
Explore Photos of Dante Stephensen and his restaurant from 2013

Danté's location in Underground closed in 1999. When he sold the Buckhead restaurant to a developer and shut its doors in 2013, Stephensen gave every employee the equivalent of one year's pay.

"Everyone who worked for Danté felt like they were in a big family," said Mark Harris, who managed the Buckhead location for 33 years.

The staff was treated like family, and they started families. Among those who met working at Danté's, there have been 56 marriages, and many whose children grew up to also work there.

"Danté loved bringing people together. He'd get on an elevator of strangers and get off with new friends," said Jerry Margolis, who met his wife of 47 years when both worked at the restaurant.

"Danté's integrity and kindness are unheard of in this industry," said Gerry Klaskala, chef and co-owner of acclaimed restaurants Aria and Canoe.

"Everyone who worked for Danté revered and loved him. They knew no one would take better care of them."

Stephensen's survivors include his brother, David Scott of Dover, NH; nephew Gary Scott of Auburndale, Mass.; and nieces Valeria Scott Laitinen of Athens, Greece, Robin Scott of Somerville, Mass., and Holly Wirick of Lakewood, Colo.

Explore Recalling the good times Longtime skiers toast Dante, memories
