

lifestyle is legal, but I will tell you one thing. I hope that Matthew Shepard as he was tied to that fence that he had time to reflect on a moment when someone had spoken the word of the Lord to him — and that before he slipped into a coma he had a chance to reflect on his lifestyle.

AMANDA GRONICH. Thank you, Reverend, I appreciate your speaking with me. *(Rain begins to fall on stage.)*

### MOMENT: THAT NIGHT

RULON STACEY. About eleven-thirty that night, I had just barely gone to bed, and Margo our chief operating officer called and said, "His blood pressure has started to drop." "Well, let's wait and see." She called me about ten after — he just died. So I quick got dressed and came in. And, uh, and — and went into the ICU where the family was and Judy came up and she put her arms around me and I put my arms around her and we just stood there — honestly, for about ten minutes just — 'cause what else do you do?

And then we had to sit and talk about things that you just — "Dennis, it's now public knowledge ... And I'm gonna go out there now and tell the whole world that this has happened."

'Cause by this point it was clear to us that it was the world — it was the whole world.

And so Judy told me what she wanted me to say. And I went out at four o'clock A.M. *(He crosses to the camera.)*

### MOMENT: MEDICAL UPDATE

NARRATOR. Matthew Shepard medical update for four-thirty A.M., Monday, October twelfth.

RULON STACEY. *(Into the camera. We see him on the monitors.)*

## RULON STACEY

At twelve midnight on Monday, October twelfth, Matthew Shepard's blood pressure began to drop. We immediately notified his family who were already at the hospital.

At twelve fifty-three A.M. Matthew Shepard died. His family was at his bedside.

The family did release the following statement:

The family again asked me to express their sincerest gratitude to the entire world for the overwhelming response for their son.

The family was grateful that they did not have to make a decision regarding whether or not to continue life support for their son. Like a good son, he was caring to the end and removed guilt or stress from the family.

He came into the world premature and left the world premature.

Matthew's mother said, "Go home, give your kids a hug and don't let a day go by without telling them that you love them."

### MOMENT: MAGNITUDE

*START*  
RULON STACEY. And — I don't know how I let that happen — I lost it on national television, but, you know, we had been up for like seventy-two hours straight and gone home and gone to sleep for half an hour and had to get up and come in — and maybe I was just way — I don't know — but *(Pause.)* in a moment of complete brain-deadness, while I was out there reading that statement I thought about my own four daughters — and go home hug your kids — *(He begins to cry.)* and oh, she doesn't have her kid anymore.

And there I am and I'm thinking "This is so lame."

Um, and then we started to get people sending us e-mails and letters. And most of them were just generally very kind. But I did get this one. This guy wrote me and said, "Do you cry like a baby on TV for all of your patients or just the faggots?" And as I told you before, homosexuality is not a lifestyle with which I agree. Um, but having been thrown into this. *(Pause.)* I guess I

didn't understand the magnitude with which some people hate. And of all the letters that we got, there were maybe two or three that were like that. Most of them were, thank you for your caring and compassion and Matthew had caring and compassion from the moment he got here.

FINISH

### MOMENT: H-O-P-E

STEPHEN BELBER. I spoke with Doc today and told him we would soon be coming back out for the upcoming trials of Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney, and this is what he had to say: DOC O'CONNOR. I'll tell you what, if they put those two boys to death, that would defeat everything Matt would be thinking about on them. Because Matt would not want those two to die. He'd want to leave them with hope. (*Spelling.*) H-O-P-E. Just like the whole world hoped that Matt would survive. The whole thing, you see, the whole thing, ropes around hope, H-O-P-E.

### End of Act Two

### ACT THREE

*The stage is now empty except for several chairs stage right. They are all facing the audience and arranged in rows as if to suggest a church or courthouse.*

### MOMENT: SNOW

MATT GALLOWAY. The day of the funeral. It was snowing so bad, big huge wet snowflakes. And when I got there, there were thousands of people in just black, with umbrellas everywhere. And there were two churches — one for the immediate family, uh, invited guests, people of that nature, and then one church for everybody else who wanted to be there. And then still, hundreds of people outside that couldn't fit into either of the churches. And there was a big park by the church, and that's where these people were. And this park was full.

PRIEST. The liturgy today is an Easter liturgy. It finds its meaning in the resurrection. The service invites your full participation.

PRIEST. The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE. And also with you

PRIEST. Let us pray

TIFFANY EDWARDS. And I guess it was like the worst storm that they have had.

NARRATOR. Tiffany Edwards.

TIFFANY. Like that anybody could ever tell, like trees fell down and the power went out for a couple of days because of it and I just thought, "It's like the forces of the universe at work, you know." Whatever higher spirit you know is like that blows storms, was blowin' this storm.

PRIEST. For our brother, Matthew, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life." We pray to