



A SALEM MAINSTAY:

MAC & BOB'S RESTAURANT



Co-owner Bob Rotanz has only one thing to say to the community: Thank You!

After a tumultuous year, the "home of the famous calzone" is thrilled to have received such enormous support from the surrounding region.

Mac and Bob's Restaurant is a true staple in the Salem neighborhood, just across the street from Roanoke College. You probably know them for their classic American menu: enormous, delicious calzones, wings, steaks, salads, burgers, sandwiches and pasta dishes. Plus, over 40 craft beers on tap feature multiple Virginia beers that showcase the region's brew talent.

Mac and Bob's received 11 awards in The Roanoker's 2020 Dining Awards Reader Poll, including Platinum for "Best Salem Restaurant," "Best Outdoor Dining," "Best Salads"; Gold for "Best Bar Food," "Bar Where Everyone Knows Your Name," "Best Place You Could Visit 24/7/365"; and Silver for "Best Local Craft Beer Selection," "Best Family-Friendly Restaurant," "Best for Watching the Game," "Best Wings" and "Best Overall Restaurant."

Mac and Bob's also won the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce's 2019 Small Business of the Year, a feat that shows their longevity and popularity in the Roanoke Valley.

What began as a 10-stool pub in 1980 is now a sprawling 330-seat restaurant, complete with enticing patio. Acting as a second home to its guests, co-owners Bob Rotanz and Joe Dishaw, as well as General Manager Keith Griswold, Mac and Bob's is celebrating nearly 40 years of nonstop food and fun.

In the last year, however, their challenge to overcome a bankruptcy situation showed them just how supportive their patrons are. When Rotanz and his team shared their struggles in keeping Mac and Bob's open, the region came together to fundraise for their legal fees and, of course, eat as many calzones as possible to ensure they would stay in business for many more years to come. It's just one more reason why the team is so grateful to the area.

"Thank you to this community," Rotanz says, again and again. "Thank you for being there for us during our tough time. As bad as it was, the good was ten times better—all the good things that came out of it and the support we received was something we didn't see coming."

"The goodwill is immeasurable and I'm looking forward to more time with our friends old and new!"

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