

**Richard “Dickie” J. Heakin, Jr.
1955 - 1976
Tucson Gay Hate Crime Murder**

Tucson Gay Museum Exhibit



Tucson Gay Museum

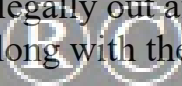
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In 1976 while he was on a vacation in Tucson Arizona, then 21 year old Richard “Dickie” J. Heakin Jr. on the early morning of June 6, 1976 was leaving the Stonewall Tavern Inn Disco [Gay Bar] at 2921 N. 1st Avenue in Tucson Arizona located just south of Fort Lowell Road with some friends.

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Suddenly, Mr. Heakin Jr. was attacked and beaten to death out in the bar’s dirt parking lot by up to thirteen (13) local Tucson area male high school students aged 15 to 17 years old who had been cruising up and down Speedway Boulevard all night before '*looking for homos to fuck up*' as one of the teens told Tucson Police during an interrogation later.

All of the local high school involved in the murder of Mr. Heakin Jr. were underage, drinking 80+ proof alcohol, taking drugs, and illegally out after the city’s midnight curfew. The four (4) car loads contained various weapons along with the high school students who all decided to



drive to the Stonewall Tavern Inn [Gay Bar] with no other purpose than to 'fuck up some homos' according to Tucson Police interviews.

The teenagers savage attack that ended in murder was for no other reason than Mr. Richard Heakin Jr. and his friends had just walked out of a Gay Bar and seemed fair game to be murdered in the then at times hate driven atmosphere of Tucson.

With an openly Anti-Gay local Pima County Superior Court judge conducting the trial, all of the first-hand eye witness's testimony was completely ignored, all of the high school teenage murderers were released right back to their parents, returned right back to their schools before their trial, and were in the end given only the same probation as minor petty shoplifters received. The judge then ordered all the court records sealed up to make sure the murder case could never be reviewed, appealed, or ever come up again.

In his hometown, Mr. Heakin, Jr. was described by his friends and family as a young man with a future who really made a big positive and supportive difference in the lives of others.

“Richard had that natural charm, Dickie was a real guy and always helped out his fellow neighbors. You could always count on him. Just exactly the kind of man you always wished there were more of in the world,” noted a neighbor.

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