

HRC Annual Dinner Speech – February 22, 2003

By Ben Hodges

It should have been the easiest call for me to make. But it wasn't. The phone rang, my mom answered and the tears began to flow. My mother's response to my coming out was first "that makes sense...I think we always knew" and second, "do you have someone who loves you...because we will always love you."

Within moments after the phone call ended, I was convinced that my mother had already formed the Boulder chapter of PFLAG. My fear changed to anxiety as I wondered, "Could my mother actually be more gay than me?"

I imagine many of you tonight could only wish that a parent, such as my mom, could be so supportive when coming out. And you are absolutely right. But I am proud to say, that my mother, Jean Hodges, is everyone's mother in this room.

I feel fortunate tonight to be able to stand on this stage and honor her accomplishments with the GLBT community. I feel even more fortunate to be able to call her "my mother." Congratulations mom, "I love you."