



# IN REMEMBRANCE

DURING HIS MORE THAN 40 YEARS AT BRENTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB, ALBERTO ROBINSON SERVED UP DISHES AND DRINKS WITH A SIDE OF HAPPINESS.

BY ASHLEY RYAN

Ask anyone who knew Alberto Robinson and they're sure to tell you that he always had a smile on his face. But, more than that, he also strived to place a smile on the faces of his Brentwood Country Club co-workers, the members, his friends and family, and even those he just met.

"It's very rare that you'd find him without a smile," says Ty

Robinson, Alberto's son. "He was literally always smiling. His energy was very contagious."

With an obvious passion for spreading happiness wherever he went, his passing earlier this year left an impact on everyone who knew him.

Alberto was born in Costa Rica's capital of San José in 1938, where he first learned to cook. According to Ty, there weren't any lessons involved, just recipes passed down within the family. He took that knowledge and expanded upon it, learning to make Costa Rican food and much more—but always adding his own little spin on it.



"I don't know that he had anything he couldn't cook, which was pretty awesome," Ty notes. Whether it was chicken, steak or fish, Ty says Alberto had 15 different ways of cooking his main ingredient, often experimenting with sauces to perfect the dish. "I would say his claim to fame is that he never went off of any kind of recipes," he adds. "He never really wrote anything down."

Alberto came to Los Angeles in 1963 and started work as a server at BCC in 1976, clocking more than 44 years of service for the company. Throughout that time, Alberto got to know many of the golf club's members, looking forward to time spent at work where he could talk with people from different countries and walks of life.

His longtime co-worker Gus Hernandez was a server alongside Alberto for nearly 38 years. "I haven't seen many people that care about the members as he did," Hernandez says. "He would try to go beyond, even if that would get him in trouble."

While he was always dedicated to getting the members what they wanted at any cost, Hernandez says that Alberto was just as generous with his colleagues. "To me, he was like one of those soldiers that say, 'Don't leave no man behind,'" Hernandez explains. "He didn't have to know you; if you needed any help in any kind of way, he would try to help you."

Over the years, Alberto also took side jobs working for the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Forum Club, the Los Angeles Convention Center, Harvard-Westlake School and more. He also worked award shows, such as the Academy Awards and the Golden Globes, as well as private events.

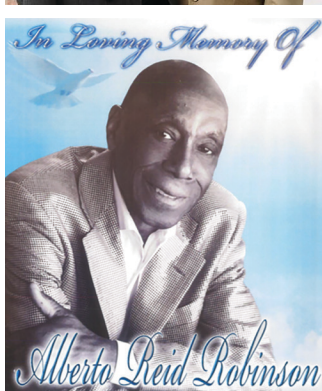
As much as he enjoyed his work in the entertainment and hospitality industries, one of his greatest passions was dance. "Salsa dancing, merengue dancing—he had a list of clubs that knew him on a first-name basis," Ty says. "I gave him the nickname 'the Salsa King' because he never stopped dancing."

According to Hernandez, Alberto would go dancing three or four times a week. "He was always at work, and I sometimes told him, 'Do you ever sleep?' Because he would tell me that, after work, he was going to go dancing." In addition, Hernandez says he loved to travel, especially on cruise ships, which inspired Hernandez to take a cruise of his own a few years back.

But Alberto's passion for cooking, dancing and traveling was nothing compared to his love for his family, including his son; his late wife, Rosemary; and his stepson, Kevin Kinsey. He especially loved sharing his Costa Rican culture with his kids.

Alberto's passing in January of this year was a shock to many, but his character and the happiness he spread throughout the club will be remembered for years to come. "He will be missed—not only by me, but by many of our co-workers and friends," Hernandez says.

"He was probably the most caring, most loving, most fun to be around. He always put others before himself—he never didn't have a smile," Ty recalls. "The list goes on; I could go on and on. ... He was everything."



Alberto Robinson (top and bottom right) will be missed by members and staff at Brentwood Country Club. He is pictured here (bottom left and middle) with his son, Ty.