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DEL PASO



Owner Khalid "Kal" Farhoud is a major reason customers keep coming back to Sammy's Family Restaurant.
ANNE STOKES

Sammy's keeps diners happy

Celebrating 75 years, restaurant reflects jovial owner

BY ALLEN PIERLEONI

Khalid "Kal" Farhoud was telling a joke. "When you get old, three things happen to you," he said. "You start forgetting things, and then ... oh, I forget the other two."

Farhoud is well-known for his unpredictable good humor and spontaneous camaraderie among the legion of regulars who call Sammy's Family Restaurant a second home. A lot of them come in specifically to see him – especially throughout this past year, the restaurant's 75th anniversary.

If you're new to Sammy's and haven't met Farhoud, you soon will. Not only is he the owner, he's the restaurant's goodwill ambassador. Don't be shocked if he suddenly sits down at your booth and

asks how you like his food. In a way, he's the star of a stage show. "Hospitality is the name of the business," he said.

"Everybody comes here," said Farhoud. "Young, old, [all ethnicities]. Many from the neighborhood, some from Elk Grove, Colfax, Roseville, Rio Linda. A lot of customers met their future husbands and wives here. We know everybody and everybody knows us. It's like 'Cheers.'"

Sammy's opened in 1944, and not much has changed since Farhoud bought it in 1996, including the breakfast-lunch-dinner menus. They're a step back in time, with sides of cottage cheese and applesauce, and a popular main of liver and onions. Appropriately, there's a meatloaf special. "One night a lady said to me, 'I didn't like the meatloaf.' I asked her why. She said, 'It was too meaty.'"

Farhoud improved the quality of the food and the service after taking over, and added some new dishes, he said, but "we kept the rest the same" – including the



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