It matures at \$25,000, but, and I plan to, you know, I, I had agreed to donate \$5,000 a year, but I'll probably go ahead and pay it out to its maturity and now try to encourage others to come and do endowments for the school. I, I like athletics, but, you know, whatever they want to do the endowment for. As a matter of fact, we went to the basketball game last night, the last game that Norfolk State played. Took my, my daughter and my granddaughter out with me, and we enjoyed it and, and met with the president. Matter of fact, they took pictures with us.

WURE: Wow. And, and, and congratulations and thank you for challenging all of these HBCU graduates and others. You should donate to your alma mater or whatever school.

BYRD: Yes. Yes. They need your money.

EURE: And we have another question for you.

BYRD: OK.

EURE: All right. "Mr. Byrd, how did marriage change your, change you professionally?"

BYRD: Oh, it settled me down, and my wife, I got a very smart wife, well-educated. So, you know, when I go on the wrong track, she tells me how to right it. Matter of fact, she's the editor for most of the articles that I write, and she was the editor for my book. So, that's, you know, she got me on a professional kind of track because, you know, I was kind of a loosey-goosey, you know, ghetto-ish type.

EURE: Well, one thing I learned when I first met you virtually yesterday is your wife is quite a reader because I saw lots of books in your office, and you said she has way, way more than you.

BYRD: Yes. You should see her office. You can hardly get in there with the books. You got bookshelves all around the whole wall.

EURE: OK. Did you meet her at Norfolk State or ...?

BYRD: Well, yeah. Now, that's another interesting. I was in my job at the 5th Naval District. I was put in charge of all the cultural programs that they had, you know, American, Martin Luther King's birthday, Black History Month, Asian history, women's month. So, I was in charge of all the programs, and so I was looking for speaker. I had consolidated most of the bases, local bases, so we can have bigger crowds at Martin Luther King's, at our activities, I should say, Black history activities. And now, so, I was looking for a speaker for Martin Luther King's birthday, and somebody suggested that I have Dr. Bessant from Norfolk State. She was a good speaker, I have heard, to be my speaker for Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday presentation.

So, I did, and I became, I, she came to the base to be a speaker, and I think that that day, we had, in the theater, we had about 1,300 people, and, and there were several admirals there, and I was sitting between the admirals and everything, and I was next to my boss, a two-star admiral. And she got up there, and she talked. And the admiral looked at me and touched me on my knee and said, "Chief." He said, "Who is that? Who is that speaker?" I said, "That's Dr. Bessant from Norfolk State." He said, "Boy, she's a feisty little woman." "Yes, sir." He said, "Did you invite her to lunch?" I said, "No, sir." He said, "Well, see if she can have lunch. Let's have lunch with her. I'd like to talk to her father." So, that's, that's the issue there.

EURE: That's serendipity. You were in the right place, the right time.

BYRD: Yeah, that's right. Looks like I've been in the right place, right time most of my life.

EURE: And we're running out of time, but I want you to tell us how can people get your book if they, is it Amazon?

BYRD: Yes, you can go on Amazon and Google, you can google it. Go on Amazon and google it, and it's, I forgot my publisher already [indecipherable]. OK, yes, I mean Xlivris, yeah. Actually, so it's not hard to find. You, you put "The Mississippi Byrd" up, it's gonna pop up.

EURE: OK.

BYRD: Yeah.

EURE: Well, I am certain that a lot of people would want you to come and talk with their students. And I'm gonna try to connect you with our veterans. They did have some things going on, and they may be in this, this function, and if not, for the audience, this will be live, you can view this online on YouTube later today, and it'll be up there perpetually.

So, I think, for you, Mr. Byrd, is what would you give advice-wise for young people that might consider joining the military, and how can it benefit them or not?

BYRD: Well, the military structured my life. It was the best thing that ever happened to me, I think. And it was because of discrimination and racism that I was successful. And now, the thing that I would tell you about the military is that, when you go into the military, you, this is not only the military, this is in life, you have the Black people that have not been able to stand rejection. We, you know, we grew up, and we were always protective of ourselves and not able to stand rejection. You have stand rejection and not show it and know when to hold them and know when to fold them. When you run into a door and the door is made of steel and you can't get in, you don't go. And if it's made of wood and you think you can get in, you knock it down and move on in. In other words, know when to hold, know when to fold. Be able to stand rejection. Do the best job can at all, at all times, and I think you will have a good future. But the thing is, don't let rejection spoil your dreams.

EURE: Right. And the military certainly has been at the forefront of a lot of the integration efforts in the United States. And tell us what you think about what's going on now with the con, the idea of taking off the Confederate names off of bases. These are not Army, I mean Navy bases. They're mostly Army.

BYRD: Yeah. They should have come off a long time ago. If it was left up to me, they wouldn't be there today because I would have gotten rid of them a long time ago. So, you know, they don't do anybody any good except the white, racist man.

EURE: OK. Well, if we don't have any other questions, I would like you to just tell us anything that we may have missed because I know you have a lot more to share. So, you can take the last few minutes just to tell us what you want us to know.

BYRD: Yeah. I just wanna say a couple of things, what structured my social life, I think, and what structured my career, if I can just take a few minutes. I wanna tell this story about

when I was about 12 years old living in Leland, Mississippi. And everybody go downtown on Saturday nights to shop and everything, and my mother used to take me downtown with her, and she always held me by the hand because I was hyper, you know, and jumping around, skipping and everything. So, she always held me by the hand. But when a white person come along, white people, a white couple or a white person, she would pull me into the road and let them pass, and then we'd go back on the sidewalk. And I never quite understood that. So, one day, she tried to pull me into the road, and I wouldn't let her and she almost snatched me into a coma. And I got the worst beating that I've ever gotten in my life. I cried twice from that beating. I cried when she whipped me, and I guess about 15 to 16 years later, I cried because I found out the reason why she did that.

She was losing, she was, she was a proud woman. She was losing her pride and dignity to save my life because that was soon after Emmett Till, you know. And I was one of those candidates that would probably, you know, be an Emmett Till type. That structured my, my social life, and I start thinking, you know, respect them better. And that's when I said know when to hold and when to fold.

Career wise, I got stationed, I had orders to Anti-submarine Warfare Force in Norfolk, and when I, I was the staff yeoman, back in those days, the staff duty was crème de la crème, and no black people were in staff positions of leadership, you know. So, I was this, the staff yeoman. I was gonna have to be a good, be responsible for the staff office, and when I got there, I took my orders to the lieutenant – I was clean, man, I had my whites and all, I was decked out – you know, I ran into the lieutenant's office and put my orders on his desk and introduced myself. He looked at my orders, he looked at me, he looked at my orders, he looked at me. And I said, "Can I go around and meet the staff?" I guess he didn't have nothing else to say, so he said, "Yeah." So, he went and I went and met the staff. We didn't have computers back in those days, and they had a room with about 10 typewriters in it and 10 white women in there typing. So, I went in there and I was grinning, in and I said, "Hey, I'm your new boss." And one of the, two of the women ran out of the room crying. And I didn't realize until the next day why they left, ran out of the room crying. So, the lieutenant told me, he said, "They don't wanna work, they don't wanna work for a Black man. That's why they left crying." So, they had to take me out of that job and put me down in the Analysis Division – you know, no job.

So, the guy that took my job in staffing was a white boy, and we became friends. And every day, we'd go to the EM Club and have lunch and then drink until 3 and then go back to work and check out. And he said, I said, "One day, Ernie, we're gonna be alcoholics if we keep

this up.” He said, “Well, we need jobs so that’s OK.” That’s when I got with the Virginian-Pilot.

EURE: And we didn’t talk about the Norfolk Journal Guide or the New Journal now. But we do have some comments before I let you do that.

BYRD: OK.

EURE: Lamarr Minor, “Very good job, uncle. Love you.”

BYRD: How about that.

EURE: Kyra McLoyd, “This was very informative, Uncle Shed.”

BYRD: Oh, wow. How about that.

EURE: Josie George, “Mother knows best.” She works at Wake County.

BYRD: OK. All right, OK.

EURE: So, thank you.

BYRD: Yes ,sir.

EURE: Oh, another one, from Wake Tech ILC Tutoring. “Thank you so much for sharing. Your experiences teaches us, teach us how far we’ve come as a country and the ways to move forward despite institutionalized racism.” Thank you, ILC.

BYRD: Yes.

EURE: OK, so you got a lot of comments in the end.

BYRD: At least five people.

EURE: But you always, oh, buy his book. And Sarah, could you put that in, she put it up once, but if she could just share that with the audience one more time. And you can get it from Amazon, “The Mississippi Byrd” by Shedrick Byrd. All right, you have any closing statements, Mr. Byrd.

BYRD: No. I appreciate you inviting me to your show. It's been an enjoyable 30 minutes or so, however long. I, I can talk for hours, so this really was a challenge for me to restrict myself. So, but I enjoyed it. Thank you so much for inviting me.

EURE: And, and, and the link is also in the chat, so the audience is able to click it. And it's live, and they can order the book directly. So again, thank you for coming, and we'll probably have you back again.

BYRD: Well, I'm happy to come back any time.

EURE: And thank you, audience, for joining, and we'll meet you again next month on the second Thursday in March.