

Mr. Filet gives Des Moines a distinctive flavor

Ken Quinn, President, the World Food Prize Foundation,

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(Photo: Zach Boyden-Holmes/Register file photo)

I am grateful to Dan Finney for his story about the [imminent closure of Mr. Filet](#) [May 24], which conjured up the alluring aroma of sizzling hamburgers and steaks that draws you into their almost underground location at Seventh and Grand. Ever since discovering their hideaway 15 years ago, I have been charmed at least weekly by George and George who always greet me by name and always remember that I want grilled onions on my burger with pickles on the side. The highlight of my experience at Mr. Filet came last December when George allowed us to “reserve” several tables so I could hold our World Food Prize staff Christmas luncheon there.

With its closing, Mr. Filet will join a list of other departed Des Moines icons that gave the town a distinctive flavor (pun intended) including: Boswells (where in the '70s, the Register editors taught me to savor their cheeseburgers with grilled peppers and hash browns; Babe's, with its unique pizza; Barbara's bake shop; Guido's in the Savery Hotel, with its signature prime rib and incredibly rich Zuppa Inglese dessert; and Johnnie's Vet's Club on 63rd at the railroad tracks in West Des Moines, which was the go-to place for great steaks. Thanks for the memories, Dan.

— Ken Quinn, President, the World Food Prize Foundation, Des Moines