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Shop small. Dine small.



After he was told that he couldn't fly planes in the Air Force, Dick Drummond looked to another option and became involved in food services. "He always loved that," said his daughter Judy Daniell. "It was in his blood."

In 1975, Dick opened Ricardo's Mexican Restaurant located at 800 S. 13th Street. He and his wife Pat worked side-by-side for years preparing the meals and creating the recipes that are enjoyed today. Over 20 years ago, The Drummond's passed on their love of their restaurant to their daughter Judy and her husband Jay who took over in 1992.

"It can be challenging, but I can't imagine doing anything else," said Judy. "I've worked here since I was sixteen years old!"

Recently, Ricardo's celebrated their 42nd anniversary with \$5.42 Burrito Grande's and free fried ice cream for customers who showed up wearing the vintage Ricardo's T-shirt. It continues to be one of the longest family-operated restaurants in town with numerous new and returning customers – whom Judy says add to the joy of being a restaurant owner.

When it comes to running the business Judy believes that everybody should have the opportunity to work – and she sticks to that motto. Today, Ricardo's has 30 loyal employees.

Saturday, November 25, 2017 is Small Business, and Dine Small, Saturday and the perfect opportunity to check out small, family-operated restaurants, like Ricardo's. According to U.S. Small Business Administration, nine out of ten restaurants have less than 50 employees and 80 percent of restaurant owners start their careers in entry-level positions.

"Small Business Saturday is a perfect opportunity to visit the great restaurants in the area and let the owners know that we're happy to have them in our community," said Candace Bossard with the Norfolk Area Development Council and the City of Norfolk Economic Division.