

#2 Judy Shepard

also understood that if we took the death penalty off the table, we would never have to deal with McKinney again. No appeals, and nothing — he's just gone. And we didn't want Matt's brother Logan to have to deal with that in his life. He would just be gone. So, when McKinney showed up on 20/20 I thought, this is exactly what we didn't want. Here he is again, saying whatever he wants whether it's the truth or not. Changing his story.

MOISÉS KAUFMAN. The changing of the story seems to have really taken hold in Laramie.

JUDY SHEPARD. Yes. I hear the — hate in people's voice — "They robbed him. How could you say it was a hate crime?" I hear people quote the 20/20 story to me still! So ... I'm not surprised. I've learned so much about people — what they choose to believe if it makes them feel better. How they have to interpret things to make their own being better, to fit their own image of themselves.

MOISÉS KAUFMAN. I so vividly remember being at the trial and seeing you then. And now I see this woman and they don't seem like the same person.

JUDY SHEPARD. Yeah. I'm angrier now than I was then. Because it's still happening. *(Begins to cry softly, but does not give in to the tears.)* Sorry. Dennis said it best, "Ten years of change, no progress." Meaning that yes, things have changed at the human level, at the grassroots level ... but legislatively ... legally, nothing has changed ... the hate crime legislation hasn't passed on the federal level, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is still there, the Defense of Marriage Act is still there. We just can't make it to the top.

So here I am at the ten-year mark still fighting, and I had to adapt so I could keep doing this. Or, the feeling would be that it would have all happened in vain! I wasn't going to let that happen. Plus, just doing the work was my survival! It was how I coped with losing Matt. I could keep him with me all the time. And I was talking to someone and they said, "Well don't you think maybe it's time to let go, don't you think you're keeping Matt alive by doing that?" And I said "Of course I'm keeping him alive by doing this. That's the point!" That is exactly the point. And I can keep telling the same wonderful stories and my friends don't say, "Judy, you told me that story yesterday and the day before that and the day before that." I can just keep telling it.

NARRATOR. On October 28, 2010, just a few months after the