



Media Release

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STAFFORD'S PIER RESTAURANT HONORS 36-YEAR VETERAN SERVER UPON RETIREMENT

January 31, 2005 was the last day of employment for Mrs. Demetra Serva (Dee). At the young age of 76, Mrs. Serva confirmed her retirement and decided that a 36 year career as a server was long enough.

Married on February 7th, 1959 to Steve, the couple relocated to northern Michigan after 29 years in Chicago working in retail management. It was in northern Michigan, that they started and raised their family. Her first employer in the area was the Sandwich Shop at Harbor Springs Golf Course. She then worked for several years at Chimney Corner (the current La Senorita). With a strange twist of irony, Mrs. Serva started her restaurant career working for Basil Thompson, owner of the Pier Restaurant in Harbor Springs on May 25th, 1970. That same week, the property was bought out by current owner, Stafford C. Smith.

When asked about her tenure with the Pier Restaurant, Stafford commented, "Dee, better known as the 'Greek', was absolutely the heart of the house at the Pier for 36 years."

Throughout her time with Stafford's, Mrs. Serva was the recipient of several industry awards including a nomination for "Best Server" in 2000 by Northwest Michigan Magazine, as well as recognition from the Michigan Restaurant Association.

The Pier Restaurant has felt privileged to have had Mrs. Serva as a part of their team for the past 36 years. A woman who was known for her active role in local charity work, Mrs. Serva spends endless hours during holidays packing care packages for the needy. Her co-workers describe her as "warm, gracious, jovial, hospitable, generous, amazing, funny, and giving." Stafford's Hospitality bids farewell and extends a warm thank you to "the fiery Greek" for her many years of dedication.

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