



David Allan Heckman

May 4, 2008

David Allan Heckman, 55, of Surfside Beach, died suddenly on May 4, 2008. He along with his close friend and business partner, Nelson Hardwick, owned The Charleston Café. David is survived by his beloved mother Jane of Litchfield Beach, his sister, Nancy and niece Emma Jane of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He was predeceased by his father, Robert. David was born on April 12, 1953, in St. Louis, Mo. and was raised in Philadelphia, where he attended The William Penn Charter School. He joined the Boy Choir of The Episcopal Church of St. Martin in The Fields, Chestnut Hill, at age 10. He also served as Acolyte, Bellringer, Junior Vestry member and he sang with the Men's Choir. Later he attended Kalamazoo College, Temple University and The University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, where he studied for the Episcopal Priesthood. Upon returning from Jamaica, he served as Administrative Assistant to several members of the Philadelphia City Council representing both political parties. In 1976 he managed President Ford's election committee in Philadelphia and in 1978 the Botera for Governor Campaign in Eastern Pennsylvania. David enjoyed a very successful career in the cable television industry. His accomplishments include managing the successful application by Comcast Corp to provide cable in the city of Philadelphia, PA, serving on the Board of Directors of Comcast Cablevision of Philadelphia, Inc., and co-founding of the Metro Cable Cooperative. He joined Sutton Capital Associates in 1985. As manager of Sutton's Suburban Kansas City, Missouri Cable Group, he served on the Missouri Cable Television

Association Board of Directors, spearheaded the statewide "Theft of Cable" legislative effort with the State Attorney General and in 1987 moved to Surfside Beach to manage the sale of Sutton's Clearview Cablevision system. On the morning before Hurricane Hugo hit Surfside in 1989, David purchased the Charleston Café from the father of another close friend, attorney, and who is now an Episcopal Priest, Edward T. Kelaher. David's service to others through this restaurant can not be adequately explained with words. His excellent service, great food, great wine, entertainment, stimulating conversations, phone calls, cards for all occasions, handwritten letters, will always be treasured by everyone whose lives were touched by this true friend. He was a member of The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Surfside Beach for 13 years where he managed many special services and also served as Lay Reader, Finance Chairman and served on its Vestry. Along with his beloved mother Jane, he became a member of Holy Cross-Faith Memorial Episcopal Church in Pawleys Island, where his funeral will be held on Saturday, May 10 at 3 PM. In lieu of flowers, his family requests that donations be made to Holy Cross-Faith Memorial Episcopal Church in memory of his life and service to the Episcopal Church he has love and served since his childhood.

Tribute Wall



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“ I met Dave Heckman when we worked for the same councilman in Philadelphia, putting together the final draft of legislation for cable television in The City. Dave was one of the nicest, most considerate gentlemen I have ever met, and I am deeply grieved to just now learn of his passing.. I attended elementary school with David, Robert, Joseph and Marty Heckman, and wonder if Dave was related to them. May the good Lord bless Dave for all the pleasure that he brought to others. He will never be forgotten
Ella (Lawson) Finegan

EllaFinegan - October 24, 2019 at 12:20 AM



“ David purchased the Charleston Cafe on September 21st. Every year we celebrated by sending him a birthday card. I just wanted to say Happy Birthday to the Charleston Cafe. We miss the good times we shared at the Charleston Cafe and David! You were one of a kind and we will never forget the wonderful memories we shared together. Happy Birthday Charleston Cafe!##imported-begin##Sally Cunningham-Kee##imported-end##

September 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Heckman, Family & Friends: I met David while working at the Gasque Agency & noticed immediately his gentle nature & wonderful sense of humor. David made every occasion special whether we gathered to relax afterwork or enjoy a celebration event. My husband & I were never disappointed in our meal or the atmosphere which offered a casual elegance. I am saddened to have just found out this news. David will be missed by many. As Easter People, we must remember the Resurrection Promise. May knowing this bring each of you the loving +Peace of our Lord+. This is our prayer for you.##imported-begin##Dotty & Michael Barnhill##imported-end##

May 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My husband and I always said that if we ever owned a restaurant, we would want it to be like the Charleston Cafe' - a small, intimate place with wonderful food, wine, ambiance, and most of all -a place with a host who remembers his guests by name and makes them feel as if they are the only people in the restaurant. The Cafe' has been one of our favorites for years, and we were so shocked and saddened to hear of David's untimely death. He was a fine man, a wonderful host and friend, to us and so many patrons who loved the Cafe'. We recently had dinner there after not being guests for awhile - David greeted me with a hug when we arrived, and made sure to visit our table often during the evening to catch up on our family and news. Nobody did it better than David - I know of nowhere else in the area where you will receive the same kind of personal attention - probably why so many people have chosen the Cafe' to celebrate so many events! We will miss him!##imported-begin##Robert and Susan Starr##imported-end##

May 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ i will always remember dave from the early days at the cafe, working with him and creating all new items on the menu, we had a great time and he will be missed.##imported-begin##dennis depaul##imported-end##

May 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I will remember Dave for his energy, kindness and good spirits. I know that Chips felt very needed by Dave and would not consider taking a day off unless Dave took the day off too! It is hard to imagine the Charleston Cafe without Dave. He will be missed in many ways##imported-begin##Geoff and Chips Parsons##imported-end##

May 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ David made everyone feel like family and he was so kind to my mother. He will be so missed.##imported-begin##Kristina M Schmitz##imported-end##

May 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ It is difficult to remember all the wonderful experiences I have shared with Dave. I recall him holding my newborn child over 26 years ago. We always shared a love of cooking and shopped together years ago. He taught me about how to cook and what wines to drink. Until this day I would consult with him on any special menu I would need to create. My life has been the richer for knowing him, and all of the Heckman family. He will remain in my heart with love.##imported-begin##Binnie S Footer##imported-end##

May 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Heckman and Mr. Hardwick: We have never met but we would like to say how much we admired Dave and his ability to make everyone feel unique. We have been dining at The Charleston Cafe at least once a month for 11 yrs. and have enjoyed every evening. His personal approach to our every reservation was incredible even to the point of having our Manhattens on the table ready and waiting, not only to mention he chose our wine with 100% degree of success. We will miss him as patrons and friends. Sincerely, Dr. Harold and Lorelei Butz Myrtle Beach
Lorelei and Harold Butz

May 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ PS: Dear Mrs. Heckman We certainly enjoyed all your wonderful cookies. Dr. Harold and Lorelei Butz
Lorelei and Harold Butz

May 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I will miss Dave, I enjoyed working with him in Independence MO and visiting him at the Charlston Cafe when we visited Myrtle Beach. He was a great guy.
Shannon & Thomas Marble

May 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ David graced us with his respectful and caring presence for years, a presence that we will greatly miss, but always respectfully remember. Our deepest Condolences and many prayers to his family and all of his friends. Chet H. Belter & Family##imported-begin##Chet Belter##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Always a very dear friend. We will miss him.##imported-begin##Dr. and Mrs. Steve Fowler, Jr.##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ As newcomers to the area we were delighted to find this gem of a restaurant "The Charleston Cafe". Not only did we receive wonderful meals time after time we made a wonderful friend in Dave, who always made us feel welcome and included within this marvelous "family" that he created there. Just last week we spent 3 hours talking, singing and drinking wine, while Dave shared some wonderful stories with us. We will miss his warm greeting and smile that always made our day.##imported-begin##Barb Gatti & Chuck Stout##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ David was a special friend to us and we shall miss having him in our lives. He always made us feel very special in his restuarant and it was a joy to spend an evening with him.##imported-begin##Tom and Ruth Barnett##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you for the opportunities and the friendship you showed me those many years ago. You opened doors for me, that I never considered, and they lead me to where I am today. I shall miss you, and will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##J Baker##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I met David right after Hugo. I was restoring a ravaged home at Garden City and spending time in the area. We found the Charleston Cafe. I have never known a nicer man. He always seemed so happy to see me when I went to his restaurant. I will miss him. Bebie Chambers##imported-begin##Bebie Chambers##imported-end##

May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Peter V. Maggio##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My love to you Jane, for the loss of your dear son David. We saw him only a week ago at a fabulous dinner at the Charleston Cafe. It will never be the same and we will miss David so much. Nancy##imported-begin##Nancy HenslerEverhart##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ It has been a happy experience having David as a friend for the past sixteen years and as a tenant for the past four. His desire to do good for everyone has reserved him a special spot in Heaven and in our hearts.##imported-begin##Harry & Ulah Brooks##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ A good friend and neighbor who cared about us.##imported-begin##Sandra Robinson and Alice Seymore##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Mrs. Heckman and family, We join you in your sorrow at the loss of your son and brother, Dave. He was a friend of my son, John Masotti, and stood at his wedding. He will be missed by many, but he is surely in God's loving arms now. Patti Masotti##imported-begin##Patti A. Maxwell-Masotti##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ As the bartender upstairs at the Cafe words cannot express how much I will miss David. I saw David almost everyday for 11 years and we were like family. We laughed, cried, and fussed like family and I sure will miss him.##imported-begin##Barbara Allen##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My dear friend David, for the past 24 years I have considered you a good employer, entertainer, roommate, trainer, mentor, role-model, financial advisor, counselor, host, and man. Most importantly, my wife and I are honored to have called you a good friend. Those that remain know that his presence was immeasurable and his absence is equally so. Let us pray for all who mourn, that they may cast their care on God, and know the consolation of his love. â??Abyssinia, Henryâ??##imported-begin##Randy and Jan Reeves##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We will miss Dave's sense of humor and friendship. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family and many friends.##imported-begin##Joe & Kathryn Martin##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Over the last 15 years David was a positive influence in my life. As a great customer at Benjaminâ??s Bagels. As a friend who shared his table and time with Dad and myself. As a wholesale customer at Benjaminâ??s Bakery. As a business mentor for advice. As the Great Host he was for our familyâ??s Special Dinners. He was the most open, sharing and trusting person I know. My condolences to Nelson and Family. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Lee & Wendy Zulanch##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Words cannot begin to express the shock of hearing of David's passing. Certain people pass through our lives on this earth that make us appreciate the true meaning of being blessed to have known them. Here was such a man, God Bless and be with you always David.##imported-begin##Robb C Wadsten##imported-end##

May 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ He will be missed more than words can say...##imported-begin##James Rubio##imported-end##

May 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Our condolences to David's family and friends. David has been a dear friend for nearly 40 years. He was in our wedding, and, in recent years, provided us with wonderful hospitality on our trips south. He was a gentle and gracious man. He was loved and he will be missed.##imported-begin##Kathy and Jamie Hogg##imported-end##

May 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ David always presented himself with kindness and sincerity. He also had a great sense of humor. St Peter is probably laughing at one of his stories right now. Our lives are richer having known him. He will be missed!##imported-begin##Paul Skyland & Family##imported-end##

May 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I only met David this January, where I work, at the Surfside Library. He came in everyday at least once and made "our" day by being the kind, gentle person he was. He is and will be missed by us all. My prayers and thoughts are with all of his family and friends.##imported-begin##Janice G. Ashe##imported-end##

May 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To one of the truly nicest and kindest guys we ever knew. Jimmie and I will greatly miss eating dinner with you and Chris on Friday nights.##imported-begin##Jimmie and Neal Williams##imported-end##

May 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Heckman Family, We were so sorry to hear of the passing of David. We have known him for many years and he was so kind to us, our beloved Mother, Mary, who worked for him, while she was in this life and after she passed. Many prayers for healing and blessings of wonderful memories. FHS##imported-begin##Billie Jo Reidell, Patty Shepski, Bobbi Sue Snodgrass & our families##imported-end##

May 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ David will surely be missed by all those lives he touched. A very caring man with love in his heart for everyone. May he know that wonderful peace that comes from above. Linda & George Moustakis##imported-begin##Linda & George Moustakis##imported-end##

May 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ WE ARE SO SHOCKED & SADDENED TO HEAR OF DAVID'S PASSING. HE WAS A WONDERFUL PERSON & GOOD FRIEND. WE WILL MISS HIM SO MUCH. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH HIS MOM AND FAMILY AND ALL HIS FRIENDS. HE WILL BE MISSED.##imported-begin##MIKKI & JOE HUSS##imported-end##

May 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Both my Wife and I were deeply saddened by the news the other day our most sincere condolences go out to David's Mother and the rest of the Heckman Family. It is true that the whole community has suffered a great loss and words will never express the grief we both feel right now.##imported-begin##Sean & Nanette Thomas##imported-end##

May 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere condolences to David's family and especially to Nelson..I have had the pleasure of eating at the Charleston Cafe several times and was always greeted with a friendly smile, excellent service and a fine menu served with the freshest ingredients possible...on my first visit, David gave me a tour of the restaurant and after eating a exceptionally delicious meal, I was introduced to one of the finest chefs on the Grand Strand...I sincerely hope that the Charleston Cafe will remain open, however I will miss David's smiling face and warm welcome.. Rita Wenzel##imported-begin##Rita Wenzel##imported-end##

May 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ WE COULD NEVER PUT INTO WORDS WHAT KIND OF MAN DAVID WAS. WE JUST KNOW WE LOVED HIM VERY MUCH. HE WAS ALWAYS HAPPY, KIND AND MADE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU WERE THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHEN YOU WERE AROUND HIM. WE SEND OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS TO HIS FAMILY, ESPECIALLY MOM, WHO MADE THOSE FABULOUS RANGER COOKIES THAT DAVID ALWAYS SHARED WITH US. WE WILL MISS HIM SO MUCH.##imported-begin##DONNA AND RANDY TROGDON##imported-end##

May 07, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so saddened to learn about David's passing. He was such a kind, eloquent man. We have very fond memories of him all through the years. His ability to make you feel special was great. We will miss his warm smile and thoughtfulness for every occasion. We pray for God's comfort and peace for his family.##imported-begin##Steve and Penni Hawley##imported-end##

May 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ From the night we got engaged, David always took the time to make our dinners extra special. He would always have some kind of banner waiting in our booth when we arrived, whether it was "Congratulations" for our anniversary or "Happy Birthday". David will be truly missed, but the Lord must have had an extra-special job for him in Heaven.##imported-begin##Chris and Melissa Hawley##imported-end##

May 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ David was a friend since 1993 when he welcomed the gang from Blue Cross for his upstairs Happy Hours. What a time we had! You will be sadly missed my friend.##imported-begin##Mark MacDougal##imported-end##

May 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



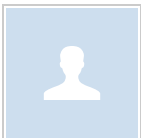
“ Our sincere condolences to David's family for their loss. However, we know for sure when we get to heaven, David will greet us by name, and tell us our table is ready. We look forward to seeing him again.##imported-begin##David Carfolite##imported-end##

May 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We will miss David and pray for God to give his family and friends strength during this time. Our children called him "Mr. Holy Cross" because he was always at church to greet them when they came home to visit.##imported-begin##Pam & Bill Snyder##imported-end##

May 06, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ NULL##imported-begin##Robert and Kelly Hirss##imported-end##

May 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We have known David ever since he opened the restaurant and knew him from Holy Cross. He will be missed by so many....God bless all of his family.##imported-begin##Linda and Dalton Floyd##imported-end##

May 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We were regulars at Charleston Cafe and enjoyed a cordial relationship with our friend David. Don't know what happened as we were there Thurs 5/1 and he was his usual jolly self. So Sad.##imported-begin##Jack and Ann Floyd##imported-end##

May 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you for making me feel like I lived here all my life.##imported-begin##Jon Jones##imported-end##

May 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM