General Information

Source: NBC Nightly News   Resource Type: Video News Report
Creator: David Bloom   Copyright: NBCUniversal Media, LLC.
Event Date: 06/11/2001   Copyright Date: 2001
Air/Publish Date: 06/11/2001   Clip Length 00:02:59

Description

NBC's David Bloom reports that Timothy McVeigh's cremation is complete, his ashes to be scattered at an unknown location. His death by lethal injection was the first federal execution in 38 years.

Keywords

Oklahoma City, Bombing, Timothy McVeigh, Federal, Execution, Cremation, Invictus, Latin, Poem, Invincible, Sacraments

Citation

MLA
Timothy McVeigh Executed

DAVID BLOOM reporting:

Tonight we're told that Timothy McVeigh's cremation is complete, his ashes to be scattered at an undiscussed location. His death by lethal injection, the first federal execution in 38 years.

At the Terre Haute prison, a hearse pulls away silently, the same way its occupant died. His execution mourned softly by some here, counted down joyfully by others.

All: Four, three, two, one!

BLOOM: Inside the death chamber, at 7:06 AM local time, the warden announces, "We're ready." The curtains are pulled, revealing McVeigh strapped onto the gurney. Witnesses say he looks paler, thinner than the man America first saw six years ago in Oklahoma. But the glare, they say, is the same.

Mr. CROCKER STEPHENSON (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel): There was absolutely no expression on his face other than in his eyes--a sharpness, a real sense that he was looking through the window at you.

BLOOM: At 7:10 the first drug, sodium thiopental, is administered to heavily sedate McVeigh. He lies motionless, his eyes fixed on the ceiling.

Mr. SHEPARD SMITH (Fox News channel): His lips relaxed. His eyes relaxed. He looked toward the ceiling, where there happened to be a camera staring right at Oklahoma City.

BLOOM: Seven-eleven, pancuronium bromide is given to stop McVeigh's breathing. He takes two last deep breaths; 7:13, the final drug, potassium chloride, is injected to stop his heart. One minute later, it's over. McVeigh's lips turn light blue, his skin light yellow as he dies eyes wide open.

WARDEN HARLEY LAPPIN (US Penitentiary Terre Haute): The court order to execute inmate Timothy James McVeigh has been fulfilled.

BLOOM: The warden says McVeigh was calm, cooperative throughout. No final words, just this handwritten version of the 19th century poem "Invictus," Latin for invincible. Its final words: "I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul." In the poem, the writer describes himself as "unconquerable," "unbowed," "unafraid." But was McVeigh really? The coroner who conducted a pre-execution interview saw a different side of the Oklahoma City bomber.

Mr. KEVIN MAYES, (Vigo County Chief Deputy Coroner): He appeared to be anxious. He appeared to
be frightened. And as he began to talk, he became more in control. When I first saw him, I didn't see that soldier preparing to die that everyone had been speaking of.

BLOOM: You saw what?

Mr. MAYES: I saw fear.

BLOOM: In fact, just two hours before his execution, McVeigh, a non-practicing Catholic, decided to receive last rites. And so inside the death chamber, strapped to the gurney, McVeigh, just moments before he died, received the Catholic sacraments of the anointing of the sick from the prison chaplain.