**Ruben Video Transcript**

00:06 Fred Fearday, Friend of Ruben

Ruben was African American five- eight, bright eyes, expressive face. I knew Reuben through my work with the Gay Community AIDS Project in Champaign Urbana in the late 80s and early 90s.

00:19 Oliver Bell, Friend of Fred

I didn't personally know Reuben, but a friend of mine knew Ruben and wanted to make the quilt for him and so I just I just helped out.

00:29 Fred Fearday, Friend of Ruben

I was very moved by Ruben’s story and I was concerned that no one will remember him.

00:35 Graphic

Oliver Bell, Tia Simms and Fred Fearday submitted the following text to the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt along with quilt panel they created for Ruben.

00:45 Fred Fearday, Friend of Ruben

This panel is dedicated to Ruben who died of AIDS. His life is remembered in this quilt. Ruben was homeless living the last year of his life at shelters, and on the streets of Champaign Urbana.

00:57 Oliver Bell, Friend of Fred

Ruben denied his illness and refused treatment. Ruben also had a mental illness, which had much to do with his homelessness and ability to understand how best to care for himself. The door represents all the doors that were shut to him. Ruben could be full of energy and life despite his trouble. He often spoke of dressing drag for which he had a talent. He talked of going to Trinidad as if it were a paradise. His Trinidad was in Colorado, however, where he hoped to gain peace with a sex change operation. The dress sewn onto the panel symbolizes this side of Ruben.

01:31 Fred Fearday, Friend of Ruben

Ruben’s favorite hobby was writing lyrics and collecting 45s, which he played for hours at a time. Even when he did not have a home, he carried notebooks of lyrics around with him. The music notes represent this aspect of his life. Even spent years of his life in prison. The prison scene is symbolic of those years. He was sentenced to three years in prison for stealing food to eat when he was homeless. Ruben seemed different after this occurred, less full of life more to himself. And then he was sick, and we all lost Ruben.

02:05 Oliver Bell, Friend of Fred

Ruben’s last name is not used as his family has not given their permission. Oliver Bell, Tia Simms, Fred Fearday.