

The Washington Post

Reliable Source

Chefs gather for a boozy, fond memorial for Michel Richard



Chef Michel Richard was remembered by friends Sunday night. (Susie Cushner)

Pity the diner at a fine restaurant on Sunday night — top chefs from Washington and beyond gathered at Central, the Pennsylvania Avenue restaurant owned by the late Michel Richard, for a memorial to the influential chef and friend to the culinary world.

The list of 140 or so attendees read like the roll call of top toques: Among them were close pals Robert Wiedmaier of Marcel's and Roberto Donna of now-shuttered Washington classics like Galileo; Thomas Keller of the French Laundry; Daniel Boulud of restaurants from New York to Singapore; Patrick O'Connell of the Inn at Little Washington; Ris Lacoste of Ris; Woodward Table's Jeffrey Buben; and Bread Furst's Mark Furstenberg.

A spy tells us that the open mic — and free-flowing wine — made for an emotional evening, which began with a reception at the French embassy. “Lots of laughs, men bursting into tears, chanting, as a meal of his favorite foods was served,” one attendee tells us.

Richard died Aug. 13 at a Washington hospital at age 68.

October 17, 2016