THE COURT: Are y'all ready to proceed with closing arguments?

All right, Mr. Tobin.

MR. TOBIN: Thank you, Your Honor.

Good morning, everyone.

We're now in the phase of the trial that

Judge Thompson shared with you. I will be brief.

I want to thank each one of you on behalf of Jeb, Kurt and Sarah. We thank you for the time and the obvious commitment that you've each given. It's been clear, many of you have been taking notes and paying attention. We do thank each one of you for the time and dedication you've given this trial.

I'm going to speak with you to give you a road map. Then, the defense will. Then, Jeb will. We've tried giving you all of the evidence that we thought you would want and you would need in this case. We've learned from previous trials that we don't always do that because we can't get questions from you, so we don't know if there's something you may want that we didn't give you and if that's the case, we're sorry. It wasn't be intent that we left it out. We have limited time with you in this courtroom.

We're grateful to the Court. Judge Thompson has gotten us in here. Until Monday afternoon, we actually did not know we would be here with you. And the reason for that is the court system is a very busy one across all of the United States, and getting into a court is a privilege for us, for all of us. The Court accommodated all us, managed to get us in here. But I say that because while we have limited time with you, we at least can prepare. There are boxes next to Sarah and there are boxes back in our office. But there's so much time we have and there's so much we can get to you.

The same thing can be said for the doctors. You heard testimony from doctors. I read some in. Jeb read some in. You heard videotaped deposition testimony and that testimony should be treated with the same credibility and weight as if the doctors were here live. Judge Thompson instructed you that before we began and he will instruct you again today. Doctors, we would love to get them here live. It would make it more lively, but it's hard because those doctors have patients. They have surgeries scheduled, and so we can't say to the doctors, please hold x date

open because we didn't know when x date would be. So we try to give you all that testimony as if they were here live.

I want to talk to you about the six stipulated facts and that is important. We all know what stipulated facts are, but just to remind you, the collision occurred on November the 8th, 2014. And, again, these are facts that the defense and the plaintiff both agree to. The crash happened on that day.

The collision occurred at the intersection of Highway 85 and Banks Road in Fayetteville, Georgia. Defendant Howse failed to stop at a red light in violation of OCGA section 40-6-20. Defendant Howse was at fault for causing the collision. Defendant Howse was responsible for the collision. Defendant Howse's vehicle was totaled after the collision.

Coincidentally, you heard from six doctors that we presented. Not necessarily because we had six facts, but there were six doctors and there were six facts.

Jeb is going to talk with you about the medical testimony. He has a chance to come up here. But what I want to talk to you about --

and Judge Thompson shared this with you -- is that evidence can come in in different ways, and one of those ways is testimony, and I'm going to talk to you about the people who knew him best and know him best. His daughter, Michelle; his wife, Carol; and his son, Jimmy. And I want to use their words. Michelle said that he would devour books, that they celebrated when he recently finished a book. Excuse me. Carol shared these things. Carol shared that he would devour books. He was one of smartest people you'll ever meet. That he was the planner of the family. Scuba diving was a family thing. They tried scuba diving, but he couldn't do it.

Things have changed from Carol's perspective. She recently had to use the chainsaw to cut down trees in the yard. Kurt used to do the pool work. Carol and Kurt still go out together. They still sit on the same bench. Their love hasn't changed, but his life has changed.

You heard from Michelle he talked about his suicide attempt, so he's gotten physically violent. She had to tackle him down. She talked about the time he called her threatening to take his own life. You heard how they used to talk

every day and he provided her with advice. He was her mentor. And that's changed, but she talks to him now. It's because her mom puts him on the phone.

We heard from Jimmy and Jimmy read you an email and Jimmy shared with you how his dad gave him advice on how to travel around the airports because Jimmy does that for a living. He's got his own professional career. His dad is a shell of who he was before. We heard from the people who really do know this man and we all have family members who know us best.

This is a civil lawsuit. And let me tell you what that means. We've talked about this before, its difference to a criminal case. In a criminal case, there's a beyond a reasonable doubt standard, and this is a preponderance of the evidence standard. Jeb stood up here and I believe the defense stood up here, as well, and because the easiest way to demonstrate it is literally the scales of justice. And if these are scales of justice and they're evenly balanced, all we have to do is tip it ever so slightly, and the evidence we've presented has done that.

You're going to have that evidence back there with you and you heard the testimony in this courtroom. When you consider the people who know Kurt best, when you consider the doctors who have actually treated Kurt and examined him, the evidence overwhelmingly supports our position and we win our cause on that.

This is the last thing I'm going to talk to you about. I told you I would be brief. I want to talk about Kurt's brain injury. Through the testimony you heard, we believe we have proved that Kurt did suffer a brain injury. Even if Kurt had mental issues back in the 1970s after he had just gotten out of the Navy, we think the evidence has shown he was over that. He planned the family vacations. He traveled through airports. He gave Jimmy tips on where to go. He devoured books. He loved reading.

He knew what he was doing in the law. He knew what he was doing at the pool. He was a mentor. He was running a successful business. He raised a family. And this is what's very important. Even if this wreck retriggered or aggravated a previous problem, the defense is still liable for that.

Listen to the law as Judge Thompson gives it to you. If you should find that at the time of the incident the plaintiff had any physical condition, ailment or disease that was becoming apparent or was dormant and if you should find that the plaintiff received an injury as a result of the negligence of the defendant and that the injury resulted in any aggravation of the condition already pending, then, the plaintiff could recover damages for aggravation of the pre-existing condition.

So if the defense talks about some pre-existing problems, it really doesn't make much sense because under the law even if this car wreck retriggered or aggravated a pre-existing condition, Mr. Taylor still can recover damages for that.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. Scott, argument on behalf of the defense?

MR. SCOTT: Good morning.

As the judge explained to you, this is my only chance to speak to you in closing.

Plaintiff gets two closings. They get to open and they get to close.

Part of what I have to do is anticipate what they're going to say and preempt their arguments. At the same time, I don't get the last word, but we'll give it our best shot.

The judge is going to give you some instructions. He gave you some instructions earlier. And I want you to pay attention to a handful of those in terms of how we're going to ask you to deliberate.

It is the plaintiff's burden of proof. We've talked about that. Mr. Tobin just talked about that. They have to prove to you by a preponderance of the evidence that it's more likely than not that what they say is true. Right there. Must prove whatever it takes to make out their case except for any admissions by the defendant, and we have admissions here.

The plaintiff must prove their case by what is known as a preponderance of the evidence. The evidence is upon the issues involved which while not enough to wholely free the mind from a reasonable doubt is yet sufficient to incline a reasonable and impartial mind. That's what the judge is going to charge you. You'll see that again. You'll hear that again.

If you find the evidence is evenly balanced on any issue -- and that's the key here. It's any issue -- because we're conceding issues and we're being honest here and telling you that we're admitting certain facts here.

Credibility of witnesses is a key issue here. This is one of the instructions you'll get. You determine the credibility of the witnesses, and some of these witnesses have had some credibility issues. We'll talk about that in a few minutes.

Sympathy. Your verdict should be a true verdict based upon your opinion of the evidence according to the laws given you. You're not to show favor or sympathy to one party or the other.

I can feel some sympathy for Mr. Taylor's injuries. I think we all can. But in terms of rendering your verdict, you need to be fair to all sides. You have to consider the facts objectively without favor, affection or sympathy to either party.

The judge will also tell you, you cannot speculate regarding plaintiff's alleged injuries and medical conditions. That's an important factor in this case because we believe that there's a lot of evidence that they haven't

proven as far as his ongoing medical condition and whether there's a permanent brain injury.

You can't speculate regarding his alleged damages. You need to look at the facts. You need to look at the numbers. You need to look at the medical records and the bills. And, again, no sympathy.

Like I said a minute ago, issues not in dispute. There are issues in this case that are not in dispute. They showed you the stipulations.

Ms. Howse has admitted fault for the accident. And we don't dispute that he had orthopedic injuries. The doctors testified at great length. He had neck surgery. He had back surgery. He had knee surgery. He had carpal tunnel surgery. We're not disputing that.

Important fact to think of, if you think of what Mr. Butler said in his opening statement, he said that the plaintiff is not claiming that his life is ruined. That's something that both sides agree on, and that's important for you to consider when you're deliberating. The issues in dispute, though, are whether the plaintiff has suffered a major neurocognitive disorder. That's

the main issue in this case, whether he actually suffered that and whether it's a permanent injury, whether it's a permanent condition and whether it's still going on.

And then the other issue is the amount of the damages as a result of all these things. But plaintiff's claim that there's a neurocognitive injury that's permanent is a house of cards, and that's our whole point -- our main point here today, not necessarily the whole point. These are the issues that we pointed out in our case.

The entire foundation for the neurocognitive injury claim is Dr. Snook's report, Dr. Snook's neuropsychological evaluation. Dr. Snook testified. You heard us read his deposition transcript and you heard the narrative. He did not separately evaluate Mr. Taylor's effort because at the time of testing, he didn't suspect that the plaintiff had any motive to perform poorly. He has that motive now. We're here in a lawsuit. He's asking you to give him a very large amount of money.

Dr. Burke, the neurologist, relied almost entirely on that neuropsych evaluation that Dr. Snook gave. He testified: And if you really

want to know whether there's been an injury to the brain, I always refer them for a neuropsych eval. And that was Dr. Snook.

And that's what Dr. Burke said. And Dr. Burke went on to say: What we will rely on, the gold standard, continues to be neuropsych testing. And again that's Dr. Snook's report. That is Dr. Snook's evaluation.

Dr. DeFilippis, our doctor, testified that Dr. Snook's exam of the plaintiff was limited to a clinical setting. Now, what's a clinical setting? It's for purposes of treatment.

Dr. Snook's exam -- oh, we have that twice --

Dr. DeFilippis met with the plaintiff for several hours and performed a forensic exam.

There's a difference here. Dr. DeFilippis performed an exam and an evaluation for purposes of this case, for purposes of an adversarial proceeding. Dr. DeFilippis testified that Dr. Snook did not adequately measure the plaintiff's effort. Dr. Snook testified, well, part of some of those exams I gave him measured the effort. But he admitted he didn't separately administer a measure of the effort. Doctor DeFilippis did and Dr. DeFilippis testified that

the report frankly isn't worth the paper it's written on without having done a full independent measure of the plaintiff's effort.

Dr. Snook's opinion the plaintiff suffered a permanent brain injury is not credible because Dr. Snook didn't adequately measure the effort. That's Dr. DeFilippis' opinion. He also stated that after evaluating the plaintiff, the plaintiff was not putting forth adequate effort.

And then what were his findings? The testing that he did to measure the effort showed that Mr. Taylor's effort on those tests was inadequate. And he says -- and this is important -- we're not saying that he has no disorders here. Dr. DeFilippis called what he had a somatic symptom disorder. And what he said was he thinks he really believes that he's got this problem.

So we're not saying -- counter to what

Mr. Butler said in the opening -- we're not
saying he's faking. He may actually believe that
he has these issues, but the medical evidence
doesn't show that, and that's what you have to
listen to and decide in evaluating this case.

There is insufficient evidence to confirm a

diagnosis of a major neurocognitive disorder.

That is the bottom line here in terms of the brain injury. Without a foundation, plaintiff's claims of a traumatic brain injury falls like a house of cards. And it does because the whole basis for it is Dr. Snook's report. Dr. Snook doesn't have an independent confirmation of effort. And then Dr. Burke says -- he's the MD -- he's the one who says he's got a neurocognitive disorder and the whole basis for it is the neuropsych eval and the neuropsych eval is faulty, so, therefore, the cards are all on the floor.

Credibility issues. Mr. Taylor and his family claim that he has trouble with everyday life. They've all testified. Surveillance showed Mr. Taylor is able to go out and about and have a normal day.

The plaintiff didn't tell the whole truth about his business. We went on the Internet and we found Roadtechs.com. And he told us to go on the Internet in his deposition and research his company, so we did. He told us all about Cornerstone in his deposition and he told us all about two other companies. But he never told us

that he operates under the name Venture.

He said on direct examination, well, I do
that because of competitive issues. Ask
yourselves, if he is smart enough and coherent
enough and articulate enough to be thinking about
competitive issues with his business, does he
have a permanent traumatic brain injury. I mean
think about it. He is that smart.

Mrs. Taylor said in her testimony that he's one of the smartest men she's ever met. And you know what? Based on everything he's told me in the two depositions I've taken from him and in his testimony, I believe he's a very smart man and I admire him. I'm a veteran, too. I admire him. But he hasn't proven that he has a permanent brain injury.

Also, the whole truth, he swore an oath, both here today and at his deposition, to tell the whole truth. He said, well, you never asked me about Venture. Well, he told us about two other companies, but he never told us about Venture. He didn't tell the whole truth. The testimonials on the Roadtechs web site, he stated that Roadtechs was the secret to his success. His business is a success and it continues to be a

success.

The ability to operate his business is better than he or his family would have you believe.

Mrs. Taylor said he can only work about two hours a day. He's got twelve postings on Roadtechs.com. He admitted that to you on the stand. He's got twelve postings currently active looking to place people in the utility industries, and he admits that, and he did it under the name of Venture instead of Cornerstone. And he even stated on the Roadtechs web site that they're the secret to his success.

The question is, if he can only partially function, if he can't form complete sentences still, if he doesn't have cognitive ability, how can he do all this and how can he continue to do all this?

This is a very interesting thing that happened yesterday. He refused to testify in support of his own case. I was genuinely surprised that at the close of plaintiff's evidence, Mr. Taylor hadn't been called to testify. Why?

Ask yourselves that. Why did he do that? The reason I think is when he finally did

testify, he showed you how articulate he is.

He's a very smart man. He's very bright. The minute he opened his mouth, he showed you how smart he was, how articulate he is, how sharp his brain still is. When he testified in front of all of you, he didn't appear to suffer any of the problems that his family described when he testified. Did you hear him stop sentences, not be able to complete thoughts? Did you hear him have any cognitive mental brain issues. He spoke just like anybody else and he spoke very intelligently.

Now, hired guns. Mr. Butler mentioned in opening that we have hired guns. That is the only attack that the plaintiff can make against Dr. DeFilippis. If you listened to Dr. DeFilippis' videotaped deposition yesterday, Mr. Butler spent a whole lot more time crossexamining Dr. DeFilippis than I did essentially going through his report and setting forth his findings and his testimony. And a lot of what he asked was about, well, how much do you charge, how much have you charged Mr. Scott's firm, and how much time have you put in. Well, any person who you use for a service is going to charge you

for their time.

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Mr. Butler asked you in voir dire if you as jurors would you be able to award an award in the millions of dollars in this case. I needed to hire on expert in this case to defend my client, so we hired Dr. DeFilippis. And you know why? It's not DeFilippis' opinion itself that's at issue in this case. It's the objective finding of his evaluation and what Mr. Taylor did. not like he read the records and formed an opinion. He met with Mr. Taylor. He evaluated Mr. Taylor. He subjected him to testing. that's objective. That's not just the opinion of a hired gun. That's testing, and whatever the outcome of the testing, if anybody had control over that, Mr. Taylor had control over that.

They're also going to tell you in their closing more than likely that we hired a hired gun in terms of this investigator, Shane Grimshaw.

Plaintiff's counsel on cross-examination showed him his invoice. Again, nobody's going to do this work unless we pay them, and in a case where he's going to ask you for over a so in a few minutes. And if I hadn't hired somebody to

at least get an idea of whether Mr. Taylor and verify whether he can actually get around and function or lose his way, I would have been committing malpractice. I need to defend my client and we need to see and you need to see as a jury in evaluating this case whether or not he can really function the way he says he can or cannot.

So, again, we hired people to evaluate and to present evidence for you to weigh.

Damages. I just said this to you a minute ago. Plaintiff's counsel asked you in voir dire if you'd be able to give an award in the millions of dollars. At the same time he told you in the openings statement that they're not contending that Mr. Taylor's life has been ruined. Does that sound like it fits together?

You have to decide what a fair verdict would be in this case. But think about this. Any verdict over five hundred thousand would be only the kind of award you would give somebody whose life is ruined. Would you give somebody that kind of money or in the millions of dollars if their life hadn't been ruined. I don't think so.

From the beginning of this trial, plaintiff told you this wasn't the case. His life hadn't been ruined. So what I want you to think about at the end of the day is whether you really believe Mr. Taylor has a permanent cognitive brain disorder. I want you to think about what he was able to tell you when he testified. I want you to be able to think about why he didn't testify in his case in chief. I want you to think about the medical evidence and the fact that Dr. Snook's report does not give them the foundation they need to show there is a permanent brain injury.

I'm not going to tell you that he doesn't deserve something for his orthopedic injuries.

I'm asking you to enter a fair award proportional -- two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars and change in medical bills. We admit that. We agree with that. Enter an award starting with that number that's proportional, but not an award that isn't appropriate for somebody whose life hasn't been ruined.

Thank you. Very much.

THE COURT: Thank you very much, Mr. Scott.

So, ladies and gentlemen, we're still in the

middle of closing arrangements.

I believe an easel is going to be used. We need to set up another video. We're going to do this outside of your presence. So do me a favor and go back to the jury room.

I cannot stress this enough. You still can't talk about this case. You've not heard all the closing arguments, so you can't talk about this case until you've heard all the closing arguments and then the instructions.

Take this one break and I believe this will be the final break before you can finally talk about this case.

So follow Mr. Queen back to the jury room.

(Thereupon, the jurors were excused to the jury room.)

THE COURT: All right. We can proceed with the set up.

(Thereupon, a recess was taken, after which the final closing argument was heard.)

THE COURT: Before the jury comes in, let's go on the record for the matter Taylor vs. Howse. Anything we need to do outside the presence of

the jury on behalf of the plaintiff? 1 MR. BUTLER: No, Your Honor. 2 The defense? THE COURT: 3 4 MR. SCOTT: No. THE COURT: Mr. Butler, when you are done 5 with your closing argument, of course, if you'll 6 break down the easel and remove it so I can speak 7 to the jury without anything being displayed. 8 9 MR. BUTLER: Yes, Your Honor. 10 THE COURT: We're ready, Mr. Queen. (Thereupon, the jurors were 11 12 seated in the jury box.) 13 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome 14 back. Please be seated, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your patience. That gave us 15 enough time to get the technology hooked up and 16 17 get everything squared away so we can proceed 18 right after the closing arguments. This will be the final time you hear from an attorney for 19 20 closing arguments. Mr. Butler, on behalf of the plaintiff. 21 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Your Honor. 22 23 Good morning. 24 Let's talk about credibility. 25 something that the defense talked about at some

length. You've heard on behalf of Mr. Taylor from several of his doctors, not people that Mr. Tobin or I went out and found. The doctors who he saw, the doctors who treated him, the doctors that folks like you or I would go to see if we were sick.

I had planned to talk with y'all about

Dr. Goins and Dr. Bush(ph) who treated Mr. Taylor

for his neck, back, wrist, knee, did those

surgeries. We don't have to do that anymore.

It's conceded that those were caused by this

wreck.

We presented medical evidence from

Mr. Taylor's doctors about his brain injury and
about what caused his brain injury. And I'll

play some of those clips for you right now -
play a series of clips. None of them are longer
than two minutes, I don't believe.

Ms. Christy, if you could play the Burke causation clip number one.

(Thereupon, clip number one was played for the jurors.)

MR. BUTLER: And then number two.

(Thereupon, clip number two was played for the jurors.)

MR. BUTLER: This by the way is a Harvard educated doctor to whom Mr. Taylor was referred by the Department of Veterans Affairs and who treats brain injuries all the time.

(Thereupon, clip number three was played for the jurors.)

MR. BUTLER: And, of course, Dr. Burke wasn't our only doctor to testify about the brain stuff. You heard from Dr. Saba who said by medical narrative, quote, Mr. Taylor suffered a grade three concussion, which is a traumatic brain injury as a result of this collision, end quote.

Dr. Saba wasn't here in the courtroom. We didn't play his video deposition. If the defense had wanted to ask him about that and say, Saba, what are you talking about, how did you figure that out; they can cross examine him, they can take his deposition.

That happened with Snook. Y'all noticed that we read in the medical narrative of Snook and then the defense came up and the two lawyers sat and they read the deposition back and forth.

Defense has an absolute right to do that of

anybody, but especially when we get a medical narrative from them, they can go depose them. If they got questions, they can ask.

Dr. Snook also provided testimony -- I'll talk about his narrative and the deposition -- in his narrative he said, quote, I diagnosed Mr. Taylor with, quote, major neurocognitive disorder due to traumatic brain injury, end quote. In my opinion the problems associated with that diagnosis and the problems described in this report are caused by the motor vehicle collision, end quote.

The defense had the right to go back and take his deposition and raise anything they wanted to with him. Say you didn't run the right tests. You didn't know the right things. You didn't review the right records, anything. And they didn't. And you've heard that deposition read in its entirety.

At the very end of it, I'm going to review the last two questions in that deposition. I wasn't there. Mr. Tobin covered it for us. The last two questions and answers: After the defense had gotten to raise and talk about anything they wanted to, this was Dr. Snook's

last two questions and answers.

Question: All right. The defense lawyer asked you a lot of questions about testing for truthfulness. Is it your medical testimony that Kurt Taylor put forth his best effort during this testing?

Answer: I believe that he was putting forth valid effort.

Question: Do you think he told the truth to you?

Answer: Absolutely. The reason I say that is he told me things about himself which may not necessarily have been flattering, but he was willing to answer those questions. Also, the reason I thought he did well and was putting forth effort on the testing, there were areas that he actually did well, which patients who are typically malingering will do very poorly on.

So that's what Dr. Snook had to say after he'd been cross-examined about the things that the defense is now talking about.

As best I can tell, the defense is really -that everybody else was wrong. Kurt Taylor's
lying to you. His family's lying to you and his
doctors are lying to you. The only person that's

right is the defense. Whether you believe that is entirely up to you.

We think the evidence has shown that this brain injury is not just something that

Mr. Taylor made up on Monday before court. Even Dr. DeFilippis admitted that Piedmont Emergency Department, which as I recall, he said was a reputable medical facility -- everybody knows that it is -- diagnosed Mr. Taylor with a head injury when he was taken there by ambulance the day of the wreck. I mean same day, diagnosed with a head injury. And we can play that clip for you.

Ms. Christy, that's DeFilippis, diagnosed with head injury.

(Thereupon, the video clip was played for the jurors.)

MR. BUTLER: As I said before been multiple doctors who diagnosed Mr. Taylor with this injury. DeFilippis admitted that, too. The ones that have already spoken about and also one we didn't bring, Dr. Jahare(ph), who is Mr. Taylor's primary care physician, or, internal medicine guy.

Ms. Christy, if you'll play the DeFilippis

clip, post-concussive diagnosis.

(Thereupon, the video clip was played for the jurors.)

MR. BUTLER: You've heard in addition from Mr. Taylor's family, all of them. You've heard about his fractured teeth. I mean something's got to happen to your head in a car crash if you're going to get fractured teeth from it.

You heard in that clip we just played

Dr. Burke talk about how a brain injury is more

likely if you have spinning, and we think the

evidence has shown that there was some spinning.

If you remember those collision pictures of

Mr. Taylor's truck, the impact's obviously on one

side, and then he testified that his truck was

spun around by the collision.

We want to talk about credibility and you have to conclude that discussion with the defense's -- what Mr. Scott called, quote, our doctor, end quote, DeFilippis, and there's just one more clip front him we're going to play.

That's the, had not disagreed clip.

(Thereupon, the video clip was played for the jurors.)

MR. BUTLER: Now, what you make of that and

how you determine credibility is up to you.

Judge Thompson will tell you that. It's entirely within your province, but those are some of the factors that have been presented to you.

We've also heard evidence that this is an ongoing thing. I forget her exact words. Carol Taylor testified about the ongoing appointments that Mr. Taylor is going to. He still goes to the VA, still gets psychological treatment there, something Dr. Burke talked about.

And a lot of this even the defense's doctor agreed with a good bit of this stuff. I told you I was done playing clips, but I forgot one. Even he admits a lot of what is going on with Mr. Taylor and that will be in your admissions clip, agreed.

(Thereupon, the video clip was played for the jurors.)

MR. BUTLER: Early in this case -- or earlier in this case we heard a good bit about Ambien. I thought that was going to be something the defense latched on to. And we heard about it from the witnesses. And I might have missed it, but I don't believe I heard a single reference to it in the defense's closing argument. It's

something I suppose was tried and then maybe left alone. And that may tell you something. If your recollection is like mine, it wasn't even talked about by the time we got to closing argument.

What the defense does want to talk about now, they continue to criticize Mr. Taylor for still working. I never have understood that. I didn't understand when they started doing it as we were taking depositions in this case, and I don't understand it now. You know Mr. Taylor hasn't quit working. He hasn't claimed to be disabled. He hasn't given up. Isn't that a good thing?

Dr. Burke said it was as I remember when I asked him, don't you think it's a good thing he keeps trying to work. Dr. Burke as I recall said, yes. I'm not sure what he's supposed to do; give up, roll over, quit living.

In the closing argument I heard that he has I believe the number was 12 -- I told you he runs a staffing company, so he gets people who can work in the nuclear industry and match them up to try to get people jobs. And the closing argument was, he's got twelve live postings. What does that tell you? How long does it take to make twelve postings on the Internet?

Anyone who's ever listed something on Craig's list or Ebay, I don't know what the point of all that is. I don't know what the point of criticizing Mr. Taylor for using the Venture name is. I don't get that. If you get it, it's up to you to do what you will with whatever evidence you've got, but I don't understand that. I don't know what that's all about.

The defense talked in closing argument about Mr. Taylor not testifying during the plaintiff's case in chief as opposed to during the defense's case in chief and raised some questions about that. Whether you find that significant is up to you. I can tell you why I didn't call him in our case in chief. Because we didn't need to.

In order to prevail in a lawsuit, you've got to meet what you call the elements of proof and in a torte case -- this is a torte case -- in a torte case it's generally liability; somebody did something wrong. And causation is the wrong act caused something to go wrong. And then damages which is what went wrong. And frankly Mr. Taylor who doesn't remember much of the wreck isn't all that useful and didn't need to testify about any of those things.

Liability is admitted. They admit that the defendant caused the wreck and ran the red light. Causation comes primarily from the doctors.

You've heard over and over again these doctors saying that the wreck caused this, the wreck caused that, whatever the injury was.

And damages. Damages in this case comes from the doctors who describe their surgeries. It comes from the medical bills and it comes most importantly in my mind from Mr. Taylor's family who describes what he's lost. So Kurt doesn't have to talk about any of that.

In addition even if I don't call Mr. Taylor, the defense obviously can. They have that right and they did. It's not as though Mr. Taylor has not been through testimony in this case.

Mr. Scott told you he's given two depositions in the case. That's not easy on the man. It's hard to sit through that particularly when you've been through what Mr. Taylor has been through. If I had been able to keep him from having to go through that again, I would have done it. I couldn't do that because the defense has a right to call him and they did and that's fine. I'm not fussing at all about that. That's their

right. But we didn't need to call him so I didn't.

You know I got no problem with that, but the defendant didn't testify. That's okay. There's no reason she needed to. The liability is admitted. We can tell how forceful the wreck is from looking at the pictures and evaluating what happened and the consequence of it. So there is no reason she has to testify. I'm sure she doesn't want to and I don't blame her, so we didn't call her, and the defense didn't either and that is no problem.

The defense makes a lot of sort of talk, I guess, in saying that they have admitted fault and that's good. That's good. When you've done something wrong, you ought to admit it and they did. Although, it's not as though they had a lot of choice. In this case the defendant ran a red light and it's not a heck of a lot you can say about that.

It reminds me of another example that sometimes gets told. Imagine that a neighbor to your house is cutting down a tree. It fell on your house and caused a thousand dollars worth of damage and your neighbor came over and said, you

know what, I screwed that up; that's my bad, and I'm sorry.

And you might say, well, that's good. I still got this thousand dollars worth of damages, and the neighbor says, well, you know what, I'm really sorry; here's fifty dollars. And you might say, well, thank you for admitting responsibility, but where is my other nine-fifty. And that is what we're here about.

I sort of gather y'all already know that.

That's what brings us to the courtroom today.

Accepting responsibility does begin with saying that you made a mistake, but that's not where it ends. It ends with full compensation for injury done.

I want to talk about the future for

Mr. Taylor because that has come up. In terms of
orthopedic injuries, they were severe enough as
you know to require surgery on many parts of
Mr. Taylor's body. Surgeries helped. It's a
good thing he had them. He's better because of
them. He's gotten better since the collision.

He still hurts. That's what the evidence is.

He's still going to go hurt. Until the day he's
no longer with us, he's going to live with some

pain. He knows that and he can live with it.

But that's what you call permanent injury when

you're hurting and it's not going to stop, that's

a permanent injury.

I was going to play this depo clip. I don't think I will. The teeth is another permanent injury. You heard Dr. Swords say there is just not a good solution for this.

The most important part of course is the mental side of things and I do want to play a final clip front Dr. Burke, and it's the future clip. Here's what someone more qualified than me had to say about it.

(Thereupon, the video clip was played for the jurors.)

MR. BUTLER: Even the defense's doctor was unable to at least fully disagree with that. And there's a screen shot from his deposition we can show on that.

Ms. Christy, if you'll pull up his prognosis screen shot in that same folder.

The defense mentioned DeFilippis' report.

It's not tendered into evidence and it couldn't be because there's some rules about that. You may have heard me asking about this and this is

the defense's doctor's words. His prognosis for significant improvement is poor. I don't know if y'all caught this about that report. I did not. I took his deposition and didn't really hit me until I got home the significance of it, but what happened with DeFilippis is apparently the defense paid MES, that company you heard about, and MES paid DeFilippis, and MES is the one who transcribed, or wrote, depending on how you feel about that, the report. So it's the company that hired him that's writing -- at least transcribing the report.

And you may remember -- this is what really jumped out at me -- you may remember that little part in there where I said, Dr. DeFilippis, I think there are some tests you said you performed, but you didn't actually perform, and I'm going to give you a chance to clear that up with the jury. And he went through like four or five tests that he didn't actually perform that were in the report. There was like the finger tapping test and some others that had the names of the psychologist that came up with them.

Those were in his report, but he didn't actually perform them.

Now, that to me does not sound like a transcription error. You can't be writing something in a report that isn't in the transcription; right? That sounds to me like a copy paste error, like a company that does a lot of these reports and just pastes, pastes, pastes. You've heard DeFilippis working for MES many times. So as you assess credibility, what you make of that is up to you.

We're getting on to time to talk about money. The defense has admitted fault for the case. The defense has admitted in opening statement and maybe again in closing argument that they think Mr. Taylor should recover some damages. We do, too. The question is, what do y'all think.

The amount of damages that you come up with is totally up to you and you have a lot of discretion in the way you calculate it. There are some guidelines and I'm going to talk with you about them. And Judge Thompson will talk to you about them. But you have a lot of discretion in what you do.

Some of the guidance that you'll hear from

Judge Thompson is like the elements -- a better

way to say that -- the components that Mr. Taylor

is entitled to recover for. One of those we're here about is interference with daily living.

That means just what it sounds like, the way that the injuries have affected your life, interference with daily living.

Another is pain and suffering. I think pretty much everyone knows that one. Judge Thompson will talk about two types of pain and suffering, two categories. I usually call it bucket. Past pain and suffering, what Mr. Taylor's experienced before today and future pain and suffering, what you find that he is likely to experience in the future.

As Judge Thompson will say, pain and suffering includes mental pain and suffering.

And then another element of damages is medical bills and medical expenses.

What I want to do now is be quiet till y'all are done writing. What I want to do now is go through and I'll give you some ideas of ways you might choose to calculate damages. But it ain't up to me. It's up to you. So what I'll present are thoughts about how you might do it.

Mr. Scott is right. This is a millions of dollars case. That's the range we're in. But

how exactly where you end up and how you get there are up to you. All I want to do is give you some ideas of ways to think about it, paying attention to those legal categories that we talked about: interference with daily living, past pain and suffering, future pain and suffering, and medical bills.

The first way I want to talk about it is a job description. And what I mean by that is I'll ask you to imagine a job description where the description matches what Mr. Taylor has been through and will go through. And the question is how much you think a reasonable person, an ordinary person would have to be paid in order to accept that job where the description is like what Mr. Taylor has gone through.

Here's the job description.

You're going to be in a car wreck. Imagine that a reasonable person is reading this in the newspaper on Craig's list. You've been in a car wreck out of the blue. You're not going to do anything wrong. You'll be in the wrong place at the wrong time. You'll have pain in your neck and back and knee and wrist. You'll try what doctors will later call conservative measures,

ibuprofen, therapy and injections. And those aren't going to work.

And then you're going to have to undergo surgery on your back, your neck and your wrist and your knee. After that you're going to go through more therapy. You're going to have fractured teeth with no good way to fix them, and even after all these surgeries, you're still going to hurt, probably for the rest of your life.

You're going to spend years going from doctor to doctor. Your family is going to tell you that you've changed. You'll make suicide attempts. Sometimes you will forgot where you're going and where you are.

There are no holidays and you don't get weekends off. The hours are 24/7. Even when you sleep, you will hurt. And your wife will have to put a pillow between you because you tremble at night. There are no benefits and ere are no perks. All you get for taking this job is the money.

Now, I mentioned that the pain and suffering and interference with daily living damages come into two buckets, the future and the past.

I'll talk about the future first. Going forward you might decide that to accept a job like this, you think ten dollars an hour would be fair. If you think that, here's what the future damages are. In order to calculate -- the law has a way to calculate the life expectancy based on their age, and it's in evidence that you'll have in the jury room. It's Plaintiff's Exhibit 81. It's called the Annuity Mortality Tables. It has males and females. And if you look at sixty-seven year-old male -- that's Mr. Taylor -- it says one three point seven one years. It's 13.7 years. That's his expected life expectancy.

Now, you may wonder, well, most people don't live to be 80, but the reason it's like that, once you make it to sixty-seven you've already survived some events that otherwise skew the average like child death and things like that.

What the tables tell you -- they're in evidence; they're for legal use -- is at 67 you're supposed to have 13.7 years.

If you do the math -- if y'all want to check me on this math, I've double checked it and Ms. Christy has checked it. We think it's right. If you want to check my math, please do. I don't

know if you have your phones in the jury room if you want to calculate it. You can ask the judge for a phone. But anyway 13.71 years is five thousand and four point one five days. Multiply that by twenty-four and you have a hundred and twenty thousand ninety-nine point six hours.

Multiple a hundred and twenty thousand ninety-nine point six hours by ten dollars an hour and you get the future component of damages and that comes to one million two hundred nine hundred and ninety-six dollars.

Now, that's the future part of this job description, but of course Mr. Taylor's had this job since the day of the wreck. So there's also the past and what he's had to endure in the past is worse than what he'll endure in the future because he has gotten better. His pain isn't as bad as it was before he saw the doctors and it's better. You heard Dr. Burke say and his family say, he's made progress mentally, too. So as to what for taking this job in the past from the day of the wreck up until now, you might decide that is worth twenty dollars an hour.

If you do, here's how the math shakes out.

If you take the day of the wreck until today,

January 26, 2018, that's three years, two months, eighteen days, or one thousand one hundred seventy-five days. Multiply that by twenty-four and you get twenty-eight thousand two hundred hours. And then you get your total past damages here at five hundred sixty-four thousand dollars. It comes out to a nice round number.

If you use the job description approach that we talked about, then, here's how it totals out. For the future, there's one million two hundred and nine hundred sixty-six dollars.

For the past, five hundred sixty-four thousand dollars. If you add the medical bills, which is another element of damages, they were two hundred seventy-five thousand, two hundred eighty-six dollars and sixty-three cents. And I believe the defense has said they don't contest that.

They'll be in evidence by the way as

Plaintiff's Exhibit number 32. There's going to

be a chart with you that came in with Carol

Taylor, but has all the medical bills and

explains the total. Anyway, that total is here.

And then I tried to add it all up, but I screwed it up, so Ms. Christy had to correct me.

The real total for adding these three, future, past and medical bills, is two million forty thousand two hundred fifty-two dollars and sixty-three cents.

Now, this is one approach that you can use, but you ain't got to use it. You can think of it differently if you decide to. And I've thought of a couple of other ways you might decide to think about damages in this case.

One is you might think about the surveillance guy. His name was Grimshaw. Now, I went through the invoice with him, which would be in evidence, and we did the math and it came out that the defense paid him seventy-two dollars and eighty-five cents per hour. For that what he mostly did was sit in his car and take the video tape. And as to the bucket, the future bucket or the past bucket, we believe he goes in the past bucket because his job was to figure out what was going on between the car wreck and now.

So if you use that to go back again to the same date calculation with the car wreck day to today, it is still one thousand one hundred seventy-five days which still comes out to twenty-eight thousand two hundred hours. If you

multiply that times that the defense chose to pay them, you get this total: two million two hundred six thousand, six hundred and fifty dollars.

Last idea I got for you is based on their testifier, DeFilippis. Now, his hourly rate was five hundred dollars an hour. What he did for -- that actually wasn't all he did, but that rate was when he was giving his deposition, which is not easy. You sit there and you answer questions. You got to put up with me. That ain't easy, but it's easier than being in a car wreck.

Anyway, he belongs in the future because his job was to describe what Mr. Taylor is going to be like in the future. You saw that screen shot with the prognosis where he did that. If you do that you use the same -- if you put them in the future bucket, you use the same annuity mortality tables, Plaintiff's 81, that we talked about 13.71 years, is still five thousand and four point one five days. It's still a hundred twenty thousand ninety-nine point six hours.

And here I had to just do the adjustment because -- I had to adjust it because if you multiply that times five hundred dollars an hour,

you get like sixty million dollars, which is more than I feel like we ought to be asking for. So in this suggestion, I took just five percent of that. Five percent of what the defense paid DeFilippis to give a depo is twenty-five dollars an hour.

If you use that figure, twenty-five dollars an hour, and multiply it by hundred twenty thousand ninety-nine point six hours, you get this figure: three million two thousand four hundred and ninety dollars.

Ms. Christy, if you pull up Plaintiff's Exhibit 60, please.

I hope that by the time I'm sixty-seven if someone goes through all my records and all my medical history and all that, that the worst thing they can think to say about me is that they don't like the way I posted stuff on Roadtechs, but I also hope that by the time I'm sixty-seven that I have done something to deserve to get a note like that from one of my children.

That's Plaintiff's Exhibit sixty. That's the note that Jimmy Taylor wrote to his father. And if you want to look into Kurt Taylor's soul and if you want to know what kind of man he is, if

you want to look into the core of his being, I don't know of a better window than this note, Plaintiff's Exhibit 60. And it will be back there with you. You can evaluate for yourselves who Mr. Taylor has been and what the future looks like.

At the beginning of this case, I talked with y'all a little bit about opportunity. Now is the time for that. I'm wrapping up and the case is just about to be yours. If you've taken this seriously, now is the time based on the evidence, if you think that authorizes you making a difference, now is the time to do this.

I want to thank you for being a great jury.

I want to thank you for paying attention. I want to thank you for caring. We appreciate it and we have faith in y'all.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Butler.

Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes closing arguments.

(Thereupon, closing arguments were concluded, after which jury instructions were given.)

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF FAYETTE

I, Donna Hasinski, do hereby certify that the foregoing hearing was taken down, as stated in the caption, and the questions and the answers thereto were reduced to typewriting by me; that the foregoing pages 1 through 63 are a true, correct, and complete transcript of the evidence given; that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties; that I am not a relative or employee of attorney or counsel for any of said parties; nor am I financially interested in the action.

This, the 11th day of April, 2018.

Donna Hasinski

21 Donna Hasinski

Certified Court Reporter

Certificate Number B-2116