



Timothy W. McNitt

OCT 3, 1960 - OCT 16, 2021



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Timothy W. McNitt

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Timothy W. McNitt age 61 of Lewes, DE passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, October 16, 2021. He was born on October 03, 1960, in Lewistown, PA, son of the late William K McNitt, Sr. and Betty J. (Shay) McNitt.

Tim was a 1979 graduate of Elizabethtown Area High School, attended Elizabethtown College, and was a proud veteran, having honorably served in the US Army.

Tim wore many hats in life, but cooking was his passion. He worked in the restaurant industry since he was 15. He soon realized he was happier in the kitchen rather than the front of the house. Tim learned many skills under the tutelage of several competent chefs in Pennsylvania and Colorado.

He came to Rehoboth beach in 1997 with whatever he could fit in his car and his beloved poodle Jackson. Tim worked at the Iguana Grill and Sydney's Side Street Cafe before he landed at the Back Porch Cafe, where he worked, and learned, from executive chef Leo Medisch. Under Leo's mentorship, he learned the intricacies of running a commercial kitchen. They used the farm to table concept, using locally sourced product, years before it became popular. When Leo passed in 2013, Tim, while dealing with the grief of losing his friend and mentor, took on the position of the executive chef. He continued quality cuisine and service to honor that legacy. Leo taught him "respect the food and respect yourself", a mantra Tim embraced until he died.

Tim succeeded brilliantly. As he continued to grow and learn as a chef, he managed to raise the bar that he inherited and was often interviewed, and written up, in food columns and magazine articles about fine dining in Rehoboth. Tim was a modest and very private person who did not seek praise or notoriety. He didn't like coming out of the kitchen and into the dining rooms, even when customers wanted to complement him personally. Tim allowed the food on the plates to say everything one needed to know about his creativity and dedication to his craft. He remained at the Back Porch Cafe until early 2020.



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In the fall of 2020, until his death, he was Chef Tim at the Harbour Restaurant at Canal Square in Lewes, DE. Tim often worked with Loraine and Gary at Palate during the off-season, and he joined the team at Harbour Restaurant as a full-time member when they opened in the fall of 2020. He was a “beloved chef who was both a mentor and an inspiration to our kitchen team. “

Tim will be deeply missed by family, friends, coworkers, and anyone who ever had the honor to know him.

Keith Fitzgerald said it best: “Tim could be like a toasted marshmallow, crusty and rough on the outside but sweet, warm, and soft on the inside. “

In addition to his parents, Tim was preceded in death by his brother Samuel McNitt and nephew Nathan McNitt. Tim is survived by brothers: William K McNitt, Jr. (Deborah),of Harrisburg, PA, Matthew S. McNitt (Mary), of Bainbridge, PA, and Jacob A. McNitt of Elizabethtown; and his several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Harbour Restaurant at Canal Square in Lewes, DE, on November 8, 2021, at 1:00 PM. A graveside service will be held at Juniata Memorial Park in Lewistown PA, on November 13, 2021, at 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made, in Tim ‘s memory, to the Delaware Humane Association, Midway Plaza, 18675 Coastal Highway, Rehoboth Beach, DE19971.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



Events

Timothy W. McNitt
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Memorial Service

 **Monday**, November 8, 2021


 1:00 PM ET


 **Harbour Restaurant at Canal Square**
134 W Market St., Lewes DE 19958

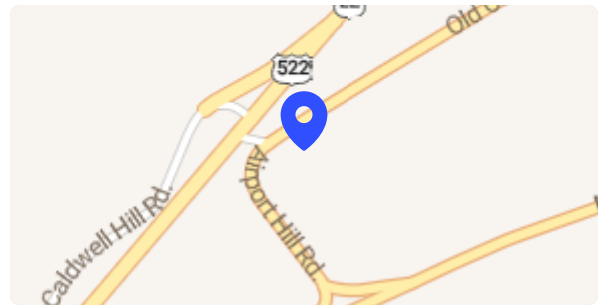


Graveside Service

 **Saturday**, November 13, 2021

 11:00 AM ET

 **Juniata Memorial Park**
9010 Hwy 522 S, Lewistown PA 17044





Tribute Wall

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SU

Susan posted:

Tim and I were friends in Lancaster, PA, around 1991. I'll never forget what a joy he was to be around. My deepest condolences to his family and all who loved him. Susan

January 4 at 3:31 PM

BR

Betty Rembacki posted:

Tim and I served in Hawaii together. He was one of my closest friends back then. His laughter and sense of humor kept me going many a time. Until we meet again Tim.

November 13 at 12:06 PM

LB

Lori Meinhardt Byrne posted:

My dear Cousin Tim. Sad to see you go. Had some great moments with you learning drawing, lessons of music Rolling Stones amount them. Movie adventures with Missy to see a Star Wars and Friday the 13th with Missy. Never forget all three of us jumping out of our seats at the end. Visiting you last at Back a porch was a great time with Ann Missy and Aunt Pat. We didn't know this was the last opportunity to see you.

November 9 at 12:03 PM

MA

Marilyn sent a Beautiful in Blue to the McNitt family.



October 30 at 8:23 AM



Richard Moyer posted:

So sorry to hear this. Last time I saw my high school classmate was downtown Lancaster in 1992, I had always meant to visit his Rehoboth restaurant. I did recommend it to friends who traveled there. Condolences and treasure every moment. I remember how he loved the art classes in high school taught by "Ms. C" who played mellow early 70s rock as we created our artwork....."City of New Orleans" and "Heart of Gold" dedicated to Tim.....

October 29 at 3:21 PM



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RB

Ryan Blakeman posted:

Thank you Tim! I always consider you "Chef" and helped me to build my foundation in the culinary arts. My time at The Back Porch and with you will never be forgotten. We had some laughs, good times, and I loved to give you a hard time. Under the rough you were an insanelly giving and caring person. My wife and I are grateful for the time we were able to spend with you. Keep the stove warm for us up there. Love Ryan and Alona

October 28 at 7:07 AM

KG

Kelly Brandt Givens posted:

Rest in peace Tim, many fun memories from high school and working at Bube's Brewery in Mt Joy! So sorry I never got to the back porch café to enjoy one of your meals!

October 27 at 2:29 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Timothy by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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