

Finally—A Reason to Celebrate April 15 “Tax Day”!

A week from today is April 15--“Tax Day,” the official deadline for filing those dreaded IRS income taxes. It’s a day Americans love to hate.

This year, however, there’s actually a reason and an opportunity for Rossmoorians to celebrate. On April 15, Gotts’ Restaurant (<https://www.gotts.com/location/walnutcreek/> ; 275 South Main Street, Walnut Creek) will be hosting an all-day “Dine and Donate” benefit for the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation (RSF). The restaurant will donate 10% of all sales revenue generated—including in person, online, DoorDash (excepting commissions), and phone—to RSF. Beverages are even included in the total sales for the day. And every dollar that Gotts donates will go directly into a 2027 scholarship for scores of academically gifted but financially hard-pressed Contra Costa County high school and community college students.

Gott’s Restaurant has a unique history. The first opened in 1999 when Joel and Duncan Gott took over an old roadside stand on Highway 29 in Napa Valley. It had simple goals—serve delicious, high-quality American classic roadside food in a casual and hospitable setting. To the Gotts that meant hamburgers made from 100% angus vegetarian-fed beef, organic milkshakes, fish tacos, crispy brussels sprouts, and a list of some of the finest California wines. Once up and running, its food turned out to be so good it received a James Beard Award for its modern take on American roadside classics. Growth was inevitable. Many other Gotts’ restaurants opened up in subsequent years, including in San Francisco’s Ferry Building, Napa’s Oxbow Public Market, San Francisco’s International Airport, and the Chase Center (home of the Golden State Warriors).

And, not coincidentally, for the author of this essay, the event will finally bring some happiness on his April 15 birthday. While growing in up Wisconsin as an adolescent in the 1950s, on that day his local newspaper would consistently border its front-page “This Day in History” column in bold blackface, then list what happened. Abraham Lincoln died; President James Garfield was shot; the Titanic sank; and Franklin Roosevelt was buried (a very big deal that stuck in people’s memory); and then, of course, the newspaper would finish by listing “Tax Day.” For this author, annual repetition kind of took the fun out of having a birthday on April 15.

As many Rossmoor News readers already know, recent tax law changes have substantially increased the returns of millions of Americans. What better way to utilize a small portion of these increased returns than patronizing Gotts’ restaurant on April 15 for the benefit of the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation? Not only will participating Rossmoorians enjoy some very good food, they will also be contributing to a wonderful cause. In addition (selfishly speaking), they will also help turn April 15, 2026, from a day of gloominess for this author into a happy event that puts a smile on his face and says “Happy 80th Birthday, Wayne!” And all the kindness and generosity manifest in this last paragraph will certainly make the whole day ... (ahem) “less taxing.”

Submitted by: Wayne A. Wiegand, RSF Trustee