



**Tucson GAY Museum®©**

**Philip Walsted Archives®©**  
**Tucson Gay Hate Crime Murder Victim**

Philip Arthur Walsted, a native of Tucson was a 24-year-old Gay Man murdered because he was Gay according to the legal records of the crime and statements of the man who murdered Philip. The young Mr. Walsted was first robbed by force in the University/4th Avenue Arts District Area of Tucson, Arizona on Wednesday June 12, 2002. Philip Walsted was employed as an American Airlines Reservation Agent, and lived with his partner Dr. Jonathan Hartman at 910 N. 4th Avenue in Tucson. [1]



## Philip Arthur Walsted

Philip Walsted's supervisor at American Airlines, Linda Kubiak shared in an interview that she and every one of Mr. Walsted's co-workers that he interacted with every day,

***"Were Forever Changed by Knowing and Working with Philip Walsted."***



Philip Arthur Walsted

Philip Walsted was walking home Wednesday June 12, 2002, when he was attacked, chased down, and beaten to death with a metal baseball bat by a twice convicted burglar who had just recently been released back out into the public while on parole from the Arizona State Prison System, the 20-year-old David A. Higdon. [2]

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FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2004

Tucson Gay Museum <sup>®</sup><sub>©</sub>

### Vigil for slain gay man also will focus on the crime

Police say the killing of Philip Walsted was a hate crime but it did not receive high-profile attention.

DAVID L. TEIBEL  
dteibel@tucsoncitizen.com [tucsongaymuseum.org](http://tucsongaymuseum.org)

Tucson police said when Philip A. Walsted was beaten to death with a baseball bat in 2002 that the young gay man's slaying was a hate crime.

Walsted's alleged attacker, David A. Higdon, 22, is charged with first-degree murder and robbery. His trial is set for Sept. 28.

The killing never got the kind of high-profile national attention that the murders of James Byrd Jr. and Matthew Shepard did four years earlier.

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Byrd, a black man, was chained to the back of a pickup and dragged to death on June 7, 1998, in Texas.

Just months later, on Oct. 12, 1998, Shepard, a gay man, was beaten, burned and tied to a wooden fence on a rural Wyoming road.

He died soon after being found.

Why didn't Walsted's killing get that kind of attention?

### 2004 Tucson Citizen Newspaper Article

The victim Philip Arthur Walsted a Gay man was struck in the head with the metal bat numerous times and received many wounds to his entire body as a result of the attack which he did not survive. The body of Philip Walsted was found, covered with blood, with all of his pockets picked clean in the middle of the street only a few blocks away from the home he had shared with his partner Dr. Jonathan Hartman in the 4th Avenue area neighborhood near the University of Arizona.



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June 19, 2004 at 9:14PM MST  
 Elizabeth Vall Reports  
**Hate Crime Vigil**

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Tucson Gay Museum

**A special vigil was held Saturday night for a 24-year-old man murdered here in Tucson because he was gay.**



Walking home alone, late at night June 12, 2002, Philip Walsted was attacked. A man beat him to death with a baseball bat.

**Hate crime vigil**

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At the vigil Walsted's mother shares loving memories of her son. She also shared anger that she couldn't protect him.

Paul Kohn, a friend of Philip, said "It was hard to believe then and it's hard to believe now that you can be killed making down the street because you are gay."

2004 KVOA TV 4 News Article

Philip Walsted was transported to the Tucson University Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. Two Tucson Police Department detectives first interrogated and then took a DNA sample from Philip's Life Partner Dr. Jonathan Hartman, while the couple's home and both their automobiles were being searched and processed for any evidence. Both of the couple's vehicles were then seized by the Tucson Police Department and taken down to the Main Tucson Police Station for intensive forensic examinations.

The actual murderer an unemployed David Higdon was arrested one week later after law enforcement authorities broke open the front door during the course of serving a Search Warrant at his father's house after the three (3) men inside failed to answer the door in the 2500 block of E. Florence Drive.

The search warrant had been issued after the Tucson Police Department received tips indicating David Higdon was the murderer in the Gay Hate Crime.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'OUT' Albuquerque website. At the top, there is a purple banner with the word 'OUT' in large letters and 'ALBUQUERQUE' below it. To the right of the banner, there is a 'WINNER' notification: 'Important: If the link above is flashing, you have been selected as a Winner! Claim Here'. Below the banner is a navigation menu with buttons for HOME, CHAT, FEATURES, RESOURCES, PERSONALS, MEMBERS, and SHOP. A secondary menu includes PHONEBOOK, CLASSIFIEDS, SEARCH, and HELP. On the left side, there is a vertical sidebar with links for 'What's New', 'Local News', 'Dear Doug', 'Homoscopes', 'Postcards', 'Forums', 'Photos', 'Box Office', 'Radio', 'Advertise', 'Employment', 'Quick Mail', and 'Who's Online'. The main content area features the 'out in news' logo and a sub-menu for 'local', 'regional', 'national', and 'international'. The featured article is titled 'Tucson Gay Museum' and 'ARREST MADE IN WALSTED BEATING DEATH' by Mark R. Kerr, Tucson Observer. The article text reads: 'Police have charged a 20-year-old convicted burglar with first-degree murder and armed robbery in the beating death of another man last week, the Arizona Daily Star reported. David A. Higdon was arrested at a home in the 2500 block of East Florence Drive at about 4:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 19, said Sgt. Judy Altieri, a department spokeswoman. Philip Walsted Archives The victim, 24-year-old Philip Walsted, was found by a passer-by in the 900 block of North Fourth Avenue, near his home, police said. He had been "pretty badly beaten" with a baseball bat, Altieri said. Walsted, whose name originally was misspelled by police, was taken to University Medical Center and pronounced dead just after 7:00 a.m. Because Walsted was Gay, investigators "have not ruled out the possibility" that the killing was a hate crime, Altieri said. They also are investigating it as a robbery because officers recovered some of Walsted's possessions at the home where they arrested Higdon. Authorities also recovered a baseball bat at the home. Higdon told authorities his home is in the 1500 block of South Carolina Avenue. The homicide was the 34th this year within the city. Higdon remained at the Pima County Jail in lieu of a \$1 million bond. State Department of Corrections records show he was released from prison April 10 on two burglary convictions. [6/27/02]

2002 'OUT' Albuquerque New Mexico News Article

Once there on the Higdon property The Tucson Police quickly found the victim Philip Walsted's eyeglasses, watch, shoes, American Airlines key ring, and the murdered victims driver's license in the convicted felon David Higdon's possession. Also found were cut out local newspaper articles about the murder of the Philip Walsted, two baseball bats, clothing soaked stained with the victim Philip Walsted's blood, along with David Higdon's marijuana and cocaine out in plain sight.



2002 Philip Arthur Walsted Obituary

The murderer David Higdon openly bragged to his friends about his murder of a Gay Man according to witnesses while showing off the murder victim's personal items to his friends. Higdon also used the murder victim's driver's license to cut and separate his cocaine while at his father's house as he boasted to his friends of murdering Philip Walsted and because he was a Gay man.

Initially, the Tucson Police declined to classify the murder as a Hate Crime. However, it was only months later, as the evidence accumulated, that the Tucson Police Department re-classified the case as a Hate Crime and then reported it to the FBI as is required by federal law.

## June 12th 2002 'Anti-Gay Hate Crime Murder Of Philip Walsted In Tucson, Arizona

### Man's killing may have been hate crime

By DAVID L. TISSEL  
dtis@tucson.com

The father of a man beaten to death with a baseball bat Tuesday says he fears that his son was killed because he was gay, and he wants the killer to be sentenced to death.

"I'm hoping it was just a random thing," Paul A. Walsted said of his son Philip Walsted's slaying.

But, Paul Walsted said, "If it was a hate crime because my son was gay, that makes it even worse."

Detectives have said robbery was a motive in the killing, and they are investigating whether Philip's slaying also was motivated in part by hatred of gays.

"We do believe robbery was a factor in the motive, but that doesn't eliminate that it could have been a hate crime," said Sgt. Marco Borboa, a Tucson police spokesman.

So far, Borboa said, "We haven't been able to determine that it was a hate crime."

There is no charge called "hate-crime."

Deputy County Attorney David White explained that hate

as a motive in a killing is a factor a judge may consider in imposing a sentence.

But, Borboa said, "If we charge first-degree murder, how much worse does it get?"

The maximum penalty for first-degree murder is death.

So far this year, two anti-gay or anti-lesbian hate crimes have been reported to Tucson police.

Details on the crimes were unavailable, as were statistics on hate crimes reported last year.

Walsted, 24, an American Airlines reservations worker, was found at 4:50 a.m., lying in the street at East Fifth Street and North Hoff Avenue, about a block and a half from his home, on North Fourth Avenue.

He had been beaten, police said.

He was taken to University Medical Center, where he died Tuesday.

Police arrested David Higdon,

33, of the 2500 block of East Florence Drive on charges of first-degree murder and armed robbery in Walsted's slaying.

Higdon is being held in the Pima County Jail in lieu of \$1 million bail on the charges.

A police search of Higdon's home turned up Walsted's driver's license, keys on an American Airlines key ring, two baseball bats, undisclosed amounts of cash and a handgun.

Walsted was married and had two children, but other items were not included in inventory of the victim's property.

The senior Walsted said he last saw his son about a week before his death when the young man went to his father's Southeast Side apartment to take him to lunch.

Paul Walsted, who was disabled in a 1993 truck collision, said he had \$50,000 in life insurance money to spare.

He said his son came by once or twice a month, sometimes more, to take him to lunch.

When Paul Walsted last saw Philip, "He was happy with his life," the older man said.

"He was fortunate in the last couple of years," Walsted said. "He got to travel. He went to England, he went to Bermuda."

"He was a decent young man. He had his problems, like anyone, but he was a good young man."

Philip was openly gay, his father said.

And he "used to experiment with drugs," his father said, but he lived with a man who "had gotten his (Philip's) life turned around."

"It's been very difficult on me," Paul Walsted said of the weeks since his son's slaying.

"I don't know if the person who did this will get the death penalty. I hope so," he said.

"I'll be there at the trial. The bastard that killed my son, I hope he dies."

White said prosecutors have not decided whether to seek the death penalty, a decision they were about two more months to make.



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Gay Hate Crime Murder

David Higdon, a self-avowed Nazi, had two WW2 German Nazi SS styled lightning bolts tattooed on his chest while he was in jail meaning that he had 'committed murder for the Nazi cause', and arrived in court for his murder trial with his head fully shaved in skin head style.

Pima County Prosecutor Teresa Godoy stated that Philip Walsted's murder was fueled by David Higdon's Nazi beliefs, and that the crimes of First Degree Murder and of Armed

Robbery were also part of an attempt by David Higdon to impress a white supremacist group.

Higdon "confessed" to the crime in many numerous letters that he wrote while in jail, and by openly boasting of his murdering Philip Walsted to numerous other inmates at the Pima County Jail Adult Detention Center while he was awaiting his criminal murder trial.

The screenshot shows the Arizona Daily Star website interface. At the top, the newspaper's name is displayed in a stylized font, along with the website URL [www.dailystar.com](http://www.dailystar.com) and a social media handle. Navigation links for 'HOME', 'ENTERTAINMENT', 'HEALTH', 'FEATURES', 'BUSINESS', 'EVENT CALENDAR', and 'SPORTS' are visible. A 'subscribe' link is also present. The main content area features a date bar for 'Tucson, Arizona | Published: 01.26.2005' and a navigation menu for the days of the week. The article title is 'Gay's killing now rests with jury', with a sub-headline 'Tucson Gay Museum' overlaid. A photograph of David A. Higdon is shown with the caption 'David A Higdon is charged with first-degree murder.' Below it is another photograph of Philip Walsted with the caption 'Philip Walsted was beaten to death with a baseball bat.' A sidebar on the left contains a 'Download PDF' link and a list of navigation categories including 'All Headlines', 'Mobile Edition', 'Front Page', 'Tucson Region', 'Neighbors', 'Arizona / West', 'Nation', 'Washington', 'World', 'Sports', 'Opinion', 'Business', and 'Accent'. A 'WEEKLY SECTIONS' section lists 'Food', 'Northwest', 'Calliente', 'Home', and 'Travel'.

2005 Arizona Daily Star Newspaper Trial Article



The public, friends, family, representatives from the Tucson GAY Museum, Tucson Gay Historical Society, and a local Anti-Violence Project headed by Dr. Lori B. Girshick, attended the trial. Girshick stated that,

**"Higdon had written hundreds of pages of letters and documents while he was incarcerated, leading people to believe that Philip was killed only because he was Gay."**

While Arizona had no specific law at that time covering Hate Crimes or Hate Murders, if the victims were targeted at least in part because of their race, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, or sex, judges could take those facts into account during the trial and later in the sentencing of the accused.

On Monday January 24, 2005, David Higdon went on trial for First Degree Murder and was convicted of that murder after he had turned down a Plea Bargain Offer to serve only 22 years for murdering Philip Walsted.

After an outpouring of the public's letters from Tucson, Phoenix, and from other states around the U.S. mailed in to the presiding judge, in March 2005 David Higdon was sentenced to **Life Without Parole** in the Arizona State Prison System.



Philip A. Walsted

Later at the local LGBT Community center 'Wingspan' a few employees inquired about the idea of a memorial on city property for Philip Walsted when talking to a City Of Tucson official.

The City Of Tucson's response was,

***"You Can Do What You Want Within Reason,  
As Long As We Don't Have To Pay For It."***



Philip Walsted & Dr. Jonathan Hartman



Philip Walsted Memorial Dedication Day Speaker Judith [Walsted] Boyer [mother]

***"I was flabbergasted, thrilled, and I gladly paid for all of it,"***  
said Philip Walsted's Life Partner Dr. Jonathan Hartman  
during an interview at the time with the Tucson GAY Museum.



Philip Walsted Memorial Dedication Day Memorial Revealed  
[L-R Amie Walsted sister, Judith [Walsted] Boyer [mother]

The Memorial to Philip Walsted was then completely paid for by Philip's Life Partner Dr. Jonathan, constructed, and subsequently dedicated in the City of Tucson's Catalina Park east section located on 4th Avenue, directly across the street and within view of Philip and Jonathan's former home.



*And the world stops....*

*No reason, no answer, just blankness that fills the air with your memory and our tears.*

*You were loved just as you are - a son, a brother, a grandson, a cousin, a friend, an uncle, a lover, and a man.*

*Your laughter echoes in the hallways, your smile is frozen in time and is the only image we see inside.*

*I know that you would want us to live on, but suddenly, the world has stopped its spin.*

*The clouds have gathered upon our hearts, and this day will remain still.*

*Inside of us - your face shines, your voice tells us to smile and not to cry.*

*But this loss has overwhelmed us.*

*There is no justice to be served, there is nothing that can be done.*

*Out of everything, we know you would want us to continue on, rejoice your life, and cherish all that we shared.*

*But know, without you, the color that completes a rainbow is gone.*

*That space at the kitchen table, and our hearts, will remain yours forever.*

*Poem and photograph by Amie Walsted*

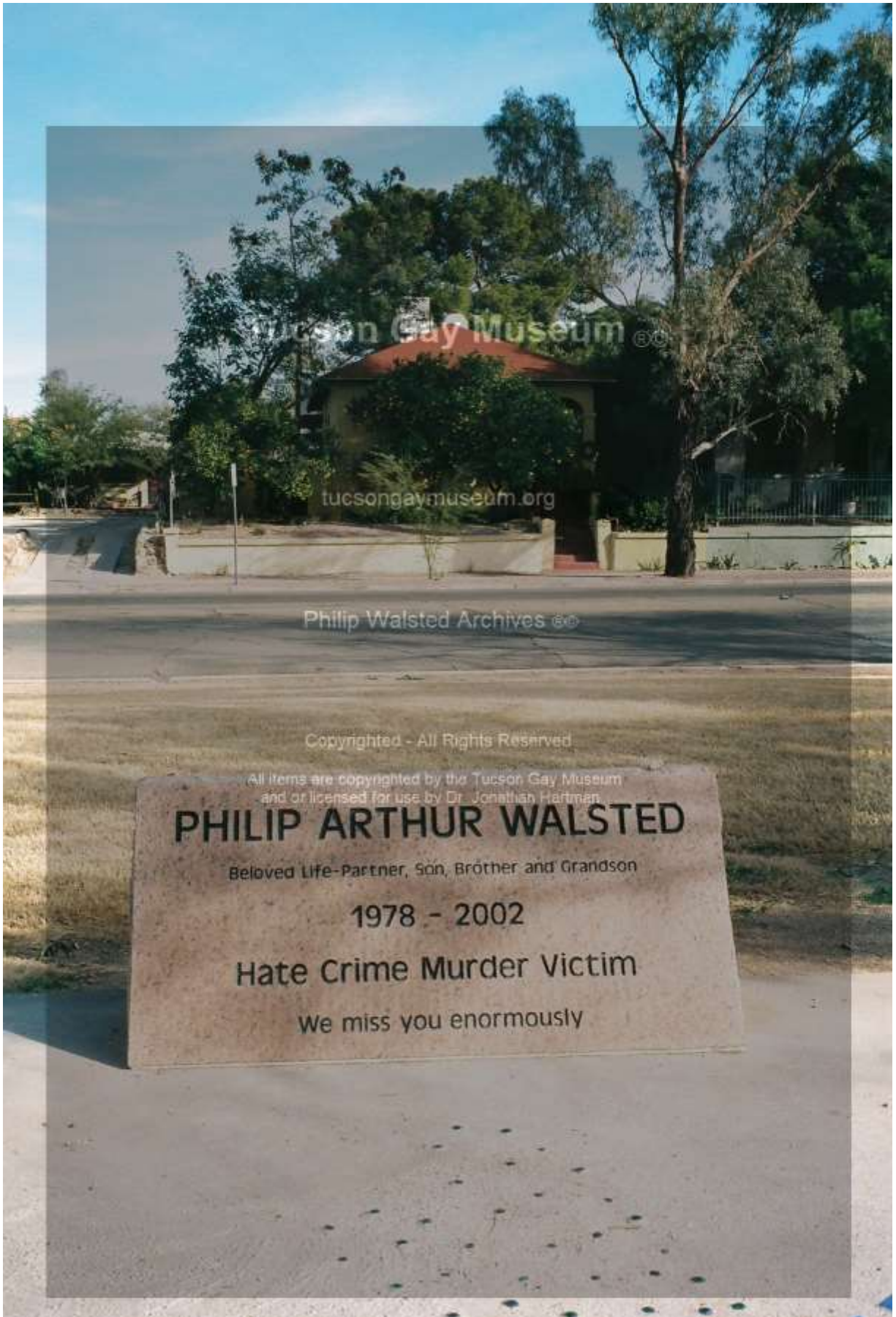
In early 2020 tree roots had caused wide cracks in, broke up, and up-ended portions of the Walsted Memorial's concrete pad and in portions of the sidewalks in that area of the city park.

Dr. Jonathan Hartman contacted the Tucson GAY Museum which dispatched one of the museum's historical archiving photographers to take detailed photographs of the damages that had occurred to Philip Walsted's Memorial.



Tucson Weekly Publication  
Philip Walsted Hate Crime Front Page

Upon the Tucson GAY Museum's assessment of the damages being shared with Dr. Hartman, he then contacted the Tucson City Parks & Recreation officials who authorized repairs allowing the memorial to be safely visited once again.



Philip Arthur Walsted Memorial  
Jonathan & Philip Former Home In Background

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