

*Screaming Queen to Transsexual Woman*  
**Felicia "Flames" Elizondo**

These Walls Can Speak: Telling  
The Stories of Queer Places

- **Felicia A. Elizondo aka: Felicia Flames**
- **Born July 23, 1946 in San Angelo, Texas**
- **Cherokee, Spanish and Aztec**

Felipe Jr. at 5 months old.



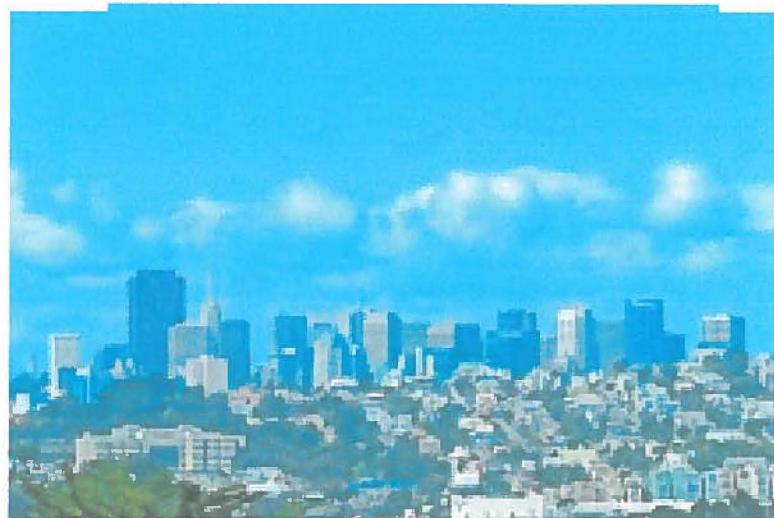
**My mother Juanita, Felipe, Javier,  
Faye, Mary, Felipe Jr. and Delores  
My father died at three years old.**

Felipe Elizondo Jr. at 5 years old.



**I was a pretty little boy. My mother neighbor son Frank who was older started molesting me. At five years old until I was Ten years, To scared to tell any one.**

At 15 years old I came to San Francisco



**Mother moved Mary, Delores and I to San Jose, Ca. in early 1960's**

**At 15 years old I came to SF.**

**This was the first time I had ever seen such a big city.**

**With my sugar daddy, Wally. Only if I knew what the future would bring.  
I didn't know that a small town boy would become a big City Queen.**

## Gene Compton's Cafeteria 1960's



**This was my first vision of the Tenderloin. On the corner of Turk and Taylor St. This was the first time I met all kinds of people, JUST LIKE ME. Frankie and I met Siro and he called himself a "HAIR FAIRY."**

**He took us to his apartment and showed us what he meant.**

**He ratted his hair, put makeup on, put on an angora sweater and skin-tight pants, and tennis shoes.**

**He told us that this was as far as we could go. And having long hair was against the law. All queens wore caps to hide their long hair. Anything more than that, we could go to jail for impersonating a female. If you would get caught with long hair they would take us to jail and cut your hair very short. They would destroy us, the shame, undressing in the drunk tank in front of all the men. They would make fun of us.**

**Later it became the center of the Gay Movement in the 1960's.**

Chucker's Hair Fairies Club  
Coffee/Bar in 1960



**Enter at your own risk because it could be raided at any given time**  
**This is the address where Chucker's used to be, this was a bar, coffee house where you could find anything you wanted and mostly, drugs, Hair Fairies Hookers and later moved to Mission St. where it was after hours and people came to socialize. And it changed to a Transgender club at the Mission St. and became a hooker club.**

Felipe at 19 years old, San Diego, CA.  
Vietnam Veteran



**Confused and trying to be a man that I wasn't, I enlisted in the Navy because I didn't want to be known as a queer, a sissy or Joto. I volunteered because I hoped I would get killed so that the pain I felt of hiding who I was, would go away. I should have won an academy award for impersonating a man in time of war. If the military didn't make me a man, NOTHING would.**

**Felipe or Phillip before being shipped  
to Danang, Vietnam**



**I came home on two-week leave before  
being shipped out to Vietnam.**

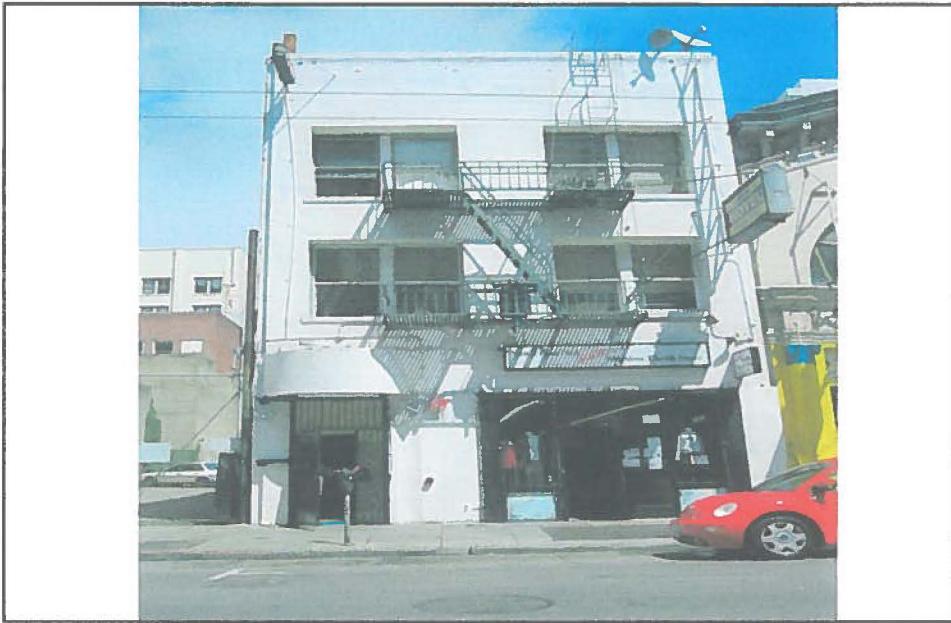
**My mother didn't want me to go but I  
had orders.**

**I never told my mother why I had  
volunteered to go to Vietnam.**

Danang, Viet Nam



**I was in Vietnam working unloading cargo in a ship's freezer when I realized that the military was not for me. I went to military chaplain first and shared my secret. He escorted me to the Captain and together we told him I was gay. They got me discharged so fast and gave me an UNDESIRABLE discharge. Later it was revised to an Honorable discharge. Because later I proved to them that I was a Transsexual woman.**



- **I landed back in San Francisco shortly after my discharge and I knew I was home.**
- **This is the front of the building which use to be a Transgender Hotel in the 1960's, The El Rosa Hotel. This is where most of the girls came to start their new life. And the surrounding hotels, in the TL. They changed their names, for a lot of them we never knew their real names, families had abandoned, thrown them out.**
- **Five of us moved from San Jose CA to start a new gay life in San Francisco. Moved to El Rose Hotel.**
- **The clerk of the El Rosa was Amanda she a transgender woman who look out for us.**

## El Rosa Hotel



- **This was my room in 1966. If these walls could speak, they would have many stories to tell.**
- **My room hasn't changed much in 50 years.**
- **As a so-called young man I was scared and uncertain of what was going to happen, or what the future would bring. I didn't know where I was going and what was going to become of me, but I couldn't be a boy any longer. I came to San Francisco with a blue dress, a wig, and heels. I had found freedom to dress the way I wanted.**
- **I was scared, but I had to Survive.**
- **No one would hire us. The only way we could survive is through prostitution. And welfare wasn't for us, we were proud and asking for help wasn't for us.**
- **Some were and still good people, all we wanted was to be who we were meant to.**

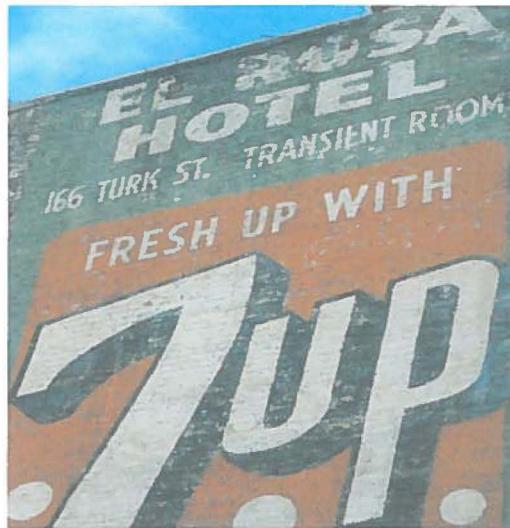
## Transgender women of the 1960's



**Amanda is the girl on the left with the white coat, the other girls don't look familiar or I don't remember.**

We were harassed, beaten up, raped, killed  
and thrown in jail!  
And we were innocent

El Rosa Hotel at 166 Turk St.  
Tenderloin, San Francisco



**This sign is still visible today.  
Every time I see it memories flood back of  
the way it used to be.**

## Gene Compton's Cafeteria



**Today, this was Gene Compton's Cafeteria on the corner of Turk and Taylor St. 1960's**

Gene Compton's Cafeteria  
Turk & Taylor St., Tenderloin, SF



**This picture was used in the Screaming Queen's  
1966 Gene Compton's Cafeteria Riot,  
Where transgenders, queens, hair fairies,  
hustlers  
Have had enough of the harassment and  
going to jail  
For no reason, for obstructing a sideway,  
impersonating a female and for a lot of  
other stupid things.  
Police wanted to look good for what ever  
reason, they needed a quota, they would  
go to the Tenderloin.**



## **1960's Transgender Bar "Rossi's" "Corner of Turk & Taylor St. Tenderloin, San Francisco**

**Across from Gene Compton's Cafeteria, and half a block from where I used to live, I wasn't into Drugs, I tried them just to taste them and it wasn't for me. Alcohol was my drug.**

**We didn't know what the closet meant for us, Being in the closet wasn't an option for us, If we would have stayed in the closet we wouldn't be who we are today.**



## **Hustlers Row in front of Flag Brothers Shoe Store, Market, Turk and Mason St.**

**This where you could find a hustler to sleep with after hours, if they had finish working themselves.**  
**It was nice to wake to a good looking man in the morning. And than each go our separate ways.**

Chicago, IL 1969  
Working as a female impersonator



**I fell in love and moved to Chicago with  
Larry, a Commercial Artist, Was a stripper  
at Baton Club in 1969, I saw Midnight  
Cowboy, and than saw the Christine  
Jorgensen Movie, than and there I knew  
where I was going how I was going to get  
there I didn't have a clue. But now I had a  
goal in life. Now I knew who I was and  
who I was meant to be. My new life  
begins. Move back to San Jose, Ca.**

1970s'



**A picture before my Surgery, I worked for Pacific Telephone where they let me transition from male to female in early 1974 and in November 1974. I had my surgery and Blue Cross of California paid for my operation. My mother was there and called me daughter in Spanish. (Mija)**

The Gay Community dedicated this plaque in 2006



**The LGBT Community dedicated this plaque to us in 2006.**  
**Susan Stryker found a document at the GLBT Historical Society Archives, About the 1966 Gene Compton's Cafeteria Riot, Susan Stryker and Victor Silverman won an Emmy for the documentary.**

1975



**1987 I became HIV+ and you can go to my website where you can see all I have done for this community**

**www.screamingqueens1.com. And see my accomplishments. Moved to SF in 1991. to now**

**I decided to volunteer and educate the gay and lesbian community about transgender community, that we were not all drugs addicts, thief's, prostitute's That we were all a gay community and we were all going thru the same thing. We were labeled that in the 1960's and it continues to this day.**

Uptown Tenderloin Museum dedicated  
this plaque in 2011



**This is one of nine plaques that are  
around the TL historical places.  
We have a rich history that we  
should be proud of.**

Banner for 1966 Gene Compton's  
Cafeteria Riot



**This Banner was shown at Trans  
March 2012 at the Senior and Youth  
brunch.**

**And I keep telling the transgender  
community, be very proud of who  
you are and your history,  
You are the ones that started the  
gay movement here in Tenderloin,  
San Francisco.**

## Gay Bars in 1950's-1970's in Tenderloin, San Francisco

Rossi's Turk and Taylor St. SF, Ca. 1962-1970	Chuckles 66 Turk St. SF. Ca. 1964-67
Chuckles 1013 Mission St. SF. Ca. 1967-70	The Hot Spot 79 6 St. SF. Ca. 1954-1970
The Caboose 223 Turk St. SF, Ca. 1965-66	181 Club - 181 Eddy St. SF. Ca. 1954-1999
Blue and Gold- 136 Turk St. SF, Ca. 1940-1987	Frolic Room-171 Mason St. SF, Ca. 1964-1974
Nickelodeon- 412 Mason St. 1974-1978	Alley Cat- 330 Mason St. 1971-1975
HeadHunter's - 82 Embarcadero 1962-1963	Talk of Town - 90 Market St. SF, Ca. 1961-1962
Peter Pan - 30 Mason and 45 Turk St. 1984-1994	Sound of Music -162 Turk St. SF, Ca. 1989-1999
Ram's Head - 117 Taylor St, SF, Ca. 1979-1986	The Body Shop - 98 Eddy St. SF, CA. 1971-1975
De Ja Vu - 335 Jones St., SF, Ca. 1984-1985	Mr. Leona's-301Turk St, SF, Ca. 1996-?
The Gangway - 841 Larkin St. 1963-Still open	Gene Compton's Cafeteria-Turk St.
Kopit- 301Turk St. SF, Ca. 1970-96	The Shed- 2275 Market St. SF, Ca. 1972-77
Kenny's-Turk St. SF, Ca. 1969-72	
222 Club- Hyde St. SF, Ca. 1979-85	
The Old Crow- Market St. SF, Ca. 1935-84	
The Black Rose- 335 Jones St. SF, Ca.	The RoadRunner - 499 O'Farrell SF, Ca.1984-90
Mr D's .	
The Landmark 45 Turk St. SF, Ca. 1958-85	
The Trapp -72 Eddy St. SF., Ca. 1965-81	
Aunt Charlie's Lounge 133 Turk St. 1987- 25 Years in 2012	Gilded Cage -126 Ellis St SF, Ca. 1961-1970
The Black Cat	

- **Documentary than I am in**
- **'Screaming Queen's" The 1966 Gene Compton's Cafeteria Riot**
- **"Felicia"**
- **Tenderloin "Forgotten History"**

### **Names of Some of Our Many Heroes**

Victor Torres from Stockton, Ca. First gay man, I met when I was 14, Siro first Hairy Fairy I met with Frank (Bernie), Amanda from the El Rosa Hotel  
Christine Jorgensen, Charles Pierce at Gilded Cage, Jose Sarria at Black Cat, Pat Monclaire at Finnnoches, Dee Yubeta, Michelle, Bliss, Andre, Vicki Marlane at 181 and Aunt Charlie's Lounge  
Hustlers on Market St, corner of Turk St./Mason St. and Market St. ,Hustlers on Union Square ,Sherry Miller, Roxanne, Jose, Charles Pierce, Liza, H.L. Perry, Sio, Tommy Pena, Frankie ( Bernie), Eloy (Tina Castaneda), Leslie, Angel, Big Dee (San Jose), Anthony S., John J., Johnny (Rita), Steve (Jackie), Lance (Greta), Danny B., Rachel A., Ann Hinkel, Yoli, Cupid, April, Diane (Phil), Dee Dee Yubeta, Julian C., Michael B., FiFi, Mona, Lupe, Angel ( Mexican), Tony, Chris (Dinky), Linda Reyes, Connie, Les, Susie Q.  
Rachel Sena, Shannon, Monica, Randy, Jimmy, Rhonda, Jackie Fifer, Aaron, Valarie Corday, Scott W., Terry H., John Guilt, David, Carlos, Chuck , Pat Gonzales, Gia, Tamara, Sy., Amanda, Roberta (Teresita), Susan C, Susie, Norma, Nicki Nations, Gary Givens, Benny, Frank Reza..  
New age Heroes, Gwen Parks,, Luis, Carol, Jazzie, Jasmine, Teresa Sparks, Storm, Shawn Virgo, Cecelia, Tida Adia, and many many more heroes out there.

**We were Mexicans, Blacks, Whites,  
Asians but we were a Gay  
Community,  
We all looked out for each others.  
We were in it together as a Gay  
Community,**