



## Aaron J. Tickner

November 7, 1958 - January 27, 2023

Aaron John (Kovar) Tickner

November 7, 1958 - January 27, 2023

Aaron Tickner was born in Turlock, California on November 7, 1958 to Martha and Don Tickner and died January 25, 2023 at the age of 64 in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. Martha married Leo Kovar in 1963 when Aaron was five. Aaron was the second of five children in the family, and the only boy. They lived in Stockton and Richmond, California before moving to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1973.

His first career was as a chef and food service professional, beginning at the Copper Penny in California at the age of 16. He earned his chops under the strict training of Friedman Paul "Chef Tell" Erhardt (chef at the Chestnut Hill Hotel in Philadelphia and a pioneering early television chef) where Aaron learned classic cooking and explored his own creativity and ingenuity in the kitchen.

His career included all aspects of restaurant and food service management, working as a chef in a number of restaurants and managing food services for large institutions including colleges and major hotels across the country. He opened his own restaurant, the Open Hearth, in David City, Nebraska in 1992,

which was known for its fine cuisine and lively environment.

In 1998 he started his company, AccountAbility, and provided accounting services and management consultation to small businesses in the Pittsburgh area for over 20 years before selling the successful business to his daughter upon his recent retirement.

Aaron was talented and driven, a master story-teller and lifelong thrill seeker with an affinity for fast cars and motorcycles. He loved music and was an avid amateur dj and a self-taught guitar player. He had a green thumb and enjoyed gardening on his property where he planted trees, fruit and flowers. He found friendship and community in Alcoholics Anonymous, and he struggled to live its principles. He was loved by his family and will be missed by many.

Aaron Tickner is survived by his former wife Gillian Forrest, father Leopold Kovar, daughters and sons Kathryn Perrine (David), Rebecca Radcliffe (Mike), Daniel Tickner, Melissa Jasinowski (Alex), and Michael Tickner, grandchildren Bobby and Connor Smith, Tyler Perrine, and Annaliese and Nathan Radcliffe, sisters Yolanda Bailey (Larry), Rebecca Kovar (Scott Benjamin), Victoria Grasso (Dan), aunt Pat Layton, uncle Glenn Tickner, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother Martha Kovar, father Don Tickner, sister Druscilla Tickner, and uncles Richard Thompson, Leonard Kovar and Ed Layton.

A service will be held Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 4:00pm-6:00pm at Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd.; 930 Center Ave, Pittsburgh, Pa 15238 (Blawnox). [www.thomasmithfuneralhome.com](http://www.thomasmithfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 4. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Thomas M. Smith Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.  
930 Center Avenue  
Blawnox, PA 15238

# Tribute Wall



“ Aaron J. Tickner

October 09, 2023 at 09:55 AM



“ Aaron J. Tickner

October 06, 2023 at 11:36 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Aaron J. Tickner.



March 03, 2023 at 12:34 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Aaron J. Tickner.



March 02, 2023 at 06:02 PM

DR

“ Aaron helped me to organize my new business, and he recommended others in business that I have come to rely on. I always enjoyed our time together! He was such a fun, knowledgeable, and interesting person. Deepest sympathy to Rebecca and other family members for your tragic loss. Dede Rittman

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**Dede Rittman** - February 23, 2023 at 12:00 PM

JB

“ Aaron came into my life 13 years ago, and I really enjoyed working with him. His skills in accounting came naturally from the precise working skills that he mastered as a chef. He was thoughtful, creative, detail oriented, and always positive in his attitude. I looked forward to our sessions together. He will be sorely missed by many of us. J.J. Bosley

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**JJ Bosley** - February 18, 2023 at 01:27 PM

SC

“ I truly enjoyed working with Aaron and always looked forward to the days he would be in our office. I will always remember our many conversations and the stories he would tell and how easy it was to talk with him.  
Sandee Coffman, Kozi Media Design

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**Sandee Coffman** - February 16, 2023 at 10:57 PM