

El Paso restaurateur Bobby Lyons (Son of Jeanne Lyons) dies at 62

Robert "Bobby" Lyons, a restaurateur and culinary giant in El Paso, died Wednesday evening of an apparent heart attack.



"The entire El Paso community lost one of its hospitality leaders and we at The El Paso Club lost one of our most cherished faces," said Peter Spier, The El Paso Club's board president. "We are grateful for the many years that Bobby served The El Paso Club and its members and are forever indebted to him for working hard to resurrect one of El Paso's oldest, time-honored social clubs."

A celebration of life ceremony will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at The El Paso Club, 201 E. Main St., Suite 18.

Lyons, 62, was the general manager of The El Paso Club at the top of the Chase Building Downtown for six years. Before that he owned Kona Creek Steakhouse at 1545 Lee Treviño Drive from 1995 to 2006.

"Bobby was the quintessential gentleman, employee, father and friend," Spier said. "Our hearts are heavy during this time of loss, but we will continue to work hard to ensure that

Bobby's vibrancy and legacy live on in our hospitality to our patrons."

Lyons also owned Lyons Restaurant on Sioux Street before becoming a managing partner in Kona Creek.

"He was a very good guy and talented in what he did," said Anthony Duncan, another El Paso restaurateur. "He had a lot of energy. He would show up to work every day and he took care of business."

Lyons was managing partner at Kona Creek for a year before Duncan and his business partner sold their interest to Lyons.

"Bobby would never call in sick," Duncan said. "He was tireless in how he ran the restaurant. If somebody called in wanting a reservation, even if we were full, he would find a way to get that person in. He had a hard time telling people no."

Duncan said Lyons had high standards in everything he did.

"He was strict with his employees," Duncan said. "He expected things to be done in certain ways, but if something happened that wasn't perfect, he wouldn't let it ruin his day. He knew when to shrug his shoulders."

Russ Harper, who worked for Lyons at Kona Creek as a server, bartender and manager for eight years, said his old friend inspired him to chase his dream of running his own restaurant.

"He was a mentor to me," said Harper, who was the general manager at Delaney's Steakhouse. "He treated me very well. He was amazing to me and to all his employees. He was a great man — he really, really was — and I can't say that about many people."

Harper, who was in the restaurant business for 22 years, helped open Delaney's Steakhouse in 2008.

"He did so much for people," he said. "He was a kind and very generous man and treated the people who worked for him with the utmost respect. He was a loving, caring man. He will be missed."

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