



Conversations w/Tino

Guest	Ernie Stevens III
	Councilman
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Airdate	Thursday, September 28, 2017

Tino Magnatta: Hello and welcome to another episode of GT Radio. Conversation with mwah, myself, Tino Magnatta. And a whole bunch of other people out there. Today we have a very special guest, and a good friend of mine. A great leader, from a family that is just amazing. Ladies and gentleman, Mr. Ernie Stevens III, also known as E Three. How's it going Ernie.

Ernie Stevens: Hey man, how are you doing? Thanks for having me on the show, man. It's an honor. It's a pleasure.

Tino Magnatta: No problem. Let's just cut to the chase here. Because I know, I've wondered, where does the the E Three thing come from. I know that your grandfather was the original Ernie Steven's right?

Ernie Stevens: Right.

Tino Magnatta: And what, he was pretty active in politics too, himself. He was a major man.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah, he's definitely ... Honestly, I have to say, my great grandmother, Maria, was a major component to his legacy. She really started the legacy, and arguably, ancestors before that. It's a really strong family lineage, and that I'm very proud of. I can go on and on about my great grandmother, my grandfather. Loved them very much.

The thing with Ernie, I got to tell you, go even farther back. The original Ernie Stevens. According to my great grandmother, Maria Hinton, his mother of course, there was a boy in her class at the boarding school that she went to, that was named Ernie. And she thought the boy was really cute. She always said, "I'm going to name my first child after this boy." Of course she didn't marry this kid, she just remembered him, and when he was born, she was trying to think of a name and that's who she thought of. That's where the name Ernie came from.

And then of course, my father Ernie Jr., and then myself, Ernie III. The E Three moniker came from my license plate when I went off to college. I didn't know what to get. And we had personalized plates here at the Oneida Nation. I couldn't think of anything more unique, so I said E and the a roman numeral three. And it's pretty simple. Easy to remember too. I couldn't go and do any drive off at the local gas stations, because it's pretty easy to remember.

Tino Magnatta: That's a good one.

Ernie Stevens: [inaudible 00:02:57] of course. That's where E Three comes from, and always had the license plate. Throughout the years, it kind of naturally, people just started calling me E Three, on a personal level and a professional level. It's kind of funny how it just kind of stuck. That's the-

Tino Magnatta: That what you remember, like you said, and it sounds good. You mentioned boarding school, right?

Ernie Stevens: Yeah.

Tino Magnatta: Tell us a little bit about that. Was that during the whole ... What year was that? Was that like in the 40's or 50's or?

Ernie Stevens: Let's see here. I might get these dates wrong.

Tino Magnatta: That's okay.

Ernie Stevens: I believe ... My great grandmother, she went to all of them. She went to the original Oneida boarding school here at Oneida when was she was just a child. And again, I can on about these stories, and we don't have the time in the show to do it. I'll sum this up the best I can. She had gone onto Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Did some time at Haskell. The dates, I don't remember the exact dates. I actually have these dates in the stories, in the video interviews, which I'm very happy that I got those. I should probably review those.

Of course, it was that time. I want to say right around I think 19 ... The late teens through 20, 1920 I believe, was when she was at [Has-School 00:04:32]. We're talking a long time ago.

Tino Magnatta: A long time ago, yeah.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah. I want to say ... I don't want to give any dates. I know I'll get them wrong. She's been on this earth, of course when she passed away, she had been on this earth for 103 years.

Tino Magnatta: Wow. Incredible.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah. She went through all that, went through the Great Depression, and all those things.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, great people. Your grandfather was very active in public service for Native Nations. Your dad is the President of NIGA. A Chairman of NIGA. Brandon sits on the Vice Chair of Oneida. You're on the development committee of Oneida. Your sister is involved also with the helping Native Nations. What do you attribute that to? Where does that come from?

Ernie Stevens: The best way I can explain it, it's in our blood. It's in our genes. All through my life, I've always had a saying that we all have our own skills and abilities and our ways of doing things. Ultimately, it always comes back to number one, taking care of our families. And number two, helping our communities and whatever we can do after that, we help all Native Nations. I think that's just hard to explain, except to say that it's in our genes. Something that just gets passed down, and having grown up and seeing even to what limited extent I've seen, with my grandfather.

I've heard a lot of stories. My own personal experience is very very limited to what he actually accomplished, even going back to his service as a Marine, in the Korean War. Just a lifelong ... A lifetime of leadership and service. It just kind of spills down more or less, to know it happens on purpose, it just happens indirectly. It's just who we are.

We follow the same path, we just leave our own individual footsteps. That was my saying. Yeah, it's just the way it is. Looking at my own children, they're already doing those things. They're already their own individual leaders, and they're growing fast. It's just amazing that ... It just proves to me that it's taught more or less, but I think at the end of the day, like I said, it's just in our blood.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, it passes from one generation to another. You have some great mentorship going on, not only in your own family, but in the whole Oneida Nations. There's a lot of great leaders that have come out of there. Rick Hill, and the whole, just everybody. It's a pretty amazing thing.

Ernie Stevens: Absolutely. Yeah. I think you probably may have heard some of these stories, but we grew up very very poor. I just had this conversation the other day with my father. Just kind of reminiscing, in the old days. But I always say, because of family, because of the rich community that we have here, we really were blessed and rich in that way.

We'd be out rest like, Ladysmith, or Haskell, wherever we were, struggling. We come home, we were just fine because we had family and people in this community. I could list a lot of people that were mentors, were helpers, were leaders. Yeah, you're absolutely right. It is blessed to be from this community. And this family, of course.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, and that sort of the scene that runs through most of Native Nations. A lot of the leaders that I've interviewed, where they came from and now where they are now, it's been a pretty incredible journey.

Tell us a little bit about, I know you just got elected to the Oneida Nation Development Committee. Tell us a little bit about that, the committee and your position, and all that.

Ernie Stevens: It's actually the Oneida Business Committee. I'm an elected official, of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin. That's what we call our committee. I was elected in July. It was my first time being elected to this. For the longest time, I go back to the same ... We all walk the same path and leave our own individual footprints. I saw the direction my brother was going into, my father had gone into, and I had other things that I wanted to do. I don't regret that. I spent a lot of time doing a lot of different things in my life and my career.

What really what that did for me, coming into this election, is that I had a very diverse set of skills and backgrounds. We're also raised humble, so you go through life, from college education to professional experiences, and you

proactively teach yourself, or you seek out knowledge to be as educated and knowledgeable as you can.

My grandfather, I have to go back to him, he had a saying he used to say. He say, "We're put on this earth to learn as much as we possibly can, to prepare our spirits for the next world." I just think that's very powerful. It just says a lot. You can think and ponder on that for a long time. I just got ... He would tell me that when I was a child. That stuck with me, and I always go back to that when I look at education and knowledge.

Coming into this election, I wear my resume my sleeve. I have a very diverse set of skills, for the first time thought, it was time. Time to pursue this and public service to my community. A lot of people have wanted me to. I've had a lot of people I respect a great deal, sort of push me into it. Of course, including my father that wanted me to do this. Up until now, it just wasn't my thing.

Then I pursued it, campaigned, and by a very close margin, I was elected.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, that's pretty amazing. If you think about all the leaders in your family and what your family has done for Native Nations, it's pretty incredible. Just an incredible thing.

Give us ... You mentioned a little bit about growing up poor and all that. Give us a little bit more detail about your memories growing up. You talked about the community. How was it, because when you grew up, it was before the casinos were there, right?

Ernie Stevens: Yeah. Again, I recall these years and these dates. I can go back as far as remembering the first Bingo hall used to be. I do have those memories. I guess if I go back to childhood, I do remember a lot more than my parents probably realize. What my memory tells me is, again, yeah we grew up poor but we were rich in family and in love. From Haskell to Mount Senario College, I'm sorry, Ladysmith. My father's work as a sheriff deputy, Rice Lake. All these different memories and different points in our lives, from having a house was actually quite nice, that we were renting, to being evicted and moving to a house ... You look back now, and it's like, you just can't believe you lived in this place.

All these different things that you go through. When you recall how you felt at that time, you just were a kid. You were loving life. You had your ups and downs, and we had a lot of ... We had some different deaths in the family that are very painful for us, throughout the years. For the most part, a lot of good memories.

That's what I think about when I look back at that part of life. Then you come home to the Oneida community, and still struggling. That's really where I recollect the hard work that both my mother and father did to push to get us in advanced in our lives. And eventually, just have a little bit more comfort in life. Never were rich, ever, but always, like I said, always had that family. That's how

I look at it, as you just kind of learn from that. You learn hard work and discipline, and I learned it from my parents.

Now today, I look back, I'm very fond of my upbringing and my family history. There's nothing sad about it. Even if we're getting evicted out of houses every six months. I enjoyed my childhood.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, that's pretty amazing. Now, I know your dad and I spent quite a bit of time together, all the time, and he's very always talking about education. To get educated, go to university. And I'm sure there's some people out there that are listening all over the country.

Tell us a little bit about your view on that, and also what ... How that changed your life. When you went to school, and the schools that you went to.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah, again, my grandfather was always a steward for higher education. My father was as well, of course. It was all about self discipline and hard work. Getting your education, listening to your teachers. Learning, having an open mind. Having that open mind, and open heart, really, is how I was able to learn throughout my life. I go back to that line, we're put on this earth to learn as much as can.

When I think of it that way, it just makes it such a more diverse approach to learning. You go to school, go to college, and you say, "I want to learn this. This is the education I want to get. I want to be this when I grow up." Even though, I believe I had a pretty set path, in my college career. And of course, high school, and then other things. I still was very curious about a lot of things.

There was a period of time where I learned a lot of weather and climate and geography. I happen to know quite a bit in that area. I was, I think, six credits away from being where I could be a licensed meteorologist. I loved to write. I wanted to do films. I wanted ... I was kind of neglected that way, because I wanted to do so many things, and in the process, I just learned a lot about all these areas.

By the time I graduated, my degree was, I think it was Radio TV Film Communications, from UW Oshkosh. It was a second college I had transferred from UWM, to begin I was kind of picky too. If the program wasn't ... If I wasn't learning anything, I didn't want to waste my time.

I was always hungry for knowledge and education, and after college, I think what really attributed to my professional career was I didn't stop learning. I didn't stop teaching myself. I didn't seeking out knowledge. A lot I did by just jumping into different professions, and doing different things and different industries. I just wanted to learn about it.

That was always my approach, and still is. I'm still learning to this day. It's just a life long philosophy that it's not going to stop. It's not going to stop ever. That's that.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, it's pretty important. Education is so important to advance forward. If you think about it, in what the casino's have brought to the Native Nations is the ability for people to have access to education, when they never had access to that before. That's a pretty amazing thing.

Now I know that you've done a lot of work in the iGaming space, and you know a lot about it. Tell us a little bit about that space right now, and where we're at.

Ernie Stevens: Well, it's a very ... Kind of one of those things where it's still ... A lot of people are unsure of where it's going. I think that it's an industry, or sub-industry, if I may, that I've been involved in for the last nine, probably nine, ten years almost now.

There's a lot of changes that have gone through, and a lot of adjustments that have been made. Of course, it was a very successful industry overseas and in Europe. Now, we're at the situation where ... I'm in a situation where it's somewhat frustrating, but yet, inspired in a way. I've been talking about this for a long time. I've been talking to different individuals, of course, my father at NIGA and my own tribe. Just to kind of get ahead of it. Now we're in a situation where we have to prepare, we have to be ready. We don't know what's going to happen.

At the end of the day, there's opportunities out there. We have a lot of different companies that are, or even tribes, that are trying to do their own thing. I think it's going to be a unique situation it's going to have to take tribes banning together. I think through what's known as a tribal gaming network. That's one step towards a national network based economy.

Then you got things like crypto currency. You've got all the different things that are playing into it, and there's a lot of opportunities being created. Industries are coming together into this space. It's just because of all that's happened, it's very fast moving vehicle, and tribes have to be very careful and very thoughtful when they look at it. And now we're in a situation where we know we have to get involved.

We know we have to have a stake in it. You have to be proactive. You've got to put ourselves out there, and there may be risk involved. To me, it's a philosophical answer, but I've been barking it for years. I think I'm not surprised in how we're just now really sinking our teeth into this. We still have time, and I think that it's just going to take open mindedness and communication from the tribal gaming entities to the non-tribal entities and forge that partnership, much in the way we did when gaming first was formed. It's not that much different.

At the end of the day, we have to think of our tribal communities. We have to go back to that, and figure out, what's best for our people, across Indian country. Not an easy choice.

I don't have the answer, but that's my thoughts on that. I think I'll be involved in this for a long time. Because, like I said, I've been in it for a while. It's the future. I hope we're ready for it.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, it's always an advantage if you're ready for the next thing that's coming up. And I think that this space, that you're talking about, is definitely you don't know when it's going to happen. Laws can change. I just read an article today about pushing for gambling, sports betting being legalized. In some states it already is, but they want to expand that. You don't really know what's going to happen. I guess your message is be prepared, right?

Ernie Stevens: Be prepared, it's not too late, but it's time to be assertive as well. We can't sit and watch anymore. We got to start making some moves.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, get setup. Get your infrastructure done and everything.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah.

Tino Magnatta: Give me a little bit of a feel of what your feelings are for your generation, in Native Nations. How do you see your peers and your generation, and what should they be doing to move forward in the right way for the future?

Ernie Stevens: I think just even looking at this our new business committee here, Oneida. My brother's vice chair. We have Daniel Guzman King who's a newly elected councilman as well. We have a young group, of course Tehassi Hill, our chairman. I think that we all understand. I think we all know how to answer that. I think we do it by just leading. That's not even just in our day to day function, on the OBC, but just in life. From the culture standpoint, from the family standpoint.

I expect them, my peers, to do those things. You lead by example. I have these other people in this community that I look up to as well, from all ages. A lot of them peers, stuff that they do, and that they know how to do. I want to do that, I want to learn that. I think at my particular generation, it's a very, as I call it, shared learning generation. We're all very good team workers, so to speak. A lot of people come together in this community alone, to do things to get things done. It's really just that kind of inspires me.

You look back at the young kids, and you want them to do the things the same way that you did. But, they think differently. It's figuring that out, and figuring out how to cater that as best you can. All I can do is continue to learn, and continue to share knowledge as well. I think we have a very strong generation. Everybody works hard. Everybody has each other's back. That might just be a community thing. We're at a place where there now, we have to be the leaders.

We have to pick up some of our elder statements, or elder leaders, have spent so many years doing things. We have to kind of help. We have to take over at some point. Not take over, but carry our weight. At some point, carry the heavy weight.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, pass the baton.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah. We're ready. I'm ready. A lot of people around us are ready. You see so many amazing young leaders all across Indian country. I can name a lot of them. Maybe they're listening. There's a lot of them I look up to. I think Indian country's in good hands in that regard.

From all different industries. From government to gaming, to other potential future industries, that we face. I think we're in good hands. I think we're going to be just fine.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, and I mean, talk about an example. The elders, with what they had to work with, with what they've accomplished, is pretty extraordinary. All the elders and leaders in Native Nations.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah, and that's just it. They did all the hard work. They've done so many things. Blood, sweat, and tears. And it should get easier for every generation. Everyone has their struggles, but that's just it. There are so many people you can talk about and mention. Most I probably don't even know of. But yeah, just subconsciously push in their honor. All the work they did to make it easy for you to do the same things, for your generation.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah. And it's like you said, they had a pretty hard blood, sweat, and tears, right?

Ernie Stevens: Yeah. So, but it's [crosstalk 00:27:38]

Tino Magnatta: Now let's a ... Go ahead.

Ernie Stevens: I was just going to say, I spent a lot of time interviewing a lot of those kind of folks too. Leaders throughout the Indian country. From Billy Mills, to ... I can think of so many different people. Those interviews, you learn a lot, by hearing those stories. That's an important part too, Indian people are humble.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, they are.

Ernie Stevens: When we go through life and have all these accomplishments, you don't just go talk about them. But if you ask, we'll be happy to tell you. We'll tell you a story. That's where I learn a lot about that. Of course, my father knows a lot of about different people. Some my own family members. You learn about that, that's a big part of it. It inspires your leadership as well. Knowing that history.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, a lot of those elders they went through a pretty rough road, that's for sure. There's no question about that. Let's talk a little bit about the next generation.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah.

Tino Magnatta: What advice do you have for them? The ones that want to be leaders. The ones that want to break into the casino business. What advice do you have for them?

Ernie Stevens: I think I speak as generally as possible, but I think it's two main things. Number one, find your passion, find your skill. You have two things that go together, in that regard, use that. But be open to a lot of different things. I tell people all the time, don't say you want to do this or do that. Just know that you're going to grow up in life, your interests will change. You'll learn new skills. You'll do all different things. I say keep an open mind and open heart. But, find your skill, find your passion. You might be able to do a lot of different things in your life and continue to gain knowledge. Just learn learn and learn. Ask questions.

We've got Google now. I used to read a lot of books before we had Google, I read books. I think that's a valuable thing that I think we've lost. My kids, they read. I make sure that they read books, and don't spend time on their screens too much. That's one thing I think that just read books. Don't just look at the computers, so much knowledge. And talk to your elders. Just take the time, and spend some time with an elder. Not just an elder, even someone who has some knowledge to share. That's what's going to drive us and be successful in what we do.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, because there's such a wealth of knowledge out there. It's just a matter of going out and searching it out.

Ernie Stevens: Right. It's everywhere. It's crazy, this goes into a whole different discussion, but knowledge is literally everywhere. We won't go there, but when I talk about brain waves. The very thoughts that come into our minds. Sometimes, they're there because our brain is susceptible to that message. And if it's an idea, if it's a thought, a random thought or whatever. It seems random, but I think it's there because your brain caught onto it, and your brain pulled it out of the ether, out of the air, so to speak. Sometimes, that idea might change your life, or someone else's. Use those ideas, use those thoughts. That's just one thing, knowledge is literally everywhere.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, and the idea is king. The idea can change everything. If you're around the people who are creative and come up with ideas, especially the elders. They have such a vast pool of knowledge from all the years and all the struggles. They're the ones that they should turn to.

What's in your sights for the future? What are you looking to accomplish on the development committee? What's on your plate for the future?

Ernie Stevens: Here tonight, we're in a position, like I said before, very similar to what Indian county is facing, we've got to start making some moves. We got to start trying new things. We got to diversify. We've got to do it carefully. I'm looking at those areas. How do we, on a business side, advance our economic status, within and outside of gaming? But also, how do we sustain ourselves? How do we prepare ourselves our children, and our grandchildren, for the future? Through sustainable foods, sustainable living. All those things.

That kind of, without going into all the details of what I hope to achieve, as a councilman. It's really heavy in those areas. I'm not sure if I plan to be here long term. Six years, maybe six years at the most. Who knows? Maybe I'll do this for a long time. That's my goal. Our elections are every three years. I'm just focused on some of the business side of things. Getting some things done.

And the other hand, if I pursue other things. Like I said, I've got a lot of different goals and backgrounds and passions. Who knows? My future in front of me is a garden of forking paths. Which is what I believe.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah. There's a lot of options and it's very exciting. Definitely.

Let's open it up to some questions here. I know we have a few people on here, hang on a sec, let's see.

Ernie Stevens: Okay.

Tino Magnatta: Hello, welcome to GT Radio. Do you have a question for E Three?

Gully: Hey Ernie, how are you doing? This is Golly.

Ernie Stevens: Hey, how are you doing Golly?

Gully: Hey, I've got two questions for you. They're not related. The first question is how much pressure do you feel with your family heritage, and especially with the Ernie Steven's lineage, to kind of success... Do you feel pressure having that name? What do you feel about that? And then, do you think that if you didn't have that lineage, would you be doing something different?

Ernie Stevens: Yeah, so the first question, I wouldn't say I've ever felt pressured. I always kind of kept light hearted about it, and I've always said that having this name is both a gift and a curse. I say that of course, jokingly, but it can prove to be that sometimes.

At the end of the day, there's a lot of pride in that. Mostly from the family lineage that I come from. And, I like the name. I never thought of, oh what if I had a different name. Would that be different? I think to some extent, yeah, it definitely would be. Some of the opportunities that I've had, may not have been there. But I think that my life may have been different, but at the end of the day, I'm still who I am. I don't do anything to anyone's standards, per say. Even

though the standards are pretty similar to my father's and grandfather's and it's really not much different.

I think my life would have been different, if my name was you know, Johnny. I don't know. Never really thought of it. It's just my name. It does make you wonder, would I have gone and I think though, at the end of the day, I'm still me. I'm still guided by the same principals and passions. My life of service, and a life of just trying to help others through various means. Yeah, best I can answer that.

Gully: Okay. I have one more question. It's going to be the toughest question you're going to get today. You ready?

Ernie Stevens: I'm ready.

Gully: I'm assuming you're a Packers fan, so you can only answer one on this one. You can't give me a double answer. Your question is Brett Favre, or Aaron Rodgers. You get one choice. Who's going to be your quarterback?

Ernie Stevens: Oh. How much time do I got to make that decision?

Tino Magnatta: You got an hour glass sitting there?

Gully: That's who's playing tonight too.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah. It's ... Oh man, I can't answer that, man. I can't because one of my fondest memories is going to the game with my father or grandfather. And it was right ... It was the season where Brett Favre exploded. He ran in a touchdown and dove in, it was like a eight yard run. Just fearless and he dove in the end zone, for a game winning touchdown. It was this guy is a real deal. And he went on to become one of the best quarterbacks of all time.

Aaron Rodgers is undeniable. So, I don't know, man. Put it this way, for all the Patriots fans out there, they're going to say Brady versus Rodgers. It's definitely Rodgers.

Gully: But, that's not the question I asked.

Ernie Stevens: Right. That's the best what I can answer that, though.

Gully: I knew that was the toughest question you would get. I knew you wouldn't be able to give me an answer.

Ernie Stevens: It's tough. It's impossible to answer.

Gully: Anyway-

Ernie Stevens: I'll tell you this-

Gully: I'll give you a pass on that.

Ernie Stevens: Okay, but I will say this. For any of my Chicago Bear fans out there, listening right now, as we speak, I've got a slow cooker, cooking two bear roasts that we're going to eat at the game tonight. In honor of watching the Packers roast the Bears tonight.

Tino Magnatta: Wow. There you go. That's a good one. Thanks Gully, I appreciate it.

Let's see who else we got here. All right. Hello, this is GT Radio. You have a question for Mr. E Three?

Speaker 4: Yeah, E Three.

Ernie Stevens: Hey.

Speaker 4: It was pretty interesting when you mentioned that you had your kids read books. Try to keep them off the screen. So I just wanted to know, when you were younger, and just educating yourself, what kind of books did you read at that time? And what kind of books do you stress that your kids read now?

Ernie Stevens: Well, I guess it depends on how far you go back. When I was real little, I enjoyed the chose your own adventure books. I couldn't go back and redo things, because I had to have a fresh new story every time. I would have multiple books, and I had to read them all at once. There was only one adventure, when I read those books. I don't know if you guys remember those. I love reading those books.

One of my favorite books, of course, is The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton. That's a book that I make my kids read, and it's very interesting lessons in that book. Of course, one of my favorite movies too.

I always kind of ... I read a lot of different books. A few Steven Kings greatest's. My favorite, probably of all time, is a book called Omerta, by Mario Puzo.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, I know that book.

Ernie Stevens: Of course, the guy who wrote the Godfather.

Tino Magnatta: [crosstalk 00:41:12]

Ernie Stevens: Omerta, yes.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah I know that one.

Ernie Stevens: I love that book. I still dream that it's made into a successful film one day. But that's one I've read about five six times. I can go on. A lot of different books as I

get older. Actually, of course, I wrote a lot of short stories as well. I get inspiration from reading books. Trying to think. There's a lot of them.

My younger son, Daniel, who's nine. He likes to read the Diary of a Wimpy Kid books.

Tino Magnatta: Oh yeah, my son likes that too. Yeah, and did you see the movie? There was a movie too.

Ernie Stevens: We saw, I think there was like two or three of the older ones. We didn't see the newest one year.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, they'd love those.

Ernie Stevens: It's funny because ... We watched the movies, and they say, "Oh yeah," they refer things from the book, and how it was different, and how it was whatever. And it's the same thing I did, reading the book that's a movie. That's a little different, little better. Yeah, they enjoy it. We kind of went from making them read, to now they actually enjoy it. I'm glad to see that, because I enjoyed it.

Tino Magnatta: That's great. Thank you Sir, thank you.

Ernie Stevens: Thanks.

Tino Magnatta: Hello?

Ernie Steven Jr: Hello.

Tino Magnatta: Hello, hello. This is GT Radio, who do we have?

Ernie Steven Jr: Ernie Steven's Jr. The real Ernie.

Tino Magnatta: Ah, there you go.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah, I thought it recognized that voice.

Tino Magnatta: How are you my friend?

Ernie Steven Jr: How are you all doing today? I'm doing good. Good to hear you guys' voice.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, we're doing great. E Three is doing great. And we're having a good time listening to all the stories and his wisdom, and how highly he talks about your lineage and your family. I'm sure you have a question for him though, right?

Ernie Steven Jr: Well, that's kind of disguised my call as a question. It's kind of like my father, I talk, you listen kind of relationship. I just called to tell you how proud I am of my son. And how proud of I am of you, Tino, and our friendship. I think the message that you guys create here through your radio show, and the work that both you

guys do in your life, helps to not just moving Indian country forward, is good for our world as a whole.

I really just wanted to be able to tell you how proud I am of my son. He's only ... He's kind of a rookie, or whatever, you know he's only been on the council for a couple days, I suppose. He's got a long ways to go, and a lot to learn.

But, I think that it's important to know that, I might tease a little bit, but on a very serious side, Earnest Three has one of the toughest jobs in the whole world. I sat on the council 25 years ago, I went through the same experience he's going through. And learning a whole new world of advocacy, but being a veteran of helping people. Veteran in the community.

One of the things that Earnest really brings to the table, is really a key thing in this whole world today, is being a loving helping guiding light, as a father. My father is the greatest guy in the whole world. Still very much alive in the Oneida Nation nursing home. But for whatever reason, my parents separated there ways, and I was raised by my mother. T

hose values, the beauty of a father, is really important, and I'm really proud of Earnest in that way. It's real important for me to say that ... Earnest, well he's new or I tease about being a rookie, and getting baptized by fire, in this world of being a young councilman. He's been doing a lot of great things in our community and as a father and a parent, and a son, and a son. All of that stuff.

I think it's just, he's the right person for the job. His whole life is in front of him, and I think that it's important to know that the work of advocacy it never stops. There's no limits. I think that the Oneida Nation picked a good guy when they elected my son to the tribal council.

Tino Magnatta: Thanks Ernie, that's amazing. I have a question for you Ernie, Ernie Stevens Jr. Brett Favre or Aaron Rodgers?

Ernie Steven Jr: I don't even see the question. Aaron Rodgers is still on the football field. Brett Favre is probably the greatest quarterback that ever walked this earth. I'm a Brett Favre guy. We are all friends of the family. We love the Favre's. I held hands with Bonita Favre and prayed at her meal table down in Mississippi. They're beautiful people. They have a little close connection and a personal preference to them. But, I'm just getting ready to slip on my Aaron Rodgers jersey. So I'm not sure. Maybe it wasn't ... There's two sides.

We're blessed in Green Bay to have the best football team that has ever been. I think we won the most world championships. But don't get me started on the Packers.

Tino Magnatta: Don't get me started, okay. Well, chairman, thanks for calling in. And yes, your son is an amazing person. I'm glad to have both of you on the show. Enjoy your games.

Ernie Steven Jr: Okay. Tino, let me-

Tino Magnatta: We'll probably see you soon as G2E. I'll see you next week.

Ernie Steven Jr: Yeah, G2E. Let me just say this in closing.

Tino Magnatta: All right man.

Ernie Steven Jr: I guess this is Ernie's interview, maybe I filibustered it, but his grandfather sat on the council before I ever did. His brother's been on the council for now his fourth term. When I sat down with Earnest the other day, I really see a lot of my father in him.

One of the things is that I don't have is an amazing memory like he has. And to read books. Ernie senior could read a book in one night. That's what I said when I saw him. I guess, if I had a question, for Earnest Three, I would say to him, where does he see the Oneida community in the near future? What is his feelings about the amazing work, that he has to do, as a tribal councilman, with this new council he is working with? How does he feel about the future?

Ernie Stevens: Well, first of all, appreciate the words and comments. I think for one, I feel very ... I can't think of a better word, but confident. Somewhat comfortable, and yet inspired, but I know it's not going to be easy. I think that the future it looks good. I always do things from a long term perspective. One one hand, I'm doing what I had to do to make sure that things are functioning day to day. But with my left hand, I'm a lefty, by the way. On my left hand, it's about my kids, it's about their kids, it's about my grandkids, great grandkids. I'm doing those things in a bi-lateral fashion.

With regards to that and that philosophy, I feel really good. Number one, Tino was alluding to before, we have a lot of amazing leaders here at Oneida. A lot of ... You know many of them, more so than I do. I see leaders coming up behind us. To me, I feel comfortable in that. It's pushing and doing our work and doing our jobs. And ensuring that those come behind us have as much and hopefully more of a work ethic and continuing that.

At the end of the day, I feel very confident in our council. Our chairman's doing a great job. Of course, you know, our vice chair, he's doing a good job as well. Everybody's doing good. Everybody has their focuses. I personally, I don't believe in honeymoon's. I got elected, I got ready to work. I think that's what drives me, we take every moment as much time as we can get to push things forward. I do it with looking at my kids. Looking at the kids that I coach. Looking at my nieces and nephews. Looking at what kind of world are we going to leave them in. That's what drives me. I feel good that we're in a position to do that, because there's a lot of great people around us. It takes that teamwork. I think we'll be fine.

Ernie Steven Jr: Great, thank you Tino. Thank you son. My wife is here with me. We're traveling and it's again a great honor. There's nobody in this world that is more proud of our son than Cheryl Stevens. I'll tell you what, I get all the credit, because we share the name. But Cheryl Steven is the leader of our family.

Tino Magnatta: Great, say hi to Cheryl for us. And we'll see you both next week. Thank you Ernie. Thank you for calling in, really appreciate it.

Ernie Steven Jr: Thank you. All right, signing off.

Tino Magnatta: Go Packers!

Ernie Steven Jr: All right.

Ernie Stevens: All right. Go Packers!

Tino Magnatta: Okay. Let's see ... That was cool, eh?

Ernie Stevens: Yeah, that was a nice surprise.

Tino Magnatta: Love your dad, he's a great guy. Known him for a long time. Had a long of conversations-

Ernie Stevens: I got to tell you quick too, we were planning for this game tonight, we were planning a party for the game. My son, we're a hunter family. My wife and I both hunt. My kids hunt. He just went on a youth hunt, and he got a bear, a black bear.

Tino Magnatta: Wow.

Ernie Stevens: So we cut it up, all in our freezer. Yeah, it's great. It's our first one. I may never get a bear, and my son's 12 and he got a bear.

Tino Magnatta: That's amazing, man.

Ernie Stevens: We're going to have a ... Yeah. We're going to have a Packer party. Have a few friends over, family, and then I was going to make some bear fajitas, bear tacos, bear quesadillas. I'm a halfway decent-

Tino Magnatta: Wow that's amazing, dude.

Ernie Stevens: But then my son, Earnest, he wanted to go over to his grandparents house and we were going to cook at the house, and bring it there. He wanted to bring it to them. That was the plan, and realizing they were traveling. We had to take a rain check for that. We couldn't do that. But, we'll be feeding them some of that bear soon enough. Just anecdote.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, that's great, man. Love that. Got some more people here who want to ask some question, hang on a sec.

Ernie Stevens: Okay.

Tino Magnatta: Hello hello, welcome to GT Radio, how are you?

Niela: Hi! I'm great, how are you?

Tino Magnatta: Good, good, good. You have a question for E Three?

Niela: It was a ... mm-hmm (affirmative). Oh yes, of course. It was a really great interview I really enjoyed it. I just have one question. I was thinking what do you think needs to happen for a woman to be a more prominent position in gaming, as a very new woman in gaming, myself?

Ernie Stevens: Mm-hmm (affirmative). I think in my experience, for different industries. Touring, marketing, gaming. All those different industries I've worked in. Personally, I've noticed that some of the most skilled, knowledgeable, leaders in these industries are ladies.

I notice that because in my own community, at Oneida here, we're a matriarchal society. We, in the old days, and we still live this way ... But, our women picked our leaders. Our women lead us. They nurtured us, like my dad said, that was the same way for all families. That's just how I think. From my mom, to my grandma Marge, my grandma Louis, my great grandma Maria. So many amazing ... And of course, my sisters. My wife, we have a lot of amazing women leaders in our community. In this position, I was nominated by someone I look up to, Loretta Metoxen.

I think about that, I don't know how to answer that expect to say that there's a place for, in all these industries, for any industry, for the ladies across the country. I think that you're just naturally gifted. There's a natural energy and power that you hold, and we honor that. We think that way. I think that's to me, is what I see in individuals like that. You just see it, there's just more of a presence and a power. I think that's what God intended. That's the best way I can answer that.

Tino Magnatta: Great, great question. What was your name again?

Niela: Oh sorry, my name is Niela.

Tino Magnatta: Niela, nice to meet you Niela.

Niela: Very nice to meet you too, thank you guys so much.

Tino Magnatta: Thank you for calling, I really appreciate it.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah, great question.

Niela: Hopefully I will see you guys at G2E, too.

Tino Magnatta: Yeah, look us up, definitely. Definitely look us up. Thank you, have a good night.

Niela: Thank you, you too.

Ernie Stevens: Thank you.

Tino Magnatta: Okay. Well, that was really cool. We covered a lot. I guess you've got what I can say, just from knowing you, and knowing your whole family, is that you have a great path and a greater future coming up. And you're newly in this position, I know you're going to do great things. I hope to have you back on the show. And thanks so much for coming on the air. I really appreciate it Ernie.

Ernie Stevens: Well, anytime brother. Just let me know. And I'll be honored to do it again. Appreciate the time, and best to you and your family as well. And to Dolly and everybody over there. Hope to see you at G Two E. If not, I'll see you soon after.

Tino Magnatta: Thanks man, I appreciate. And go Pack!

Ernie Stevens: Absolutely, go Pack!

Tino Magnatta: Take care man.

Ernie Stevens: Yeah. All right, much love, bye.

Tino Magnatta: Bye. Well that was great. You got a little bit of taste of the whole Ernie Steven's family. The Steven's family are great people, great leadership, the whole Oneida Nation, just a great group of people. Just honored to have them on the show.

Next ... What is it, October 13th or something like that. I have Janie Dillard, a true powerhouse from Choctaw Nation. That's a must listen episode. It's going to be phenomenal. Anyways, have a good night, and remember everybody's got a story to tell. You just have to have the time to listen.

Goodnight and God bless.

END