

Pioneer Award

JOSEPH "JOE" COLACCI
1988



Joe Colacci, one of Louisville's renowned pasta patriarchs, received the 1988 Pioneer Award because he "made the city a better place to live."

Joe spent his whole life in Louisville and worked at the Blue Parrot, his parents' restaurant, when he was a boy, and took over as manager when his father, Mike, died in 1970. He kept it a family business and brought his wife and all of his children and grandchildren in to work for him.

Joe made a name for himself in the community, not only for his restaurant, but for his support and generosity to the town of Louisville and the people in it. Even if he had no job openings in his restaurant, he would create one to help someone in need. He was very actively involved with numerous organizations, including the Elks Club, the American Legion, the St. Louis Catholic Church, the Louisville Fire Department, Louisville's International Bocci Club, the Louisville Golf Association, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Joe never officially retired from the Blue Parrot and came into the restaurant every day to drink coffee and visit with friends, and he made himself available to anyone who had a question or a problem or needed a job. He loved to golf and he provided food for the Spaghetti Open Golf Tournament each July in Louisville. He loved his family and his town, and of course, the Blue Parrot. He liked everything on the menu, but he was especially fond of spumoni ice cream with Chianti poured over it – his own original dessert.

BORN NOVEMBER 15, 1916 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO
DIED ON AUGUST 16, 2007 IN LOUISVILLE, COLORADO