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LOCAL LANDMARK RESTAURANT TO CLOSE NEXT AUGUST STATES “THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!”

For the last fifteen years, the landscape of Northeastern Pennsylvania has been considerably more colorful, thanks to a local restaurant owned and operated by Patricia and John Atkins. *Patsel's* opened its bright fuchsia doors on August 31st of 1999, and those same welcoming doors will close for good fifteen years to the day later – on August 31, 2014.

Patsel's was created to be a place where the community could gather together to celebrate life's everyday moments. To ensure that those moments were always special, owners Pat and John Atkins gave it an atmosphere of whimsical elegance and insisted that the cuisine they served was always made from scratch with great pride. Attention to detail – from the exquisite décor to the creatively plated food to the fantastic flowers and gorgeous gardens – was always a hallmark of *Patsel's*, and many people regularly drive over an hour to partake in the experience. Pat and John's original plan called for the restaurant to be open for just five years.

“Some people go to work and grumbling and dragging themselves through their days, and I thought that after about five years, that's what I would come to.... But it never happened!” laughed Pat. Fifteen years later, she and her husband, John, are still involved in the day to day operations of *Patsel's* and are still loving it. On most days, you will find them both in the dining room, welcoming and visiting with customers, many of whom have become long-time friends. “I am thrilled every time I come in here,” beamed Pat. “Every single person in here, from our staff to our customers, is our family.”

Continued next page

The decision to close was a very difficult one, especially in light of the fact that *Patsel's* has become a treasured part of so many local families' traditions. Pat notes that she could see herself happily continuing to run the restaurant until the day she died. When people express that they are sorry to hear that *Patsel's* will be closing, Pat is quick to reply, "I am, too! We have had a wonderful run, however, and now the time is right."

With the closing date just under one year away, guests can be assured that, right up to the final moment, Patsel's will continue to provide the same level of service and quality cuisine that its many customers have come to expect and enjoy. A surprising number of Patsel's staff are long term employees, several of whom have been with Pat and John since the restaurant first opened fifteen years ago. "We are so proud of this place, so proud of the staff - so many wonderful people have stuck with us all of these years. It's been terrific!"

Patsel's is still accepting reservations for Lunch, Dinner and Sunday Brunch, and is currently taking bookings for a very busy year of their signature private events. Gift certificate holders will be happy to know that all valid Patsel's gift certificates will be honored until the date of closing - August 31, 2014. For more information or for interviews, contact Patsel's at 570-563-2000 or visit www.patsels.com or www.facebook.com/patsels

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